

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, October 17, 2014 2:56:30 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2014 2:49 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, October 17, 2014 - 14:49

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Sophie

Last Name: Phillips

Title: Director of Research

Organization you are affiliated with: TexProtects

Email: sophie@texprotects.org

City: Dallas

State: Texas

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

TexProtects recommends a modification to Recommendation 1.1 to consolidate the five HHS system agencies into one agency called the Health and Human Services Commission, with divisions established along functional lines. Prevention efforts aimed at strengthening the family system, improving protective factors, and ameliorating behaviors detrimental to children and families such as; child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and untreated/unrecognized mental illness, reach across the spectrum of the services provided by all proposed functional lines under the HHSC structure.

Therefore, the management and coordination of these strengthening and preventative efforts should not be buried within Prevention and Early Intervention, housed under the Family and Protective Services functional line, as proposed in the graphic on page 39 of the Sunset Commission Staff Report on HHSC. Our proposal is to modify recommendation 1.1 to establish a functional line for Prevention, Early Intervention and Family Strengthening. Texas has come a long way in the investment of prevention and family support programs to strengthen families and the communities in which they live.

Creating a functional line for these efforts is well deserved and will allow for prevention to truly be elevated and supported as suggested in the Sunset Commission Staff Report on DFPS.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Our proposal is to modify recommendation 1.1 to establish a functional line for Prevention, Early Intervention and Family Strengthening.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree