State Supported Living Centers and Education

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Associate Commissioner for State Supported Living Centers

TEXAS Health and Human Services

Continuum of IDD Services and Supports

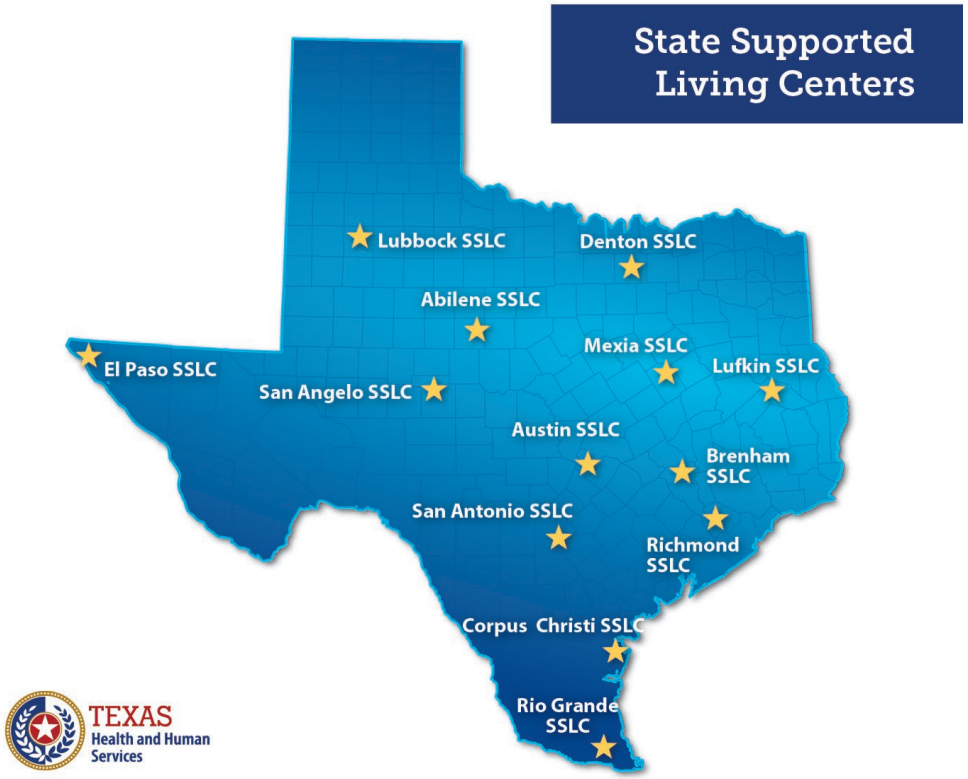
Intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services and supports are delivered through:

- Medicaid State Plan Services such as Community First Choice (CFC);
- Medicaid Waivers:
  - Home and Community-based Services (HCS),
  - Texas Home Living (TxHmL),
  - Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS), and
  - Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)
- General Revenue Services provided by Local Intellectual and Developmental Authorities (LIDDAs);
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions (ICF/IID);
- Community-based ICF/IID; and
- State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)

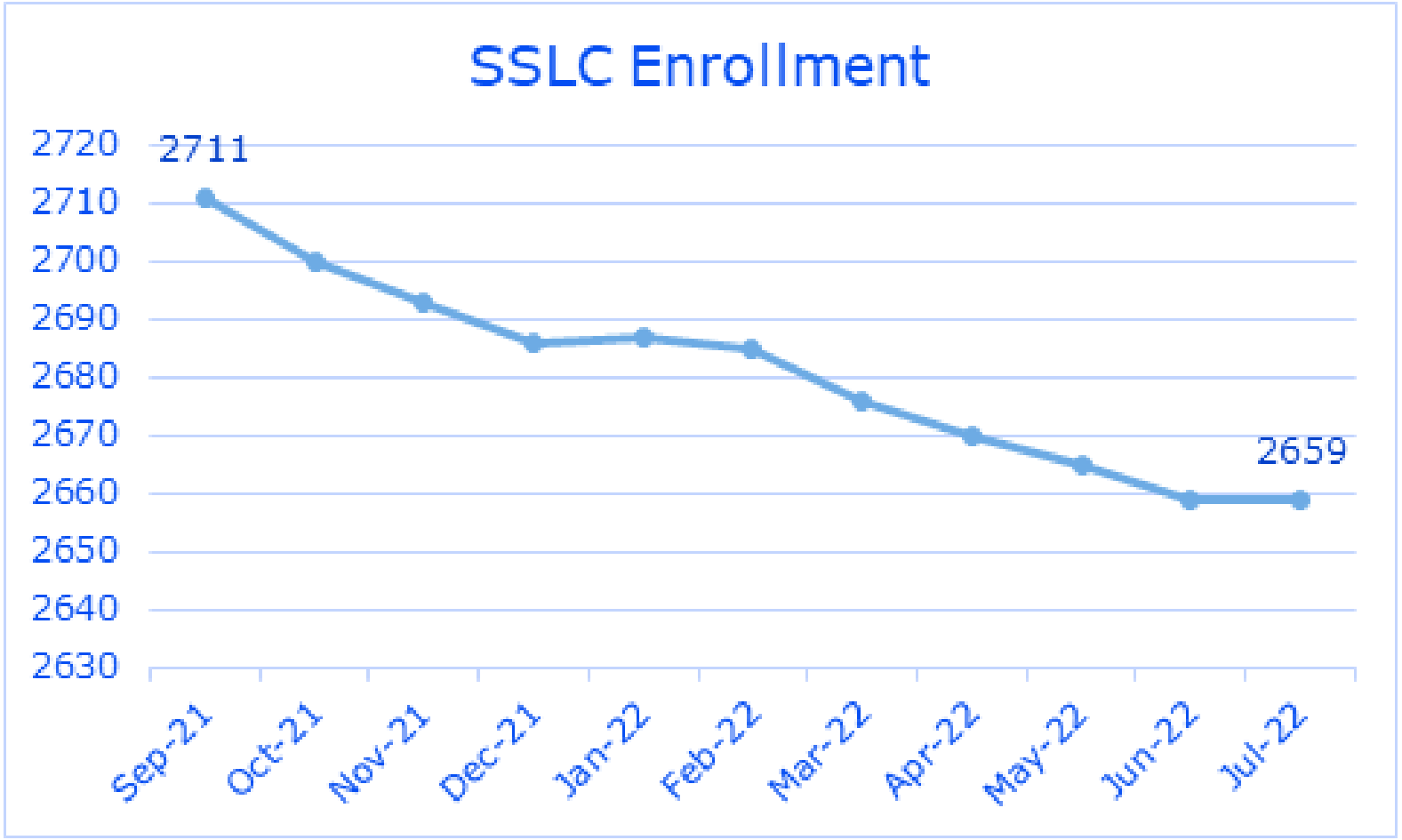
State Supported Living Centers

13 State Supported Living Centers:

- Certified Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IDD)
- 5 serve children and adolescents
- 2 designated as forensic centers



Average Daily Census



State Supported Living Centers - Population

As of August 31, 2021:

- Individuals with a profound level of ID comprised 44% of the SSLC population, with approximately 17% having a severe level of ID, 19% with a moderate level and 20% with a mild level of ID.
- 8% of individuals have a severe or profound behavior management level
- 42% of individuals are considered medically fragile, meaning they had moderate to severe health needs
- 56% of individuals have mental health needs, defined as a concurrent mental health diagnosis
- 76% were ages 22 to 64, 19% age 65 and older, and **less than 5% under age 22**.

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Admissions

For an individual to be admitted to an SSLC, the local intellectual and developmental disability authority (LIDDA) is the front door for services.

- The LIDDA will explain community and residential service options and help to determine if an individual qualifies.
- If an individual is determined to be eligible, and the person or their legally authorized representative chooses to pursue admission, the LIDDA will submit an application packet to the SSLC that serves the person's county of residence.
- If an appropriate vacancy does not exist at the local SSLC, state office staff will help find an appropriate vacancy at another SSLC.

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Admission Criteria

Health and Safety Code §593.052 establishes four mandatory admission criteria for admitting and committing an individual to an SSLC:

- the proposed resident is a person with an intellectual disability;
- evidence is presented showing that because of the proposed resident's intellectual disability, the proposed resident:
  - represents a substantial risk of physical impairment or injury to the proposed resident or others; or
  - is unable to provide for and is not providing for the proposed resident's most basic personal physical needs;
- the proposed resident cannot be adequately and appropriately habilitated in an available, less restrictive setting; and
- the residential care facility provides habilitative services, care, training, and treatment appropriate to the proposed resident's needs.

Admission Criteria

Effective January 1, 2001, HHSC adheres to two standards to determine if an individual meets the second criterion above. As specified by Title 40, Texas Administrative Code, Section 2.255, an individual must have:

- An Intelligence Quotient (IQ) four or more standard deviations below the mean (i.e., in the severe or profound range of an intellectual disability); or
- An Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) service level of 1–4, or an ICAP service level of 5 or 6 and extraordinary medical needs that require direct nursing treatment for at least 180 minutes per week if the individual's caregiver was not providing such treatment or has exhibited incidents of dangerous behavior that would require intensive staff intervention and resources to prevent serious physical injury to the individual or others if the individual's caregiver was not managing such incidents.

Service Provision

Campus-based services include:

- Behavioral treatment and health care services;
- Occupational, physical, and speech therapies;
- Vocational and employment services and skills training;
- Community engagement and transitional services;
- 24/7 one-to-one supervision as needed;
- Religious services (if desired) for different faiths;
- Customized adaptive aids, including seating and positioning devices; and
- Educational services for school-aged residents

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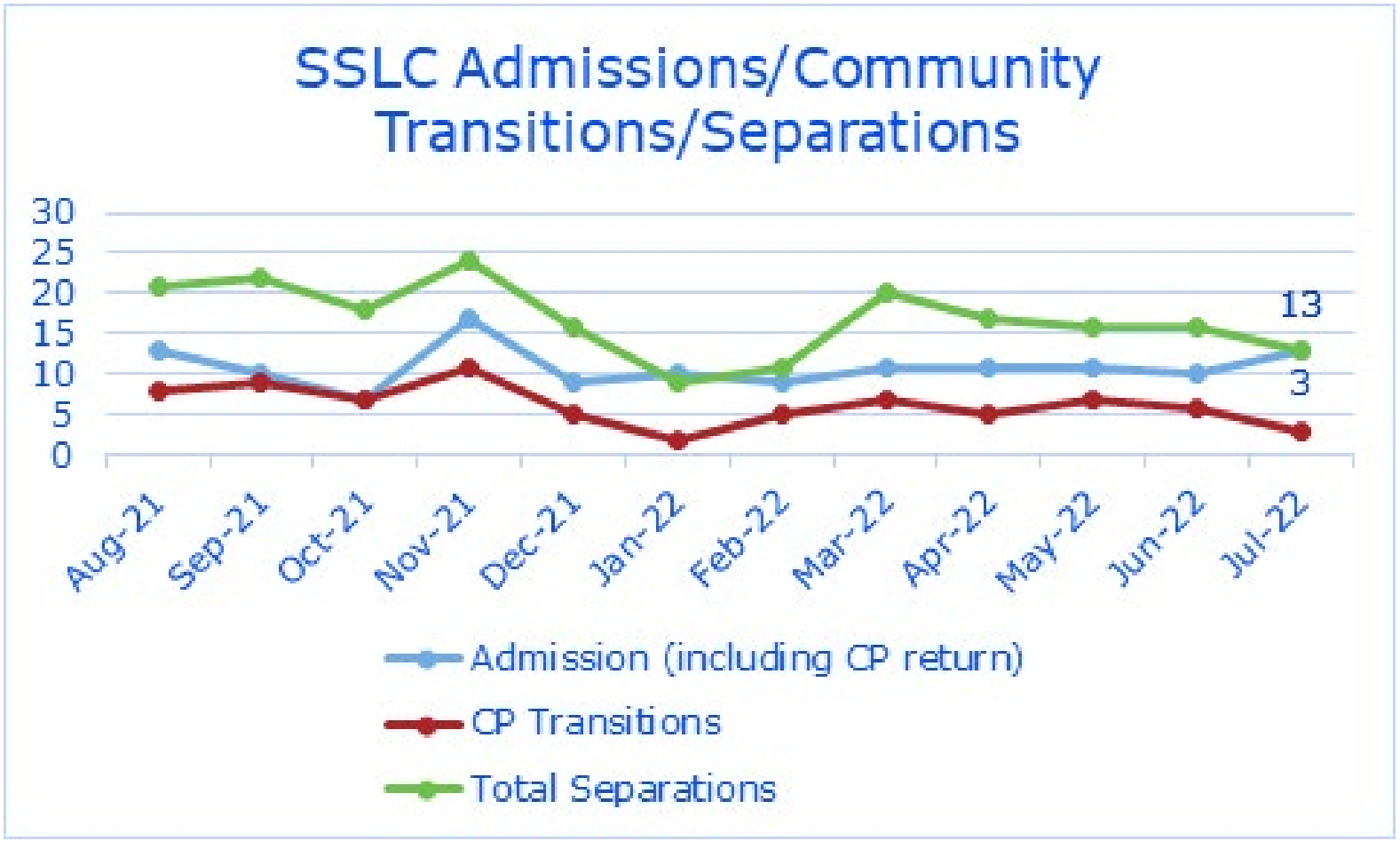
Educational Services

Five (5) SSLCs have school-aged residents enrolled in the public school system.

- Dependent upon resident circumstance, educational opportunities include:
  - Attending public school full time,
  - Receiving full time educational services at the SSLC with teaching staff provided through the local school district,
  - Attending half day public school with the other half day provided by teaching staff at the SSLC,
  - Attending an abbreviated school day at the school setting and/or receiving an abbreviated education at the SSLC with teachers from the local school system, and
  - Receiving virtual education
- Special education services are initiated through an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) meeting with the development of the Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- For students attending public school, transportation to and from school is primarily by school bus, or by facility van when individual circumstances warrant this.

Admissions, Transitions, and Separations



Community Transitions

- More individuals are entering an SSLC than transitioning into the community.
- The SSLCs work with partners in the community to develop transition plans for residents that want to live in the community.
- Teams work closely to identify challenges to transitioning from the SSLCs.
- Every effort is made to develop plans to ensure successful transitions.
- LIDDAs determine eligibility for a variety of services.
- LIDDAs also work with SSLCs to help residents live in the setting of their choice. While this may be the SSLC, many residents successfully transition into a community setting with the support of the SSLC and LIDDA.

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Method of Finance (MOF)

- Approximately 60% of operating funds for SSLCs are Medicaid funds received from the federal medical assistance percentages (FMAP).
- Appropriations are financed through:
  - Federal Medicaid Matching
  - General Revenue
  - With limited funds from:
    - Private Insurance
    - Revenue Generating Contracts
- SSLCs federal draw includes collections of a quality assurance fee (QAF), that funds other IDD programs across HHSC. Appropriation declinations to SSLCs effect those programs operations.
- Approximately 80% of operational costs are salaries.
- SSLCs have a residential population, which makes it less nimble to respond to major appropriation changes.

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Monitoring – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

- SSLCs are intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IDD).
- ICFs are certified and monitored by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- ICFs are required to comply with the conditions of participation in 9 areas establishing the health and safety requirements to receive the Medicaid benefit reimbursement.

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Monitoring – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Each SSLC participates in an independent annual recertification process to continue as an ICF:

- HHSC Regulatory Division (Regulatory) surveyors conduct a survey on behalf of CMS including observations, interviews, and record reviews;
- Regulatory then provides CMS with documents regarding the performance of the facility; and
- If there are any deficient findings, the ICF must submit a plan of correction and Regulatory will return to ensure the deficiencies were adequately addressed.

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Monitoring – Department of Justice

- In 2009, the State of Texas entered into a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice to achieve targeted improvements in services and supports for individuals living in the SSLCs.
- An independent monitoring team evaluates each facility's progress every nine months and provides feedback to promote improved service provision and resident care.
- SSLCs are currently evaluated through Quality Service Review (QSR) tools that focus on outcomes for individuals who live at SSLCs.

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Monitoring – Quality Assurance/ Quality Improvement Council

The SSLCs are focused on an outcomes-based quality improvement program to assess and improve the quality of care and services provided to individuals in the SSLCs and to those transitioned from an SSLC into a community setting.

- In April 2022, the state office launched a quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) Council to assess trends and identify opportunities for facility improvement.
- QA/QI Council meets monthly to discuss topics including incident reduction measures, the expansion of reporting strategies for better monitoring of trends, the development and progress of work groups designed to address areas concerning multiple centers, and to improve strategies for case management and overall service provision.

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Monitoring – Quality Review Team

- The Quality Review Team (QRT) is comprised of a group of state office staff from different disciplines including medical, dental, psychiatry, pharmacy, nursing, incident management, and behavioral health.
- A QRT visits each SSLC annually to provide on-site comprehensive monitoring and feedback regarding the care and services residents receive at the facility.
- The QRT visits help prepare SSLCs for visits by monitors and surveyors.

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Types of Staff Employed

- Accounting
- Administrative
- Auxiliary Services
- Case Management
- Chaplains
- Dentists
- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
- Facility Services
- Food Service
- Nurses
- Physicians
- Program Management
- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- QIDPs
- Quality Assurance
- Rehabilitative Therapists
- Risk Management and Security
- Staff Support
- Transportation
- Volunteer Services Coordinators

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Staff Screening

To be eligible for SSLC employment, an individual must:

- Be 18 years of age or older. Males 18-25 must have registered for Selective Service;
- Pass a criminal background check;
- Pass a pre-employment drug screen;
- Pass registry checks including the Client Abuse/Neglect Reporting System (CANRS); Nurse Aide, Medication Aide, and Employee Misconduct; and HHS OIG List of Excluded Individuals/Entities; and
- Consent to receive COVID-19 medical screening (nasal test) as part of the due diligence process.

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Overview of Training Requirements for SSLC Direct Care Staff

- As directed by Health and Safety Code §555.024 SSLC staff are trained in the following:
  - Uniqueness of individuals served;
  - Techniques to improve quality of life and health and safety of residents;
  - Expected conduct;
  - Introduction to autism, intellectual disability, and mental illness;
  - Rights of individuals receiving services and respecting their personal choices;
  - Recognizing and reporting abuse, neglect, exploitation, and unusual incidents; and
  - First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

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Thank you

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