

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 8:08:21 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 11:46 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 - 23:45

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Kelly

Last Name: McDonald

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I urge you to reject the recommendations to issue 9 on NorthSTAR in the HHSC Staff report.

The fact of the matter is that NorthSTAR succeeds, where many programs fall short. Look at some of its many achievements.

- Access – Since its inception in 1999, it is the only region in Texas that has never had a waiting list for mental health or substance use disorder services.
- Public-Private Partnership that promotes consumer choice and quality care – There is full range of providers at every point of the continuum of care. The more than 350 providers that comprise the NorthSTAR network have a proud entrepreneurial spirit that that has supported not only quality of care but innovations in care that have allowed the NorthSTAR model to evolve and mature.
- Cost Effectiveness – The cost of providing mental health care per person under the NorthSTAR system in 2014 is approximately \$1,587 annually, compared to an average cost of \$3684 person annually in the rest of the state.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend you look to the NorthSTAR system as a model for the State. The State should be focused on how to integrate mental health and substance abuse services which NorthSTAR has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient recovery oriented approach. NorthSTAR coordinates and provides integrated physical health care as the rest of the State of Texas. Let's not ruin a good system for something that has not stood the test of time.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

