

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: NorthSTAR
Date: Monday, December 01, 2014 5:14:53 PM

From: Charles.Gressle@hcahealthcare.com [mailto:Charles.Gressle@hcahealthcare.com]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 4:47 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: NorthSTAR

To whom it may concern,

I reject the recommendation by the Sunset Staff Report on HHSC Issue 9; that it needs to be removed because:

- NorthSTAR works for our hospitals because patients who are in need of psychiatric crisis services have immediate access to a Psych ER which is appropriate care.
- Our hospital Emergency Rooms will have to accept all psychiatric patients including APPOWS (Apprehension by a Police Officer without a Warrant). For APPOWS, law enforcement will have to wait with the patient in our ERs until a transfer can be made.
- With NorthSTAR the maximum throughput time is 4-5 hrs. In other parts of the state, it can be days. If that recommendation prevails, we will have no options for psych patients that come to our medical emergency rooms.

We strongly oppose the recommendation to eliminate the NorthSTAR model in the 7 County Region.

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