

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 06, 2014 2:44:23 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 2:44 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 14:43

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: Chase

Last Name: Bearden

Title: Director of Advocacy

Organization you are affiliated with: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Email: cbearden@txdisabilities.org

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is a statewide cross-disability organization. CTD makes the following comments on the Sunset Commission report on DARS.

Issue 3: DARS offers many independent living services consumers could easily access through local centers for independent living

CTD supports the idea of the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) being the main delivery system of independent living services throughout the state.

CTD recommends that DARS retain their current IL caseworkers and repurpose them throughout the other DARS programs lessening the heavy caseloads of those programs and allowing staff to work more effectively and provide better services to their consumers.

Recommendations 3.1 Change in Statute – Define DARS role in the provision of independent living services as supporting and monitoring the network of CILs.

CTD recommends additional financial support of \$2.7 million in capacity building to be divided equally between the current 27 CILs over the biennium.

These funds would be used to ensure a successful transition of services from DARS to the CILs, as they will need

the ability to strengthen their infrastructure, appropriate trainings, assistive technologies and any areas identified by the readiness review.

Recommendations 3.2 DARS should evaluate independent living services available in communities throughout the state.

CTD supports this recommendation and recommends that a readiness review be done of all current CILs before the state's transition of consumers to ensure that a strong infrastructure is in place and prepared for a successful transition.

CTD recommends that the transition of consumers from DARS to the CILs be done in stages instead of a statewide roll out.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: n/a

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree