



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 19th, 2026



Thursday, January 22nd
530am / 615am / 215pm
AbSSLC Chapel

The Survey of Employee Engagement is coming soon! This is your opportunity help shape the future of AbSSLC and more!

 **SURVEY OF EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT**



Have you seen the new Crosswalk being installed at 5th & Service? This is a great teaching opportunity for those that live (and work ...) here!

Items in Pickup Beds

We continue to see staff trying to enter campus with dangerous objects in the back of open pickup beds. For the safety of everyone at @ AbSSLC, this is not allowed. You must be able to secure your items in the cab or park in the secure parking area located immediately before the gate house.



Tiger Token Treasure Store

On January 23rd at 9am the Tiger Token Treasure store (located in the Mega Building, B521) will open its doors for the first time.



The store will allow the individuals to exchange their Tiger Tokens for items they choose. The store has various items including food & drinks, arts & crafts, wall décor and much more.

Individuals can earn tokens for the following:

- pedestrian and bike safety - Example: wearing helmet, stopping at stop signs, looking both ways before crossing street, using sidewalks, crossing at corners.
- Attendance/participation/completing therapy at HAB. Example: going to HAB for therapy and competing the steps in therapy goals.
- Attendance/participating in Chapel. Example: leading prayer, actively participating in the service.
- Having no peer-to-peer incidents or individual pivoting challenging behaviors.

This is the start of the list, as we continue to move forward with the store more areas to earn will be offered. Reminding the individuals how they can earn their tokens is a great start. Tokens are given at the discretion of the person issuing the Token. Each reason to earn a Token is individualized to a department on campus to issue.

The store hours will be (excluding holidays) Tuesdays 2-4pm & Fridays 9-11am.

Needing Candy or a Coke?

Recreation has a great selection of candy & cokes available for your sweet tooth! Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm, Saturday 8am-5pm. AbSSLC Gym – B659. *Sales benefit the AbSSLC Tigers TSO Team!*

Celebrating 50 Years of Service!

Kalana Allen – Medical Records Director

We asked Kalana to share some of her history over the past 50 years and the changes she has seen.



What jobs have you had since starting your career here?

I have only worked in Medical Records. I started as a Medical Records Clerk then when the Director left, they hired me to head the department.

What are some of the biggest changes you have seen over your 50 Years of Service?

- Decrease in Population. When I started in 1975, we had well over 2000 Individuals living here.
- Opportunities the Individuals now have to work and go into the community. When I started here, we had our own school where FCT/D is and everyone went to school here on campus; now they go to school in the Abilene Independent Schools District like all other school age children.
- All the wonderful opportunities and activities provided for the Individuals who live here, i.e., dances, Prom, special events at all the holidays, especially Halloween and Christmas.
- Freedom our Individuals have to get out on campus and walk/ride their bikes, go to the Diner/Coffee Tea House and buy food.
- Number of staff we have caring for the Individuals. Staffing requirements are much higher now than back in the 70's and 80's.
- Believe it or not, in the 70's and 80's, we did major surgery on campus in our surgery suites in the Infirmary. We now only do dental surgery in those suites.
- In the 70's and 80's we had young children, ages 1 year old and up, and they lived at Pedi, which is now 6522 (the Infirmary). When we would come in the mornings, they would meet us in the hall in their little walkers and they would be laughing and smiling – it just started our day out perfectly. Some of them were just beautiful.

Tell us the Happiest Memory of your time here ...

The memories of all the incredible people I have had the privilege to work with. My staff who worked with me for 20 to 30 years. All the amazing Medical Directors, doctors, nurses, and administrators I have worked with. I have always said that working here is a calling and I have had the opportunity to work with the best of the best who truly loved and cared for the People who live(ed) here.

What you enjoy the most about your work?

Being able to, in some small way, assure that the Individuals who live here get the best medical care possible and that our providers get the information they need to care for the Individuals.

Do you have suggestions for others on how to achieve 50 Years?

Remember that "Money isn't everything". Always keep in mind why you are here; to many of our Individuals, we are their family and they depend on us to care for them and keep them safe. What we do is meaningful and changes their lives for the better.



Shout Outs!

Thank you to the **FCT/D** crew for all they do every day BUT an extra thank you and Shout Out for coordinating mass trainings at various times of the day for the convenience of AbSSLC staff working various shifts! We appreciate **YOU** and the work you do that often goes unnoticed! Also, thanks to the **staff officing at the Chapel** for assisting with the classes!

Shout out to the entire campus on work completed for the Tiger Token Treasure Store. So much work has gone into this store for the past 6 months. Committee meetings to determine the operations of the store, where the store is located to the tokens being issued. There were several key roles that were played, **THANK YOU** to the **URC's, HAS's** for all the purchasing of items. **Maintenance** for the short turn around on the stores set up. **Leslie** and **Amy** in HAB for printing cutting and laminating all the pictures and tokens. There are so many players that helped, thank you for all your dedication in making this store what it will be.

I want to share something I observed. I was at **6760 Circle Drive** on Thursday morning (1/15/26). The home was so warm and welcoming. As a therapist for visual impairment, I serve several of the ladies in the home with glasses, guide technique, and long cane. The staff have been very receptive, helpful, and respectful with feedback for supporting these ladies who have a visual impairment. I thought they deserved a shout out!

Vote for the February 2026 Employee of the Month!

Andrea McFarland (Medical Records)

She is the best! Andie is always a friendly face when walking into medical records. She is kind to everyone no matter where you work. She is one of the employees at this facility that is a bright light and will always greet you with a smile. She works hard and if she is ever unsure of something she will find the answer for you! It is a pleasure to work with her and have such a wonderful person at this facility.

Brittany Hall (Vocational Services)

Brittany has a great rapport with all of the individuals she serves on her caseload. She is observant and works hard to make sure the employment for those that live here is meaningful. She is an excellent team member, always coming to meetings informed and with solutions to potential problems. Brittany is a team player, a hard worker, and clearly is invested in the success of the people she serves. She not only invests in the aspect of Vocational Services for the individuals on her caseload, but in their overall wellbeing as a person. She knows their unique personalities and speaks to everyone like an equal and friend.

Jane Whalen (Accounting)

Jane always goes above and beyond to help anyone she can. She genuinely cares about the people she serves, and it shows every day in the effort she puts into her work. Jane treats those who live here like family - she works hard to ensure their money is protected and they get the best items possible. She goes out of her way to help others anywhere she can and with a great attitude!

Roy Morgan (Maintenance)

Roy has learned a lot since coming to maintenance - he is very well liked by his peers. Very personable with staff at the homes. He has worked hard to make his shop one of the top performers. Roy is one who cares for the individuals and staff in giving them the best service he can.

Terry Moore (Residential - Unit 3)

Terry is an extremely hard worker who truly cares about the individuals. She is always on the floor helping staff and making sure things are done for the young men as well as interacting with them. She is a great leader and role model and has really turned the home around to a more overall positive and fun environment. She treats all of her staff equally and is very understanding. Terry your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we truly appreciate all you have done, continue to do and what you will do in the future!

Click [here](#) or the Vote Now picture to cast your vote!



Shout Out Abilene!

We want to hear from you! Have a **suggestion** on how to make Abilene SSLC the best place ever to live & work? Have a **concern** to express? Want to **recognize** **someone** for their amazing work? **Shout Out and let us know!**



You can also **email** your Shout Out to jeff.goza@hhs.texas.gov or **text** it to 325.370.4525!