



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 January 29th, 2024

2024 HSCS Awards

Nominations for the 2024 HSCS Awards closes at midnight on Wednesday! This is a great opportunity to nominate a co-worker or department for this state-wide recognition.

Award categories include:

- Together We Shine Award
- Leading with Heart Award
- DSP of the Year
- Nurse of the Year
- Unsung Hero of the Year
- Most Involved Employee of the Year
- Program Innovation of the Year
- Creative Environment of the Year
- Emily's Heart for Service Award



Additional details on each award are available on the posters around campus or [here](#).

Submit your nomination by scanning the QR Code or clicking this [Link](#)

Survey of Employee Engagement Survey

The deadline to complete the Survey of Employee Engagement (SEE) has been extended to **February 9th**. This every-two-year survey gathers information from staff across the state to help guide us all moving forward!

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!



State Review Team Visit

Our State Review Team (SRT) will be on campus **this week** from Tuesday, 01.30.2024 through Thursday, 02.01.2024. The SRT consists of State Office staff, called State Reviewers, that have been trained to conduct reviews of each center's compliance with ICF Regulatory tags, including Life Safety Code, as well as compliance with all provisions of the Settlement Agreement. There will be 19 State Reviewers physically on-site, with another six (6) participating remotely.

While on-site, the SRT will be:

- Conducting observations (mealtime, engagement, SAPs, med pass, etc.)
- Interviewing staff, including conducting a survey on staff satisfaction and morale
- Participating in regular facility meetings (both in-person and remotely, as applicable)
- Conducting building safety inspections and reviews, similar to the inspections that take place at our annual Life Safety Code visit
- Providing technical assistance for identified complex cases
- Reviewing center documentation (while specific documents have already been provided for review, there may be additional requests made for information or documentation)

The SRT has selected a sample of individuals for review but you can expect to see the SRT **all around campus** during this visit.

While the SRT Review is a routine process to make sure we are in compliance with all regulatory and settlement agreement requirements, this review process is expanding. As you may have heard, there is a plan to transition monitoring from the DOJ Independent Court Monitors (otherwise known as the SAMT) to the SRT. This transition is part of the state's **Exit Plan from the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement in 2024**.

Please show our visitors the amazing hospitality that Abilene SSLC is known for!

See Something | Say Something | Do Something

Shout Outs!

Shout Out to our campus beautician **Jenny Garcia**. She does great with the residents. She keeps notes on everyone's cuts and styles. She treats them like her own family members.

I just want to give a shout out to **Mike Horton**. AbSSLC is so fortunate to have him. Taking the time to put together the recent Memoriam video was a very heartfelt labor of love showing how special the people we serve all matter and staff as well. It was a very nice touch. I think it is great he sends out information for home staff to use when we do not have Chapel. It is also a ministry to staff. I am also going to give Mike credit for making a difference in the residents' spiritual life. A young man was in the Admin building yesterday looking for someone else, but he stopped in my office. He wanted to know if I was reading my Bible and if I had a favorite verse because he did it was in Luke. That warmed my heart. Mike Horton is a true blessing to AbSSLC residents and staff!

Shout out for **Malik Winfield**, who works at 5961, for providing a fountain of information about how an individual there responds to sounds and speech. Malik demonstrated he really gets to know the individuals and works to build a good rapport with them. Thank you for showing up, working 16 hour shifts, and still being able to be compassionate and kind.

I would like to give a shout out to **Darrell Roberts, RN** who is covering @ homes 5961/5962 Walnut. He works extremely hard to make sure the boys are taken care of and has gone above and beyond for the home. I am very appreciative of all he has done and continues to do everyday!

Huge shout out to the **Case Managers** for their hard work and dedication in the getting the conversions completed and to the teams for all of the meetings related to these conversions.

I want to send a BIG Shout Out for **Terry Bloom** from Painting. He has been working to paint offices over in Behavior Services. He was so respectful and professional in his dealings with me. He kept me in the loop as far as when and how long I would be out of my office. He did a Great Job and I was only out of my office about 3 ½ days. Terry thank you so much for the work that you do.

We made the Friday Photos!

ABILENE SSLC



Staff pose with the "Kickoff to Compliance Board" for Abilene's DOJ exit initiative. The board was painted by staff and residents and helmets were decorated by each section lead. Pictured from left are David Daniel, Tracyl Gandee, Chris Campbell, Steven Roberts, Linda Hinshaw, Yvonia Paige, Torrey Williams, Celeste Graschel and Ted Wagner.

Shout Out!

Have you seen someone do the above & beyond or just want to recognize great work?

It's easy to do a Shout Out!

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

Let's **Shout Out** and recognize others!