

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 8:04:50 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 2:57 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, May 26, 2014 - 14:57

Agency: DEPARTMENT FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES DFPS

First Name: S.

Last Name: Torian

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Granbury

State: Texas

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

I opposed the blame being put on turnover, the turnover being that there is low wages and long hours. CPS does not respect privacy nor the rights of individuals granted by the constitution.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

- addressing the reporting system is key to the work overload. Having random people make allegation ANONYMOUS is asking for trouble for the children the community and the creates drama period. people that truly have concerns and truly SEE the abuse should be proud that they reported it and should stand up and testify under oath as to what they saw and heard. MOST PEOPLE AGREE WITH THIS- child abuse is CRIMINAL not a touchy feely civil court case. There is a family code, the code defines child abuse and neglect. if parents are truly guilty then they need to be taken to court as such. the idea the abuse prevention in the near future is absurd. You cannot predict nor prevent the future anymore than anyone else.

- law enforcement should handle the initial case and then refer it to a caseworker as a caseworker is not trained in evidence gathering or investigation like a detective is. someone that is poor, or is struggling with depression or is having difficulty with substance abuse is not a criminal- unless they do something criminal, like beat the crap out of their kids or starve them on purpose. Family based services should be an OPTIONAL referral to most parents and a resource- not forced threatening to comply or have your children removed if stupid. If the children are in immediate and serious danger then they should be removed at that time, if the children are referred to family based services and law enforcement has not removed them from the home then why are we wasting money- tax payer money on something that someone does not want. A child should be removed when definite abuse is alleged.

The reason DFPS caseworker have adversarial relationship with parents because it is an adversarial relationship, the caseworker will say that they are not there for the family or the parents but for the children, that is all good, but

why insist someone go through a bunch of hoops if they are just going to bash the parents in court, a CIVIL court proceeding where the standard of evidence is that of an insurance claim. once again CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT is a

CRIME- it is criminal. DPFS never prosecutes criminally and that should be

their upmost attitude when protecting children. a social worker with a degree in art is not educated.

I have read and heard countless stories from families. some get angry, some just comply for fear and some lose their minds. the process and the system is bullying on all levels. This sunset review should really look at the entire scope of the agency and really how effective it has been. So far from my own experience and listening to others, the agency is a waste. It seems to take the power and authority away from the family and strip them of their autonomy. Many parents, many families agree with me on this. In my case I have had my privacy violated on so many levels because of them, they have taken advantage of hipaa laws as well. The caseworker the supervisors treat you like criminal but a criminal gets more rights to defend themselves than a person being accused of child abuse and neglect. I am the parent, I decide what my children, eat, go to church, go to school and what social activities they belong to. I decide their medical treatments and what doctors to go to and when. I decide- this agency will interfere and construes and lies, and twist it to whatever is the bias of the day. I am also a rational and educated person that is able to make decisions regarding these things for my children and for myself, so is my husband. There HAS TO BE ACCOUNTIBLIY AND TRANSPARENCY SOMEWHERE!!! They claim to advocate for the family but they never do and they make you feel incredibly inferior and helpless even when you do not need any help. In my case I was accused of neglect- my children never once saw an doctor or expert to contradict that or agree with that.

My children were never abused nor neglected, even in the toughest of circumstances and we had a lot of support from friends and family that were directly involved in our lives and not a single one was ever interviewed.

they took accounts and allegations from estranged family that did not even live in the state we were in. they called my doctor and told her that I was diagnosed with mulit-personality disorder- this so far from the truth. They told my husband that "he did not know the whole truth or picture of me as his wife" They never talked to my mother, or mother in law. they never talked to the close friends I am around. the whole process is bullying and adversarial. they are not interested in the truth- they are interested in making a case against a family by whatever means possible and the poorer the family is the more likely they will. This agency is accused and destroying lives based on hearsay, biased opinions, and very bad gossip. They accuse people of a very serious issues, when there is no issues, then come and actually create tension, stress, and even downright anger only to turn it around to use against a person in the court. Here is another little fun fact about each county agency--- WHY DO THEY PICK AND CHOSE WHICH ONES GO TO COURT ANYWAY, I know some people that never even went to court and they complied with the DPFS agency only to have the case closed and to return to their lives as if they were never there, I have witnessed DPFS return a child to a mother that is on meth, pills, and leaves her child with whomever to go party, and yet removed a child from two loving parents because they tested positive for thc after they went to Colorado for a vacation- without their kid. What a crock of crap I say. All this agency does is hurt children and families and while I want to believe that the intention is to protect the most vulnerable, I believe now that their internal affairs have destroyed and complicated their own polices, to the point that they don't even know what they are talking about. I also believe that they are there to create and manufacture a case against someone when there is not even child abuse or neglect happening. I have witnessed a close friend that caught a case of neglect because her ex father in law sexually abuse her daughters and when she reported the case to law enforcement the DPFS came in and treated them like they were the perpetrators and made them go to sexual abuse classes and such. Then it was not even CPS that prosecuted the molester it was the law enforcement. What was the point I ask you?

another case is where a children were removed because a mother fled domestic violence, instead of helping her with the local resources they removed the child and adopted them out, but never procescuted the abuser in anyway, instead they punished the mother for

neglect- when she was doing exactly what should have been doing... running and seeking shelter elsewhere. Come on? really??? CPS is DEFINATLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE in domestic violence and it is already enough for children and a person to e beaten up or emotionally abuse to only be psychologically and mentally abused by those that in positions of authority and people in

position that could help. People deal with things, and most people do have

countless resources to make that happen. Parents are and will never be perfect and there is not one secular way of parenting either. When a caseworker testifies in court that a child's home is safe, the child has food, and is clothes and is getting medical attention and is getting educated

and the parents are doing everything they can to provide these things then tell me where is the abuse and neglect??? Are you saying that the state can come into my house after I start addressing some depression and threaten me with the lose of my children, because a caseworker does not agree with the medication I am taking or the doctor I am seeing on??? This constitutes abuse and neglect?? I hope to God that none of you feel the

helplessness of that reality. This agency will blow things so out of proportion it is ridiculous and look at the mess they have made. there are 400,000 children in the fostercare system- just hanging in there. I bet you 100\$ that if you took a look at each and every case and sat down and actually investigated this cases a lot of them would be returned to the homes where their originated and lives and children that needed to be removed could get the much needed funding for their healing process. I just believe that DPFS has created a legal kidnapping industry, a supply and demand for the privatized foster care. This is not very becoming of the government and people are getting more and more mad as the read and hear all the stories. It is time for a complete overhaul of the entire agency down to the very beging of a an allegation, to the definition of child abuse and neglect to the prosecution.

DFPS should be against child abuse and neglect, it should be prosecuted criminally, some one with an addiction problem, or mental health issues, or is struggling financially is not an abuser---until they commit the actual act of abuse and neglect. This probable and potential future clause in DPFS policy is dangerous and is like some pre-crime prevention program straight out of Hollywood. So what is next, someone gets a diagnosis of bi-polar and they are now a potential abuser of children. This makes me sick to my stomach.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree