

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 8:14:29 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 6:57 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, November 17, 2014 - 18:56

Agency: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION HHSC

First Name: Michelle

Last Name: White

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I was particularly moved by the testimonies presented regarding the TOPDD. It seems clear that many in our Texas communities are completely uneducated about the importance and possibility of prevention with regard to issues such as FASD. I fully support keeping the TOPDD going as is, and increasing funding so that families can receive the education and assistance they need. Children need to be protected, and this starts with educating the mothers so that they fully understand the implications of their actions. The statistics I heard in the testimonies were staggering! As a result, I agree with the information in the "Texas Office for Prevention of Developmental Disabilities Response" to 1.1 and 1.2 offered by Richard Garnett in the Staff Report with Hearing Material. Fragmenting this department will cause more stress on the system and will prevent the TOPDD from doing their job and serving their purpose. By definition, the TOPDD exists in its current state so that it can "quickly respond to community needs" (TOPDD website). Let's ensure that this continues!

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: It is my recommendation that the Sunset Committee *NOT* discontinue the office of the TOPDD, and (instead) put forth the recommendations offered by Richard Garnett in the response. Even though the services and purpose of the TOPDD are allegedly planned to continue with this restructure of the HHSC, it seems clear from the response that the services the office provides will be hindered. Despite whatever issues exist with the current makeup and format of the HHSC, the TOPDD should remain intact and, if anything, funding should be increased to allow them to continue their important work in Texas communities.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree