

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:49:43 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:49 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 11:48

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Jessica

Last Name: Kelly

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: DSHS Offender Education

City: Shallowater

State: Texas

Your Comments or Concerns:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jessica Kelly and I am a DSHS Alcohol education program for minors and DWI offender education program administrator in Lubbock Texas.

I have been teaching these courses for the past eight years. I'm also a Texas state certified teacher with a curriculum focus in addiction studies.

My classes are most impactful because I allow the students to have a dialogue, peer- to -peer, about their alcohol and drinking problems. This format is relaxed and allows them to communicate easily about their struggles with alcohol and drugs. We're taking 18-21 yr olds admitting they have a problem and want help, in front of the group! This occurs weekly in my classes of 20 students. I have never encountered a format that encourages treatment and support like these programs allow.

In a years time, I will have many students leave my class and go into inpatient or outpatient rehab for drugs or alcohol. In fact, last week I received a call from a former student who was desperate for treatment help. I guided him to a local facility that could help him during emergency hours. He was struggling with cocaine usage and felt comfortable enough to reach out to program administrator and ask for help. This is just one of many examples where DSHS Offender Education programs have touched the lives of their students.

In addition, I also teach the DWI Education course. From this course, many of the clients decide to attend AA meetings regularly, make personal changes in their marriages and relationships, or continue to give up drinking or drug use altogether. I can't emphasize enough the importance of one-on-one peer to peer interaction for learning. (You can't get this from an online or unregulated, informal course.) Moreover, the students learn from each other's

mistakes. I have taught 875 students over the past 8 years, and I am one of thousands of instructors throughout the state. Please do not shut down our DSHS offender education programs. They're a vital part of preventing alcoholism and addiction in our state. If it were your child, husband, wife, or loved one whom sought refuge, insight, and made life altering changes as a result of my class, perhaps the significant would not be lost.

With respect,

Jessica Kelly

DSHS Alcohol Offender Provider

806-392-5643

Lubbock, TX

Your Proposed Solution:

Please allow the continuation of DSHS Alcohol education and DWI programs in the state of Texas. For increased regulation, compliance, and complaint management reduction, providers are currently required to attend a continuing education service where we are met by administrators with questions or concerns once every two years regarding our programs. This has allowed for increased compliance, and this why investigations are minimal. Our annual fiscal reports and biannual program reports convey the information about our program that is important. We are currently being regulated in these manners.

I would suggest a staff of more than two people to oversee these thousands of programs if you would like more man power to conduct individual 'drop-in' investigations. Two people simply can't do that alone.

With respect,

Jessica Kelly DSHS Alcohol Education Provider

806-392-5643

My Comments Will Not Be Made Public: I agree