

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:52:32 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 9:01 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 09:01

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: Sara

Last Name: Kitchen

Title: Education Specialist in Visual Impairment

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Email: kitchens@tsbvi.edu

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Issue 1 Sunset recommendation - The Separation between DARS' Divisions for Blind Services and Rehabilitation Services Causes Unnecessary Duplication and Impedes Access to Service. This recommendation is to merge blindness services administration and management with that for the general rehabilitation services.

I oppose this recommendation, as merging these services in a variety of agencies has caused decreased services to blind and visually impaired clients. Also, those who serve blind and visually impaired clients have a unique skill set, and training must be provided. Those who are untrained will provide inappropriate services and recommendations, mismanagement of cases, and undue stress on clients.

Issue 3 Sunset recommendation - DARS Offers Many Independent Living Services Consumers Could Easily Access Through Local Centers for Independent Living.

I oppose this recommendation. Seniors who are visually impaired, who are an increasing consumer base, need assistance in their homes, and are unlikely to go to a center. Services should be based on clients' needs, not on the agency's need.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Do not make changes regarding issue 1 and 3.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree