

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 3:48:50 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 3:43 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, October 17, 2014 - 15:42

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Knox

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Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Our comments below present an alternative approach to prevention and early intervention efforts as included under Issue 1, Recommendation 1.1.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

On behalf of Lutheran Social Services of the South, it is my pleasure to offer the following comments on Issue 1.

As a faith-based organization with intensive and continuous visibility to impacted children, youth and families involved in the child protection system, the unfortunate reality is that all too often, our interventions come too late when children have already been abused or neglected.

As Commission Member Tom Luce recently said as to mental health services, we need to move Texas toward a higher vision of what can be achieved through prevention and early intervention. Now is the time to make strengthening families and promoting child well-being a priority through these efforts across all health and social services.

Accordingly, we believe the Commission should strongly consider elevating prevention and early intervention to be a separate functional division of the combined agency envisioned under Recommendation 1.1, or if you elect to retain the present multi-agency structure, to explore how best to elevate and integrate prevention and early intervention efforts for all health and social services.

Such a unified and integrated effort, if appropriately funded and effectively implemented, holds the promise of better life outcomes and lower long-term costs that result from Texans ending up in far more costly public health and safety venues. As a representative of a leading faith-based organization that serves through stewardship

directed toward those in need, we stand ready – as do so many others - to further serve the state and local communities in these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree