

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:16:53 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:09 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - 14:08

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: William

Last Name: Daugherty

Title: Superintendent

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Email: billdaugherty@tsbvi.edu

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Staff have identified areas of needed improvement in DARS/DBS. These improvements should be diligently pursued and the agency held accountable for achieving them. But great caution should be exercised in making the decision to fully assimilate DBS into the larger DARS administrative structure. Within the Blindness Field there is general consensus that specialized services are best delivered by specialized agencies and organizations that have the sole focus of blindness and visual impairment, as Texas currently has in DBS. Within this same professional and consumer community, Texas is generally considered to have one of the better state systems around. The importance of many of the findings of the staff report far exceed the necessity or utility of further administrative assimilation of DBS into DARS.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Largely eliminating the DBS administrative structure may work against the achievement of the recommended improvement goals if keeping the quality of services high to consumers who are blind or visually impaired is of equal importance.

Consideration should be given to charging DARS and DBS Administration with addressing the barriers to services and needed improvements for general administrative oversight as identified in this report.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree