

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Comments from Terry Wilkinson HHSC Advisory Council member
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 4:55:14 PM

From: Terry Wilkinson
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Comments from Terry Wilkinson HHSC Advisory Council member

I would like to thank the Sunset Commission for their excellent work in reviewing the many facets of HHSC. I agree that there is much duplication of services between the agencies that can be eliminated through better integration of functions that would help consumers access services. I also agree that the websites are too confusing and need to be updated. The necessary changes will take a significant amount of money to update IT and make the necessary changes. I hope the report will emphasize the need for a continuing funding stream to finance the necessary updates and changes.

While HHSC 200 advisory committees is way too many to manage, I do feel that input from people and interest groups from outside HHSC is most helpful. There should be a group of non-employee members, such as the advisory councils, to hear stakeholder concerns along with the executive commissioner. I feel a council only comprised of HHSC employees might not be open to stakeholder concerns with some of the policies of the agency.

It is also a major plus to have the input of people from different parts of the state rather than only having people from Central Texas reviewing policies. The needs of people in rural areas of West Texas where you have very few providers of services for a large geographic area are very different from the urban areas where there are many providers close at hand for a larger population. You also have the South Texas with different medical needs than the rest of the state. I feel it is very important to have representatives from these different parts of the state bringing their particular issues to the notice of the employees in Austin. While the executive commissioner should make some appointments to committees, the Governors office has the personnel already in place to vet people for their qualifications for the different committees.

Once again thank you for all of your hard work on reviewing the agencies of HHSC. I appreciate your consideration of my comments. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Terry Wilkinson
HHSC Advisory Council Member

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