

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 8:50:36 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 8:11 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, October 30, 2014 - 08:10

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Linda

Last Name: Barber

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State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I urge you to reject the recommendations to issue 9 on NorthSTAR in the HHSC Staff report.

The fact of the matter is that NorthSTAR succeeds, where many programs fall short. Look at some of its many achievements.

- Access – Since its inception in 1999, it is the only region in Texas that has never had a waiting list for mental health or substance use disorder services.
- Public-Private Partnership that promotes consumer choice and quality care – There is full range of providers at every point of the continuum of care. The more than 350 providers that comprise the NorthSTAR network have a proud entrepreneurial spirit that that has supported not only quality of care but innovations in care that have allowed the NorthSTAR model to evolve and mature.
- Cost Effectiveness – The cost of providing mental health care per person under the NorthSTAR system in 2014 is approximately \$1,587 annually, compared to an average cost of \$3684 person annually in the rest of the state.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend you look to the NorthSTAR system as a model for the State. The State should be focused on how to integrate mental health and substance abuse services which NorthSTAR has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient recovery oriented approach. NorthSTAR coordinates and provides integrated physical health care as the rest of the State of Texas. Let's not ruin a good system for something that has not stood the test of time.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

