

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2014 8:58:33 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 8:57 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, October 30, 2014 - 08:56

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Susan

Last Name: Lautz

Title: LPC

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Terrell

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: PLEASE do not get rid of NorthStar. This program is the ONLY way most people have access to mental health programs. Without this program, people who do not qualify for Medicaid will have no other option than to flood the ERs with routine mental health issues like depression, panic attacks and suicidal thoughts. Many other people who only avoid hospitalization or jail with support from the community mental health agencies will be left to wander the streets until they are picked up by the police. Even if these people get on the ACA, which does provide mental health coverage, their deductibles will be too high for them to afford services out-of-pocket. And disabled people are put on Medicare and so LPCs like myself can not treat them. They are told to find psychiatrists to provide counseling services to them and there are none available in smaller counties. Trust me, you do not want thousands and thousands of mentally ill people being put out on the streets because their only access to mental health services has been denied.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Expand Medicaid to people for mental health services, allow LPCs to take Medicare, waive the huge deductibles on the ACA to allow for mental health services.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree