

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, October 13, 2014 11:07:23 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 9:47 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, October 13, 2014 - 09:46

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Joseph

Last Name: Bourne

Title: Youth Advocate for Children and Families with Mental Illness

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

As a Young Adult with mental health challenges, I oppose Issue 13 of the Sunset Commission staff report on recommendation for HHSC. This recommendation defies the importance of the significant needs of Texas youth struggling with mental illness, It stifles the voices of invested stakeholders championing best practices. The Texas System of Care Consortium provides a unique opportunity for state, community, youth and family collaboration around children's mental health which will not exist in a different structure. History has shown that the focus on behavioral health services for children, youth and their families will no longer be a priority focus among a broad spectrum of child and youth needs.

Family and youth voices for children and youth with serious mental health challenges will be silenced if representation of special populations is consolidated.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Mental Health Coordination through, the Texas System of Care Consortium should remain as an advisory board to definitely address children's mental health policy. Under legislation, many stakeholders have been state required to participate, and this has increased communication on children's mental health issues across all child serving systems. This should emphatically continue, but it should be recommended to the legislature to include and increase youth and family voice on the Texas System of Care Consortium. I would ask that the Sunset Commission elect to continue the extraordinary work that has been done thus far for children's mental health by championing the voices of families and youth, through continuing the legislatively mandated work of the Texas System of Care Consortium to be housed under Mental Health Coordination

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree