From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Cecelia Hartley</u>

Subject: FW: Consodations of servies for DBS and DBS Older Independent Living

Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:26:59 PM

From: Janis Y.

Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:34 PM **To:** Sunset Advisory Commission

Subject: Consodations of servies for DBS and DBS Older Independent Living

To whom it may concern at the Sunset Committee:

- 1. I **DO NOT** believe that the Division for Blind Services should be consolidated with the Division for Rehabilitative Services. I believe that the consolidation would provide substandard care. The Division of Blind services provides consistency in vocational counselors which intern provides excellent client/counselor relationships. These tenure counselors foster understanding of what a Blind/Visually impaired person is seeking, a hand up not a hand out.
- 2. I **DO NOT** believe that the DBS Older Blind Independent Living Services program should be turned over and operated by the Centers for Independent Living. As I get older I understand how embarrassing it feels to have to ask for assistance. I know that I should not feel that way but I do; and the overwhelming feeling of being less than whole just does not go away when I never needed help before. Consolidating DBS Older Blind Independent Living with Centers of Independent Living will prevent seniors from seeking assistance, because they will not receive the understanding, the care, and they empthy that DBS Older Blind Independent Living specialist can provide.

Sincerely,

Janis Yanez