

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 5:20:35 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 3:54 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, November 6, 2014 - 15:53

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: Anna

Last Name: Brown

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email: ambrown@wfsd.net

City: Wichita Falls

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:
Sunset Recommendation 5.1- Integrating DHHS Services into Independent Living Services

I oppose the integrating of DHHS Services with the Independent Living Services. Servicing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community productively and efficiently is a unique feat. Everything from understanding deaf people, our culture, our language, our struggles and obstacles, our interpreting needs, our prejudices, our despairs, and hopes would not and could not be given the time, attention, nor energy our deaf community needs if this merge takes place.

If this merger takes place, it will leave our deaf community at the mercy of people who do not specialize nor are thoroughly familiar with the ADA laws pertaining to people with hearing loss, BEI Code of Ethics regarding Sign Language Interpreters, nor of the general, intricate needs of a deaf person.

We are not blind. We are not handicapped. We are not Intellectually Disabled.
We are deaf. And, we are Deaf. We are put at a disadvantage for most things in life. Let's not make one more thing that will hinder our progress when we need it most.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Leave things as they are. Wichita Falls critically needs our DHHS Services.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree