

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 4:46:33 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 4:32 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 - 16:32

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

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State: Texas

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

The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office offers feedback on recommendation 1.1 to consolidate the 5 HHS system agencies into one agency.

This proposal identifies many ways to improve efficiency and reduce fragmentation. We support the intent of the design for the new structure of HHSC. The report specifically mentions home visitation programs (pg. 27) as a potential area of fragmentation. We not agree with that assessment, but welcome opportunities to collaborate more closely with other home visitation services.

NFP uses home visitation to achieve the goals of 1) health pregnancy outcomes
2) improved child health and development and 3) economic self-sufficiency.

The NFP model relies on outreach and collaboration to achieve its goals.

Within the new structure, it is unclear where the NFP program would be housed. However, it appears that the new Family and Protective Services might manage NFP through its Prevention and Early Intervention function. If this remains the case then we would have continued concerns about this placement. NFP is a voluntary program and is not a requirement for families in treatment. NFP has a strong public health focus which would need to be maintained to continue to achieve our evidenced-based outcomes.

NFP is implemented by bachelor prepared registered nurses who require model specific support. We would want to ensure that any change structural relocation did not impact the implementation of NFP with model fidelity. The current structure and support provided by the Health Coordination and Consumer Services Division at HHSC has led to significant success in Texas.

NFP welcomes the continued direction and management by the Health Coordination and Consumer Services Division under the umbrella of the Texas Home Visitation Program.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The NFP National Service Office recommends that the Health Coordination and Consumer Services Division, which houses the Texas Home Visitation Program and Nurse-Family Partnership, continues to manage the operations and implementation of Nurse-Family Partnership across Texas. NFP should maintain the ability to focus on public health, prevention and family strengthening through nurse home visitation.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree