

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 11:05:55 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 4:58 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 - 16:57

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Eileene

Last Name: Chappelle

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Family Voice Network

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As a family member with a youth with mental illness, for the past 22 years, I am opposing Issue 13, Recommendation: "Remove the Task Force for Children With Special Needs, the Children's Policy Council, the Council on Children and Families, and the Texas System of Care Consortium [a children's mental health advisory board] from statute and direct the executive commissioner to recreate one advisory committee in rule to better coordinate advisory efforts on children's issues." The System of Care has been researched nationally and in the State of Texas. It has been proven since 1986 that family and youth involvement is IMPORTANT in improving outcomes for the youth and their families, and to keep children in their communities and not in out of home placement. By keeping children in their communities and their families saves the taxpayers a lot of money. As you point out in the Sunset report the importance of integrated care this model is important in doing the very thing the commission is recommending. To dissolve each of these task forces that are focus on helping children and families with various issues pertaining to children's health and wellbeing eliminates the opportunity for Texas System of Care Consortium and the efforts in Texas to improve mental health services. I beg you to reconsider your recommendation. As a parent having years of mental health services in Texas, the support of peer to peer has been so important to me in helping my child and for the first time in many years the families who are stigmatized with children with mental health challenges are finally being heard where often other groups of families with children with other health special needs often do not address our population of children. My child has also benefited greatly from the peer support he is currently receiving as he transitions into adulthood. That peer support is very valuable in these young people becoming successful adults who can contribute to society. In addition, the first time in the history of Texas all of these groups are beginning to work together to look at children holistically and collaborate together thanks to the Texas System of Care Consortium

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Under Mental Health Coordination, the Texas System of Care Consortium should remain as an advisory board to

specifically address children's mental health policy. Under legislation, many stakeholders have been statutorily required to participate, and this has improved communication on children's mental health issues across all child serving systems. This should not only continue, but it should be further 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 wonderful 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