

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:30:20 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:22 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, November 13, 2014 - 07:21

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Cheryl

Last Name: Kempf

Title: outgoing Chair/TBIAC, 20 year survivor, acquired brain injury

Organization you are affiliated with: HHSC' Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Good morning, I have been fortunate to work for the State of Texas most of my career. This time includes mostly health and human service agencies prior to consolidation, the 2004-2005 consolidation of 13 agencies into the current HHSC structure, and now considering the current changes Sunset is putting forward. I would comment to the Commission that the consolidation that occurred was very complex and the shifting of so many programs made legacy documents and knowledge hard to access, and I think that made our jobs harder to do well and effectively. My comment today is about the 13 advocacy councils being possibly being changed a great deal. The councils add to the ability of the individuals on them to get much input that we bring back to the councils for our work. Will the changes being offered continue to allow the public or consumer members a good and effective avenue for giving input to the state? Can you line out for us what will be done to make sure that the state hears the public response to services delivered and needs that exist?

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Can you look at the accomplishments of the councils and decide whether they were gained through the current council structure or the input of the members? If the council structure were integral, can it not be kept as much as possible while all these agency changes occur? If the work is due to member input alone, then how will we make sure the work of those Texans still has an avenue to be heard and valued?

The council I work with, the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC), has been a gathering and supporting hub for knowledge to be shared and experience validated for survivors and families of brain injury, acquired and traumatic.

The truth is being a brain injury survivor is a often isolated journey with many questions of how to handle this life-changing event. Please make sure we have a clearly found place to look for help and information.

Thank you.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree