

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 2:06:55 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 11:54 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 - 11:53

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Broussard

Last Name: Matthew

Title: Assessment Services Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults

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City: Houston

State: Texas

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

As a practicing social worker with children and families since 2000, I agree with the recommendation to peel off childcare licensing from DFPS. It is a conflict of interest for DFPS to create and license their own foster homes. Also, childcare licensing standards are inconsistently applied across the state, and subject to the whims of individual staff members in regards to Child Placing Agencies (CPAs). Hopefully, a centralized regulatory body which is regulating similar issues in different facilities can bring consistency to this current small agency whose influence is misunderstood but significant.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

The recommendation on page 6 (and elsewhere) for the OIG office to no longer conduct background checks on licensed individuals should be implemented across the state. Social workers, licensed counselors, childcare administrators all receive criminal and DFPS background checks to maintain their license. Unfortunately, HHSC's fragmented background check system ensures that each staff member must submit to background checks for each state grant, for childcare licensing, and other state requirements. None of the state staff communicate in regard to clearance, and the providers are responsible for maintaining a record of clearance by the state, not the state background office. At least licensed individuals in good standing should be exempt from this burden, due to their state recognized license.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree