



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 30th, 2026

Employee of the Month!

The employee of the month for April 2026 is ...

Marie Castillo

5962 Walnut Home Supervisor

Stay tuned to next week's newsletter to learn more about her and the work she does for those that live & work at AbSSLC.

Congratulations Marie!

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety

With the nice(ish) weather here, we are seeing lots of Individuals & staff out and about on campus. Bicycles are very popular with those that live here, and we have several out riding.

Please remember that pedestrians (and bicycle riders) have the **right-of-way** at all times. You should be very aware of your surroundings when driving on campus – which includes not using your cell phone! – and be prepared to stop at a seconds notice. Our 15mph speed limit is also an important part of campus safety.

Security is actively enforcing traffic rules and ticketing offenders.

CAPPS Password Hints

Please ensure you have changed your **CAPPS Password Hints** to something unique and only you know. HR reports that there continues to be on-going issues with others trying to hack into our accounts! It is also a good idea to change your bank & credit card account passwords at least once a year. Passwords should be 15+ characters and not use words/numbers that could be tied back to you.

EAP Discount Purchase Program

With Summer coming up fast, HHS employees are reminded about free travel resources available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and the Discount Purchase Program.

Administered by AllOne Health, EAP can help you prepare for your next vacation with updated travel advisories, planning advice and safety tips. Through its BenefitHub, EAP offers exclusive discounts on flights, hotels and transport.

To access these resources, visit the [EAP website](#) and log in using your work email, password and your company code (either HHSC or DSHS). Then click on the Home & Living tab and choose Abroad. You can also scroll down to the Discounts tile under Site Features on the landing page after you log in.

Discount Purchase Program

The Discount Purchase Program, administered by Beneplace, allows employees and their immediate family members to receive discounts on a variety of products and services.

If you're traveling in the upcoming months, discounts include hotels, cruises, car rentals and theme park passes. If you're planning a "staycation," you can find deals on food and groceries, technology, insurance and more.

A full list of discounts and sales is available on the [Discount Purchase Program website](#).

There is no sign-up fee or cost for the discount program, and it's available to all employees and retirees participating in the Texas Employees Group Benefits Program.

A list of frequently asked questions about the Discount Purchase Program is available [on the ERS webpage](#).

Are you signed up for the AbSSLC Texts, SO Texts & Daily Positives?

It's easy to do – just click the link!

<https://forms.fillout.com/t/2Br3eDxUePus>

Shout Outs!

Shout Out to **Barbara Marrow-Hale, Amy Gleaton** and **Melissa Castillo** for their recent work in teaching Conflict Resolution. They obviously have a passion for working with staff to help them make the best environment possible for those this live at AbSSLC. Thanks to each of you for your time & dedication!

I would like to shout out to a few people that have really helped me this year with inventory and custodian transfers. **Beverly Okerstrom (Okie)** and **Penny Newton** have been a super help, and I appreciate them so much. I know they are both busy with regular job duties and yet seem to drop everything they're doing and respond with the answers I need. Thank you both so much!

I would like to give a shout out to 5962 staff **Messala**. He helped staff and nursing on a different home with an individual that he used to work with. I just wanted to say how much this was appreciated and this resulted in a great outcome for the resident involved. Thank you to all of the 5961/5962 Walnut staff for everything you do to help nursing and make our jobs easier and the care you give the boys! We truly appreciate you all!

Thank you, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to EACH and every one of you who had a hand in making the fashion show a GREAT time for everyone!

- CC and her team for letting us be a part
- Fashion Show Committee
- Participants (individuals and chaperones)
- Activity Center for making the score paddles
- Amanda & PJ
- Mike for Music/sound
- Backstage helpers
- Spectators
- Recreation for always going above and beyond
- Social workers for consents
- Grounds Crew for hauling set up supplies
- Behavior Services

Shout Out & a gracious THANK YOU to **Shae, Amanda, Mike, and Jeanne Marie** ... My Retirement Party was EPIC! A heartfelt "Thank you" to all of **AbSSLC Staff** for taking the time out of their busy schedules to help celebrate a milestone ... My Retirement! People ask me what will I miss the most ... It is the warm hugs, bright smiles, the Residents, the Volunteers, and community of family! Not to worry. I am taking AbSSLC's gift of love with me so for me, it is not "Goodbye" but it is a fond "See you later"! *from PJ*



Life Safety Code Tip of the Week

All staff – including float staff – must have **immediate access** to Fire Alarm Panels, Fire Extinguishers and AEDs. If behind a locked door, **all staff** must have a key.

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!