

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Jalisa Broussard](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 8:10:04 AM

From: sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com <sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 8:08 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wed, 08/12/2026 - 06:58

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about
[Texas Workforce Commission](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Monica

Last Name

Ayres

Title

Abuse Advocate

Organization you are affiliated with

Citizens Commission on Human Rights Texas

Email

City

Austin

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

Citizens Commission on Human Rights Texas
Public Testimony to the Texas Sunset Commission
Review of the Texas Workforce Commission

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) was established in 1995 to develop a highly skilled and productive workforce in the state (Tex. Labor Code § 301.001). A person applying for services would expect assistance with résumé preparation, job searches, referrals, and placement. This would be especially true for anyone applying for Vocational Rehabilitation Services under the mental health criteria.

Our office has been alerted that persons applying for the TWC Vocational Rehabilitation program could be required to accept mental health evaluations and treatment, including drugs, not of their own choosing as a condition to receive services.

A person seeking services has reason to be cautious when choosing professionals and treatments. Mental health evaluations are subjective and can be influenced by the biases held by the evaluator. Inaccurate information entered into a mental health record can be very damaging, leading to stigma, and could prove impossible to correct. Treatments, including psychiatric drugs, come with black-box warnings and long lists of serious side effects that can be detrimental to health. Psychiatric drugs can also be highly sedating, affecting a person's skills and productivity.

In 2024, The New York Times reported that a leading chain of psychiatric hospitals was trapping patients and holding them against their will for insurance payouts rather than clinical care. No person should be subjected to such degrading and demoralizing treatment.

In 2022, a federal judge upheld a racketeering verdict in the case of a telehealth scheme to fraudulently arrange involuntary admissions and detentions of patients in psychiatric hospitals. According to the judge's order, the case exposed a conspiracy involving fraudulent detentions that played out 3,955 times in 2017 alone, including in Texas.

Texas has done nothing to curb such abuse.

There is substantial evidence that coercion in mental health care is associated with

harm.

The World Health Organization and other major global organizations have called for an end to coercive measures in mental health treatment, including the use of psychiatric drugs. Texas highly values individual rights and freedoms. These rights should be recognized for all citizens.

Specifically, persons applying for services under a mental health provision should have the following rights:

- The right to choose their own evaluator and provider
- The right to participate in treatment planning
- The right to informed consent
- The right to refuse care or treatment, including psychotropic drugs, to which they have a conscientious objection
- The right to access their mental health records
- The right to recourse if they believe their rights have been violated

Solutions

- Provide TWC and VRS staff with training in human rights in mental health, including the vital importance of consent.
- Provide applicants and clients with a written statement of their rights and a clear path for recourse if they believe their rights have been violated.

References:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/01/business/acadia-psychiatric-patients-trapped.html>

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/federal-judge-backs-healthcare-racketeering-verdict-triples-monetary-damages-for-scheme-to-hold-houston-woman-in-psychiatric-facility-301528257.html>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11450418/>

Your Proposed Solution

1. Adopt recognized rights for those seeking services from the TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Specifically:

- The right to choose their own mental health evaluator and provider

- The right to participate in treatment planning
 - The right to informed consent
 - The right to refuse care or treatment, including psychotropic drugs, to which they have a conscientious objection
 - The right to access their mental health records
 - The right to recourse if they believe their rights have been violated
2. Provide TWC and VRS staff with training in human rights in mental health, including the vital importance of consent.
 3. Provide applicants and clients with a written statement of their rights and a clear path for recourse if they believe their rights have been violated.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes