

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DARS/DBS  
**Date:** Friday, June 06, 2014 8:16:10 AM

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, June 06, 2014 12:35 AM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** DARS/DBS

This is to express my opposition to merging the Division of Blind Services under DRS. The training that the DBS counselors receive is extensive, because vision loss is traumatic emotionally and physically because of the loss of independence. It is easier to place someone in employment who uses a mobility device or a prosthetic limb. Why? Because once environmental adjustments are made persons with physical disabilities are ready to go to work. Persons who lose vision in addition to adjusting psychologically have to learn concepts for independent travel, using technology and adjusting to interacting with others.

I also oppose turning over the program of services for Older Blind to Independent Living Centers for the same reasons listed above. Additionally, it is critical to provide services for independence to older blind persons in their home, where they have some control. Going to a center will add frustration to learn skills in an unfamiliar environment.



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