

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:50:31 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:49 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 15:48

Agency: DEPARTMENT FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES DFPS

First Name: Margaret

Last Name: Somereve

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Self

City: Farmers Branch

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Past the redesign, more resources (not necessarily money) should be invested into foster parents. Having cookie cutter education classes does not necessarily help with every child. Each foster child should be evaluated based on their needs. We did not see this as a foster parent. We saw CPS pushing the child into their molds and guidelines and what was easiest for them to follow their rules.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

- Foster Parents need to be treated with respect and considered part of the team working for the best interest of the child. The foster parents live with the child and will see behaviors that school or caseworkers may not see.  
Please refer to 81R HB3137 as originally filed for the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and consider implementing this
- Biological children of the foster parents that live in the home during placements should have support groups or training as well to help them cope with issues that they face. Many times these kids bear much of the foster child's issues as well and may feel they cannot turn to their parents. I would recommend that this be available for children 8-18.
- If a foster child is placed out of region for kinship care or other appropriate reasons, the ICU worker should have an equal say in placement as the foster child's caseworker. These ICU workers visit the foster child and foster family monthly and many times have a better rapport with both than the caseworker from the child's original region or county. This could be done as a report to the judge. Out of region, area or city placements are not necessarily the wrong option for the child. Again, the child, their situation, their family situation need to be assess. This is especially true in kinship placements.
- CPS should have the ability to change level of care upon a judge's order (we were constantly told in our situation they CPS could not change the level of care from basic to moderate although the child's issues warranted I and we were denied additional services for this child because of it.

- The Department of Family and Protective Services should not self-police complaints. I feel that after they call the caseworker who can tell them anything, the issue is considered resolved. Foster parents hold no standing in the system and they should be considered just as important as the child's caseworker especially if they are treated with respect, you will get better foster parents.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree