

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:28:47 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 10:36 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Sunday, June 1, 2014 - 10:35

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: Kathleen

Last Name: Lewelling

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Richmond

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Consolidation of services to use the funding within DARS to better support consumers is always a good idea in theory. If in fact, additional rehabilitation counselors will be hired to address the backlog for blind consumers, this will have been a success. However, as in the past, often these "extra" funds have been thrown at, moved toward, the latest and greatest thing that's getting noise; the funding must stay within the organization to address the obvious need. There is also this inexcusable ignorance, on the part of the legislature, about what is needed to allow blind consumers to get and keep jobs in the state of Texas. Isn't it better to assist them with skills that allow them to pay taxes and have self-worth vs. paying them to sit at home collecting SSI and Medicaid? It will take an "upfront" investment to gain long-term benefits; it's the right thing economically and morally.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None at this time.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree