

**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 16, 2014 8:07:38 AM

---

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2014 12:11 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, October 16, 2014 - 00:11

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Melissa

Last Name: Phillips

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Parent to Parent Advocacy Group

Email:

City: Buda

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As a family member of a child with special needs, I oppose Issue 13 of the Sunset Commission staff report on recommendation for HHSC. This recommendation ignores the importance of the significant needs of Texas children struggling with mental illness, thus diluting the voices of invested stakeholders championing best practices. The Texas System of Care Consortium provides a unique opportunity for state, community, youth and family collaboration around children's mental health which may not be able to continue in a different structure. History has shown that the focus on behavioral health services for children, youth and their families can become less of a priority focus among a broad spectrum of child and youth needs. Family and youth voices for children and youth with serious mental health challenges may not be present or less apparent if representation of special populations is consolidated.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Under Mental Health Coordination, the Texas System of Care Consortium should remain as an advisory board to specifically address children's mental health policy. Under legislation, many stakeholders have been statutorily required to participate, and this has improved communication on children's mental health issues across all child serving systems. This should not only continue, but it should be further recommended to the legislature to include and increase youth and family voice on the Texas System of Care Consortium. I would ask that the Sunset Commission elect to continue the wonderful work that has been done thus far for children's mental health by championing the voices of families and youth, through continuing the legislatively mandated work of the Texas System of Care Consortium to be housed under Mental Health Coordination.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree