

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Jalisa Broussard](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
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From: sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com <sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com>
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Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

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Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

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

Public Comments

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Your Comments or Concerns

Texas employers cannot find enough workers. At the same time, roughly 520,000 young Texans, ages 16 to 24 who are neither working nor enrolled in school, sit disconnected from both. Their reconnection is worth an estimated \$7 billion a year to the Texas economy. Their continued disconnection is a bill the state pays twice: once in lost productivity, and again in the justice, health, and public-assistance systems that absorb what the workforce system fails to reach.

Your Proposed Solution

Before the individual recommendations, the Commission should see the whole. Texas is reviewing TWC's delivery system and TJJD's regionalization duties in the same cycle. The same infrastructure can serve both reviews.

That infrastructure is the community reengagement center: a place where education and paid work expectations live under one roof, and where a juvenile court can refer a young person instead of committing them. The prototypes operate today in Dallas and Williamson County. TJJD's own commissioned roadmap — the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute's statewide Continuum of Care report (June 2026) — calls for reentry support hubs. The reengagement center is that hub, with workforce training and paid employment built into it.

1. Count opportunity youth and connect the data (modify Recommendation 1.4).

Texas cannot coordinate a population it does not count. Add opportunity-youth reconnection metrics to the public board dashboards and the unified data model, with data integration between TWC and the juvenile justice system so a young person's eligibility and history are documented once — not re-litigated at every intake. This is within the state's own control: TWC sets 11 of the 26 contracted board performance measures, and adding a reconnection measure requires no federal permission.

2. Own the handoff from probation to Workforce Solutions (modify Recommendation 1.6).

Justice-involved young people fall through the cracks between probation and the workforce system because no one owns the handoff. Require a co-enrollment standard for justice-involved young adults and a standardized referral protocol between juvenile probation departments and Workforce Solutions offices, enrolling young people before or at placement. A shared agreement and case-management system in Tulare County, California raised referrals and cut the number of young people who never received the services they were sent for.

3. Stop leaving federal workforce dollars on the table (modify Recommendations 1.8–1.9).

Only six of 28 boards operate SNAP E&T third-party partnerships — a mechanism under which a community partner’s own spending draws a 50 percent federal reimbursement. Meanwhile TWC

spends roughly \$4.8 million a year in state general revenue to generate match that community and philanthropic partners stand ready to supply. Standardize third-party partnership guidance, prioritize proven community-based reengagement providers, and every general-revenue dollar converted into leveraged federal funding becomes a dollar Texas can redirect to services themselves.

4. Define “opportunity youth” in the Labor Code (new statutory recommendation).

Write the definition — Texans ages 16 to 24, neither working nor enrolled in school — into the Labor Code, with annual statewide reconnection reporting. The language already exists: HB 3844

(89R) is ready to refile as part of the sunset legislation. A shared definition gives every state agency the same starting point for measuring reconnection.

5. Build a workforce pathway for community violence intervention (new statutory recommendation).

Community violence intervention programs operate today in Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, and San Antonio, and the U.S. Surgeon General attributes gun-homicide reductions of 40 to 60 percent to well-run programs of this kind. Yet the profession runs on short-term grants — LSJA operates the City of Dallas’s \$300,000 violence-interrupter contract on federal community development funds, while the state contributes nothing to train or retain this workforce. Recognize community violence intervention specialists in statute; direct TWC to adopt competency and quality standards; and admit CVI training to the Skills Development Fund and Adult Education & Literacy integrated training models.

6. Prepare young Texans for the labor market they are actually entering (new recommendation).

Entry-level work is where reentry happens — and it is also where the labor market is changing fastest. Texas should not prepare its most vulnerable young workers only for

today's jobs; it should give them the fluency to compete for tomorrow's, the way earlier generations needed computer literacy. Direct TWC and the Texas Workforce Investment Council to convene a task force on AI and the entry-level labor market — with opportunity youth and the organizations that serve them at the table — reporting before the 91st Legislature, and treat AI fluency as a fundable workforce skill in reengagement settings, where the learning curve is shortest and the labor - market premium highest. This also answers a question the staff report raises about the Council's value: a forward-looking labor-market watch is work only a strategic-planning body can do.

Attachment

[08.12.2026 LSJA Testimony Sunset Commission re TWC.pdf](#) (414.14 KB)

**My Comments Will Be Made Public**

Yes