

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Friday, November 07, 2014 8:14:10 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 9:39 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, November 6, 2014 - 21:38

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Dhiren

Last Name: Patel

Title: DO

Organization you are affiliated with: Solace Counseling

Email:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I urge you to reject the recommendations on issue 9 on Northstar in the HHSC staff report. As a direct patient provider, Northstar has been a outstanding program which has allowed clients to get fast access and treatment they need without many hurdles. If the goal of any public program is to provide a mechanism by which patients can improve obtain employment and get on private health insurance then Northstar has done this. Our goal is NOT to make clients dependent on the system but to allow them the opportunity to advance. . I am afraid in the old system made clients more dependent therefore costing the taxpayers more money. I work with many substance abuse clients who speak very highly of the Northstar program.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The Northstar program is a great model which helps integrate mental health and substance to allow clients to get optimal service. The last 15 years of the program have benefitted many people. It is very cost effective with many cutting edge treatment options for clients. Stopping Northstar would put tremendous pressure on other systems in the Dallas area which would revert back to a very poor system with little to no access to services/

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree