

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 04, 2014 3:17:57 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 1:10 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 13:09

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Ms. Chris

Last Name: Kyker

Title: Speaker Emeritus

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

City: Abilene

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: DADS Appendix C There is lack of documentation in the report on the services provided by the 28 area agencies on aging. Very little mention is made of senior nutrition sites, multi-propose senior centers, Family care giving, benefits counseling, transportation, and several other programs and services provided under the Older Americans Act, the major funding source of aging programs. The volunteer services provided to the ombudsman program are not documented. The emphasis throughout the report is long-term services since approximately 80% of DADS staff is involved in long term care and major appropriations are allocated to long term care.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Issue 8. DADS Organization. Restore the Texas Department on Aging (TDOA) to be governed by the Texas Board on Aging with authority to appoint the Commissioner on Aging, adopt appropriate policies, rules and procedures. TDOA would be the State Unit on Aging authorized to receive funds from the Older Americans Act and state appropriations to implement the 10 objectives of Older Americans Act of 2006, Title 1, Section 101. Objectives for older Texans 60 years and older. (42 U.S.C. 3001) Texas' aging population has an enormous impact on just about every aspect of the Texas economy and the service delivery at all levels of society. The current population of Texans 60 years of age and older is 4.1 million or 15.5% of the total population. By 2020, the projection is 5.5 million (18.1%) and by 2040, 10 million (22 %). (DADS LAR request, FY2013-2014, administrator's statement.) That disparity is projected to grow, and that's why establishing a separate agency to focus on this huge segment of Texas' population is logical and prudent, and most likely to produce the most cost-effective way for the state to define and fulfill its goals for and obligations to its senior citizens.

To address this shift in population, the Texas Legislature and all Texas citizens will benefit by restoring the Department on Aging (1) to provide expertise and advice to the legislature, to other elected officials and to other state agencies on issues relating to aging, along with recommendations to meet the needs of this state's aging

population; (2) to serve as a comprehensive resource for trends, issues, services and programs for aging Texans and (3) to extend and expand services for the aging with those provided by private entities and local entities.

The fiscal impact of restoring a small state agency could potentially save Health and Human Services Commission administrative costs and improve efficiency, by maintaining policy development within the department without additional levels of decision making and administration, while coordinating the long term care ombudsman programs and providing guidance and promotion of increased volunteer service opportunities and programs for seniors provided by the 28 area agencies on aging across the state.

Additional TDoA initiatives would include: Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Promoting Independence Advisory Committee, Texercise and expanding resource of trained volunteers for the Long Term Care Ombudsman program. A new initiative would include the Volunteer Advocate Program for the Elderly (HB 4145, 81st Legislature, 2009)

In summary: Restore the Texas Department on Aging, the Texas Board on Aging, and the Commissioner on Aging with authority to adopt appropriate policies, rules and procedures relating to “grass roots” planning, advocacy and comprehensive and coordinated service delivery that focus on our rapidly growing senior population.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree