

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2014 5:02 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, December 15, 2014 - 17:01

Agency: TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION TWC

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional feedback during the Sunset Review process of TWC. I am grateful to the review staff who met with various stakeholders surrounding this agency's sunset review. Comments are related to two issues, child care and recovery of unemployment compensation debt.

I agree with the recommendations related to the child care subsidies program and that TWC does not invest enough attention to child care which is more than 50% of its funding (\$556 million as stated in the hearing last week yet only 2 minutes of discussion during the hearing plus the public testimony given by Texans Care for Children) and the majority of funding in each workforce board area yet the focus/attention is nominal. With this much funding for child care, the focus should be greater starting with that of the TWC's own mission statement and goals. Child care is a critically important industry reported by TWC in 2003/2004 as the fastest growing and the 16th largest industry pumping more than \$1billion into the state's economy. The State Comptroller's office highlighted it as well in 2009 reporting its exponential growth by 2011. Child care has been identified for decades as the number one barrier to employment and transportation falling as a second barrier. Nobel Prize winning University of Chicago Economics Professor James Heckman's work highlights great gains by investing in the early and equal development of human potential. In his equation he states "invest in educational and developmental resources for disadvantaged families to provide equal access to successful early human development, nurture early development of cognitive and social skills in children from birth to age five, sustain early development with effective education through to adulthood will result in gaining a more capable, productive and valuable workforce that pays dividends to America for generations to come". Another comment made during the public hearing is that 75% of the jobs require 14 years of education.

Many child care programs/partnerships (not day care) facilitate children entering school ready to learn. Without this preparation, children, especially those from lower socio economic households start school behind.

The emphasis on the industry and this line item in TWC's budget needs focus from the top down. And transparency

is a must starting at the TWC level. I agree that the recommended tasks would facilitate the focus on child care subsidy program, its quality (imperative!) goals and outcomes at all levels.

Additionally the attention to distribution of funds, reimbursement rates, etc. needs to be reevaluated with a more equitable structure state wide.

TWC gathers much of this information already through its child care contractors without the need for an expensive rate study. Reimbursement rates vary in comparison to some areas by as much as 100% which is neither reasonable or equitable. The focus on the program must be on quality in order to achieve measurable outcomes for children and families which truly add to positive changes as defined by outcome measurements. Reviewing the TRS standards is important and including stakeholder input into the program is critical. Measuring effectiveness vs. just numbers of children in care would better identify the impact of the child care subsidy program. TWC and boards definitely need regularly updated consolidated policies and procedures manual for the child care program implemented statewide. There needs to be a continued emphasis on quality training in order to assure that staff are being adequately and professionally trained and allowing one day per quarter as a staff development days (some board areas allow 9 holidays and others 13; allowing all board areas to be closed/reimbursed for all 13 days yet requiring 4 days to be used only for staff development days only would compensate for nights/weekends when most child care staff can take advantage of good quality training. Providers that are open nights/weekends would benefit as well).

Regarding unemployment, its my understanding that TWC is not able to recoup unemployment funds paid out when unemployment decisions are overturned unless the former employee goes through the cycle and files for unemployment again.

As an employer this makes no sense that there is no way to recoup payments paid out when unemployment decisions are overturned. Those funds should be able to be recouped through new employment, filed tax refunds/returns and certainly if any EIC payments are paid.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Thank you for the time given by all who served on the review committee. I understand this to be a long, cumbersome yet a very important process.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree