From: <u>Sunset Advisory Commission</u>

To: <u>Cecelia Hartley</u>
Subject: FW: DARS/DBS

Date: Friday, June 06, 2014 8:17:23 AM

From: Exa Curtis

Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 11:38 PM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Subject: DARS/DBS

To Whom it May Concern,

As a Teacher for the Visually Impaired for 18 years, I do not think that the management and leadership functions for people with a visual impairment should be merged with the other consumers in the DARS umbrella servicing all consumers with a disability. Our DBS caseworkers understand our students' specific needs and this requires specific knowledge about students with visual impairments. It is my fear that if DBS is combined with DARS, then our students will suffer. Blind and low vision students may be a low incidence population, but they have very specific needs and ways of instruction to help them learn. We are required to teach our students the Expanded Core Curriculum, which addresses our students' special needs because of vision loss. Our DBS caseworkers understand the areas of this curriculum and support us in things that students need at home. Please do not lump everyone together. Please do not do this, for the sake of the students.

Sincerely, Exa Curtis Teacher for the Visually Impaired

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