



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 March 4th, 2024

Why a Fence?

As you have likely seen, our new fence is almost done. We hope to have the final pieces in place no later than March 15th. There have been some questions about the fence and our changing population – we hope this helps.

Q: Why did we get the fence?

A: There are actually a couple of reasons:

The area around the campus has changed dramatically in the last 18 months. In the past, we were basically out here by ourselves. Oldham Forbes went in several years ago but this was the only true construction in our area. Since then, however, we have added a new apartment complex to our south and a huge addition is going in immediately to our north. This includes 40+ duplexes that will literally be on top of our north fence line. There is also a very large housing subdivision being built at the corner of Maple & South 27th. The fence will go a long way in keeping strangers from wandering through campus and make it a much safer environment for all. Think “gated community” in town – these are popular and **expensive** places to live!

Next is our changing population. We are getting some very capable Individuals but many can’t fully understand the dangers of leaving campus. The fence will help keep them safe while actually giving them more freedom on campus itself.

Q. How will the planned construction on Maple affect our entrances?

A. Work on Maple Street is scheduled to start in 2-3 months based on the last update from the city. They are changing it to a 4-lane road (no turn lane) so it’s likely we will see more and more traffic. It’s possible we will have to shift our entrances around (and maybe use the back gate again) while construction is going on. Other than that, no changes are planned.

Q. There is a gate across the road to Oakwood Trails. How we will we get down there to use the Lodge, trails and playground?

A. We are still working out the logistics for this one. There will be an electric opener on this gate with a combination keypad but the exact “how” we will have access to this area is still in discussion. This area, of course, is an important part of the campus and enjoyed by many – we aren’t cutting it off.

Other questions about the fence? Please let us know!

Reporting ANE

The number to report ANE (Abuse/ Neglect & Exploitation) changed as of March 1st. **The new number to call is 1-800-458-9858.**

After regular business hours you will leave a message so it’s critically important that you make the **Directors Call** (by dialing the Switchboard) first and then call the 1-800 number.

State Office Texts

Are you signed-up to receive the periodic texts from State Office? Scan the code to know what’s happening!



These are separate texts from the ones you receive from the Abilene AskAdmin text line.



Spring Forward Saturday @ 2am

We want to hear from you!

Click the [link](#) or scan the code to let us know your questions or tell us your ideas and thoughts to make AbSSLC an even better place to live & work!



**A new AbSSLC T-Shirt
is coming soon!**

Shout Outs!

Shout out to **Ashley Loftis** at 6521 Peach. She always has a positive attitude no matter what comes her way. Ashley is a great leader and cares so much about the people we serve. She is a great asset to the home.

Big shout out to **Motor Pool** for fixing the forklift for the Blue Barn!

Shout out to **John Burgess** for his hard work getting all the needed nursing supplies for a student to begin school. John you are an **amazing** RN as well as advocate for the young ment. You are a strong team player and mentor to the boys.

The following note was received from a parent of young man who lives @ AbSSLC:

“When I got to the home yesterday after the IDT meeting **Mkongo “Lucas” Lokendo** was working with my son, and I want everyone to know how great he is and how much I appreciated the care and attention he was giving my son. Lucas was really really great. He was interacting with my son and keeping him engaged the entire time I was there. He played wall ball with him, he worked on counting with him, and was just keeping him involved. I truly felt like my son was safe and cared for watching Lucas working with my son.”

Shout Out to **Chris Campbell, Kimble Knight, Dennis McCollough, Shelia Nance, Kim Rankin, Freddie Smith, Torrey Williams** and **Pam Wilson** for putting together a thoughtful and creative Black History Month Celebration at the Gym on 2/27/24. It was a great mix of community members from local churches sharing an Abilene historical perspective, individuals sharing their stories, honoring of a former employee, Dr. Leo Scott and positive energy of music and dance. Thank you all for your inspiration in making a wonderful celebration.

Shout Out!

- Email Jeff Goza with their name and your comments
- Text their name and your comments to 325.370.4525

Black History Month Celebration



(L to R): Chris Campbell, Torrey Williams, Kimble Knight, Kim Rankin, Director Linda Hinshaw, Pastor Andrew Penns, Freddie Smith, Pam Wilson, Dennis McCollough and Pastor Jeremy Jay



Director Linda Hinshaw presented a posthumous employee recognition certificate for Dr. Leo Scott, Director of Pharmacy to Pastor Andrew Penns. Pastor Penns accepted on behalf of the Scott Family.