

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: NorthSTAR
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014 12:01:35 PM

From: Michael Katz
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 11:52 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: NorthSTAR

Have read your critique of the NorthSTAR model in your staff report and find many errors and wonder where you got your information. It would be great to have notes and sources.

As a long time family member and advocate for persons with mental illnesses and their families I know first hand that NorthSTAR members have great access, choice of providers and an authority that separates the provider from authority. Outcomes are pretty good in spite of the very low per capita funding per member compared to rest of the state.

For the Sunset Commission to say that NorthSTAR lacks the ability to access is outlandish.

Any door is the right door for blended Medicaid and indigent persons that need help with both mental health and substance abuse issues and without wait lists.

The managed care company that contracts with NorthSTAR, Value Options has an 800 number so that the person seeking access and treatment will be directed to a provider or providers.

You can change providers if you become dissatisfied at some point. Value Options the contracted managed care company is involved with the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, its providers and community stakeholder that include consumers and families.

NorthSTAR is already looking at and trying to integrate with physical health care which makes sense with the any door concept.

Michael Katz