From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Cecelia Hartley</u>

Subject: FW: Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report, HHS Commission and System Issues, Oct. 2014 - Northstar

Date: Monday, October 13, 2014 4:50:04 PM

From: Joan Abrams

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 4:15 PM **To:** Sunset Advisory Commission; Joan Abrams

Subject: Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report, HHS Commission and System Issues, Oct. 2014 -

Northstar

Mr. Ken Levine, Director Sunset Advisory Commission

Mr. Levine:

Please reject the Sunset Staff's recommendation to discontinue Northstar. Northstar is successful, efficient, and highly cost effective. There are no waiting lists for services in the counties that have the Northstar system, so people with mental illness do not need to get sicker and sicker waiting for help. It encourages competition among providers and thus encourages professional competence and positive outcomes. Please allow those counties that now have Northstar to keep it or let it spread to all Texas counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Abrams