

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
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From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 8:48 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wed, 06/22/2022 - 07:42

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about

[Texas Juvenile Justice Department](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Forest

Last Name

Hanna

Title

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Organization you are affiliated with

Midland County Juvenile Probation Department

Email

fhanna@mccounty.com

City

Midland

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

I was hoping to testify at the hearing today (June 22) but have important business here in Midland. I am attaching my 1 page summary of my testimony.

Your Proposed Solution

See attached file.

Attachment

[for Sunst 6.22.docx](#) (18.84 KB)

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes

What follows is a summary of my testimony June 22,2022:

- Local county juvenile probation departments need and deserve a state agency that is responsive to their needs and that will provide the leadership necessary to continue the progress that has been made with the “Closer to Home” (Regionalization) initiative.
- The JJ system in Texas is bifurcated by the nature of the way county juvenile probation/juvenile boards are created in Texas by law. Merging the 2 functions- State Operations and County Operations- in to one state agency does not change that, so essentially you have county operations under a state agency that will always focus on state needs to the exclusion of county needs. That dynamic is more pronounced due to the urgency that brick and mortar, state correctional institutions always seem to garner.
- If the legislative intent is to create a “unified juvenile justice system” then there must be a legislative mandate that restructures TJJD into an agency that works in partnership with county probation departments to provide a continuum of care and services to include institutional care for serious offenders. Institutional care facilities must be considered as resources for county probation departments rather than simply State operated facilities. An advisory council composed of practitioners should be created to support institutional facilities.
- Regionalization: The ability to access and share funds regionally will be more effective and efficient than the current system. There is a need to develop Regional Placement facilities and to place staff resources within each region to assist with training, compliance, and program development.
- Collaboration among all the agencies that serve children and families represents the best way to make “Closer To Home” successful and to divert more juveniles from State care. We need to overhaul the CRCGs and operationalize at the county level the System of Care (*Texas Gov. Code Sec. 531.251. “TEXAS SYSTEM OF CARE CONSORTIUM”*).