

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 12:48:19 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 10:58 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 10:58

Agency: DEPARTMENT FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES DFPS

First Name: John

Last Name: Bracken

Title: Executive Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Montgomery County Youth Services

City: Conroe

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Our agency currently receives funding from the PEI division of DFPS through a Services to at Risk (STAR) contract. My comments are focused on Issue 6 which indicates that DFPS should elevate the importance of its prevention and early intervention efforts and better use existing data to evaluate program effectiveness. We support recommendation 6.1 requiring DFPS to develop a strategic plan for its PEI programs. It is vital that the agency include stakeholders, those in the field doing the work, in the planning process. We support recommendation 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 directing the transfer of the Nurse Family Partnership Program, the Texas Home Visiting Program and the Pregnant Post Postpartum Intervention and Parenting Awareness and Drug Risk Education program to DFPS. That way we could more work more collaboratively with agencies providing these services to youth and families.

DFPS could also keep better data on outcomes since these programs would be within one state agency. Lastly, we support recommendation 6.5, requiring DFPS to develop a strategy to use existing data. We have been collecting information on kids and families regarding protective factors for at least 3 years and have not seen the results of this data collection to determine whether we have increased protective factors in the families. This information is vital for us to be able to improve our service delivery and ensure our programs are effective.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Although we appreciate the legislature increasing funding for prevention last session, 88 million dollars is a drop in the bucket compared to the overall state budget and the amount spent by CPS in caring for kids already in the system. We have got to get serious about funding prevention so that families remain intact and strong. We can no longer afford a growing foster care system and the kids and families are suffering as a result.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree