

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 3:54:08 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, October 17, 2014 - 15:52

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Steven

Last Name: Berkowitz

Title: Chairman of the Board of Directors

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Institute of Health Care Quality and Efficiency

Email: steve@smbhealthconsulting.com

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Due to appropriate concerns related to coordination, administrative burden, and public accessibility, the report recommends that the Legislature remove nearly all HHSC advisory committees from statute (Recommendation 13.1). As of this writing, Texas Institute of Health Care Quality and Efficiency (IHCQE) is covered by this recommendation. In my view, IHCQE has been incorrectly categorized as an HHSC Advisory Committee and should not be included in the recommendation.

IHCQE is attached to HHSC for administrative efficiency and to create synergy with HHSC staff that pursue quality improvement objectives for the state's medical assistance programs. IHCQE values and benefits from this connection to HHSC. However, the work of the Institute is independent of any state agency or other body. Our voting board members are appointed by the Governor, we are funded by multiple agencies, and our statute charges us to provide policy recommendations directly to the Texas Legislature.

IHCQE is a multi-stakeholder, cross-agency vehicle to study and gather consensus on key issues in health care that impact cost, quality, and population health. The Institute actively works across agency lines to create an open forum for all stakeholder and constituent groups to have a voice in pursuing the Institute's mission of "Optimal Health and Well Being for All Texans."

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Modify staff recommendation 13.1 to exclude Governor appointed boards charged to provide recommendations to the Legislature. This change would keep the functions, duties, and funding mechanism for the Texas Institute of Health Care Quality and Efficiency in state law as currently exists.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree