



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

★ Abilene State Supported Living Center ★

OUR MISSION:
To empower people to make choices
that result in a life of dignity and
increased independence.

AbSSLC News

Abilene SSLC

Week of July 31st, 2023

Campus Construction Update

Projects on campus continue to move forward – here is a brief update on where we are ... and where we are going next.

HVAC Project (North & South Quads)

The 6330 3rd Street HVAC has been completed (along with some excellent updating by Maintenance!) and they are moving home on Tuesday. 6360 1st Street will move to 6340 3rd Street next week – they are the last home and this project will be **done!** The new Laundry boiler that was added to the project is also up and running!

Cottage Renovations

The project to finish the remaining 4 cottages is currently in the final stages of being (re)awarded and we hope to get them started sometime in September. 6750 Circle Drive has already moved to 6350 1st Street. 6760 Circle Drive will move to 6370 7th temporarily when renovations start.

Campus Fencing

This project slowly continues through the design & bidding stages. We hope to know this week who received the bid and meet with them to discuss the next steps. This fence (12' tall) will enclose the campus for the safety of those that live and work here. The front (Maple Street) fence will be ornamental – like the one we have now – while the other three sides will be chain-link. The biggest change will be how we access the Oakwood Trails area. More on that to come.

Upcoming Projects

Future (and hopefully somewhat soon) projects include replacing a number of A/C units around campus and new generators. Some of these may – will – require moving everyone to temporary homes but we are working hard to minimize this!

Questions about projects – now or future? Please let us know!

Heat Precautions

Helpful Reminders for you and the people we serve:

- Limit outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is hottest.
- Be sure all vehicles are cool and have properly working air conditioning. If the air conditioning is not working properly, report it to Motor Pool.
- Sunscreen should be worn and reapplied as indicated on the package.
- Pace activities. Start activities slow and pick up the pace gradually.
- Drink more water than usual and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more. Encourage Individuals to do the same thing. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness.
- You and the Individuals should wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- If you or an Individual need to cool down, cool showers or baths are helpful.
- **Never leave anyone in a car unsupervised.**

Two Chairs & a Mike!

Tune into this special **Shout Out Edition** as Mike takes his iPad on the road and talks with staff at the 2023 Adventure Cove nights!

Link: <https://youtu.be/f0DxU4k2iws>

Be in the know – Early!

Sign-up to receive the **AbSSLC News** in your home email – and on Saturday! <https://tapme.ws/K2j8Rx>

Shout Outs!

Shout out to **David Smyth**, SLP Assistant. I've seen him come to the home many times and work with people.

He is very genuine about what he does. He is very kind and respectful and really takes his time with the people he serves and ensure he does all he can to meet their needs and even does 'extra' stuff to go above and beyond to assist them with things not speech related

♥ **AnnMarie** and **Chris** are also great at what they do! We have a great set of **SLPs, COTAs** and **HAB team members**. I wish I could list them all! Thank you all! It takes us all to make the best lives for those we serve.

Over the few years doing AOD wasn't very pleasant. Today it was nice to be AOD again! **Every home** I entered came with smiling staff, no holdovers, "some working POT knowing their next weekend off is in 5 weeks", not one complaint. They all seemed truly happy and really happy when I told them to have a nice day 😊. Just wanted to share that you can see the change in the staff, the old with new. It really felt like 4 years ago.

Big SHOUT OUT to **Marquis Howard** at 6710 Circle Dr. for going the extra mile to try to find some missing equipment. He also is very knowledgeable about the individuals he serves and provides invaluable information. Thank you Marquis!

I would like to give a shout out to **Jessica Delacruz** Home Supervisor at 6690 Circle Dr. She is always there to help when needed. I had an emergency situation with a resident and even though she was supposed to be leaving for lunch she came and helped me out and stayed with me until we were both able to leave. She loves her girls and has such a caring heart for all of our residents at the absslc.

I would like to give a shout out to **Sarah Gibson**. She was moved to another building and has been nothing but dependable. She works the floor when staff is short. The way she interacts with the individuals is a breath of fresh air. We are all so grateful to have a supervisor that goes above and beyond!

Big Shout Out and THANK YOU to **Lisa Donica**, Home Supervisor @ 6720/6730 Circle Dr. Lisa has continued to go the extra mile to get the men scheduled and over to Audiology. She often comes over with the individual and it is clear to see that she truly cares for each one, knows how to communicate with them, and they have a great level of trust in her. Can't say thank you enough Ms. Lisa!

Shout Out to Sheila, Cindy, Jennifer & Stacy in the Hiring Specialists office. While I was painting their work space they were all so kind and worked around me. I wanted to recognize them & give them a thank you. I enjoyed them they went out of their way to make my job easier.

I just wanted to give a big kudo to **Tracy**, our Data Analyst. I requested access to the DA2 report and she responded by getting me access in such a timely manner. She has always been timely and helpful in responding.

Shout Out to **Jimmy Betcher**! He was working the gate one day last week by himself so staff wouldn't have to hold over.

Shout Out to the **HAB Department**! We had the opportunity to host Individuals & staff from Lubbock SSLC during their recent visit to the Abilene Zoo. They needed a place to provide personal care and general assistance after the long drive. When they returned from their trip, we received the following note:

Thank you so much for yesterday. We left your facility feeling welcomed and refreshed. My favorite part of the trip, aside from the moments we shared with our guys, were the moments we shared with your HAB staff. My team is very vocal and the moment we left the building headed back to the bus they turned to me and said "now that was hospitality, Kat that was cool." I just wanted to take a moment and say thank you.

Let's Shout Out and recognize others!

Text your Shout Out to 325.370.4525, reply to any "AskAdmin" texts or use the Feedback site @ <https://www.absslc.org/feedback/>

Photo Explosion!

ABILENE SSLC

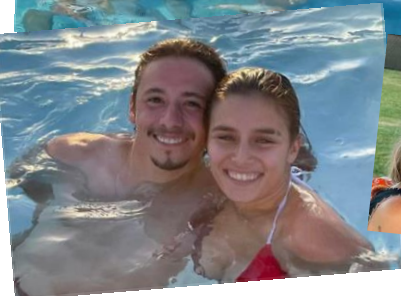


The Volunteer Services Council hosted a staff appreciation event at Adventure Cove. Staff chose one of three nights to attend and were allowed up to four tickets per staff member (until all 1,500 tickets were claimed). Pictured above is Melissa Boma and her family.



Marissa Williams poses with her father, Darron Rosenquist, and her friend Joshlyn Dendy.

From the State Office Friday Photos!



Thank you to the Abilene Volunteer Services Council for sponsoring Adventure Cove 2023!