

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 8:19:40 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 10:12 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 22:11

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: Daniel

Last Name: Martinez

Title: Board Member

Organization you are affiliated with: National Federation of the Blind of Texas

Email:

City: Brownsville

State: Texas

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

Sunset Advisory Commission:

I publically express my opposition against recommendations 1 and 3. The merger of the Division of Blind Services (DBS) with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) represents a detrimental impact in the services that blind Texans receive. At the moment, DBS is qualified to provide blindness related services, such as orientation and mobility training, and adaptive technology and Braille literacy instruction; while, if the merger occurs DARS would be overwhelmed with case loads and not be able to provide the specialized services that blind Texans need. Furthermore, I oppose the recommendation proposing that blind consumers may receive independent living training at local independent living centers. This is because to provide blindness related services, instructors require specialization in the fields mentioned before; orientation and mobility, adaptive technology, and Braille literacy, among others... To be qualified, instructors that provide blindness related services should have a master's degree to become a Teacher of Blind Services or an Orientation and Mobility Instructor; which means, that local independent living centers are most definitely not qualified to provide adequate instruction to blind consumers.

Sincerely,

Daniel Martinez

Board Member

National Federation of the Blind of Texas

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Sunset Advisory Commission:

As a blind consumer of the Division of Blind Services (DBS,) and as an advocate of disability rights, I recommend

not merging DBS and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

Sincerely,

Daniel Martinez

Board Member

National Federation of the Blind of Texas

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree