

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 8:05:57 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 8:37 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 - 20:36

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Paul

Last Name: Hunt

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Austin Council Of The Blind

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I represent the Austin Council of the Blind and we appose recommendation 1.1 which would eliminate the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services agency and its Division for Blind Services and merge it into the Health and Human Services agency. In this agency, divisions would be organized according to function. Services for Blind and Visually Impaired people would be performed by the Medical and Social Services Division. Members of the Blind community believe that under this organization, Blind and Visually Impaired people would not get the attention and specialized services that they need.

I understand what the Sunset Staff is recommending in issue 13.1. This recommendation would change the statute and delegate the authority of establishing advisory councils to the commissioner of HHSC. Statutory provisions should be provided to ensure that the commissioner appoints members to the advisory councils who either have disabilities or serve as their recognized advocates.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend that the Sunset Commission defer any further reorganization of DARS or DBS and direct the sunset staff to study the impact of this type of organizational change that has been implemented in other states. Consult with the American Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind affiliates in those states and determine how well the population has been served under the type of organization being proposed for Texas.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree