



June 5, 2014

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission  
The Honorable Mr. Tom Luce  
P.O. Box 13066  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Luce:

We have reviewed the findings of the May 2014 Sunset Advisory Commission (page 46-48). These findings made the following statements:

**"Programs to Discontinue Offender Education Providers - Little regulatory activity"**

"In addition to evaluating risk levels, Sunset staff considered the number of licensees, complaints, enforcement actions, and investigations for each program. Low numbers of complaints, investigations, and enforcement actions typically reflect a lower risk of harm... programs suggested for deregulation have little impact on public health and safety..."

Another program that experiences low regulatory activity relates to offender education providers. This program serves individuals who commit alcohol-and drug-related offenses and are must complete a court-mandated education course. Data suggest the occupational licensing aspect of this program is unneeded since DSHS conducted no investigations or enforcement actions in the last two fiscal years on the 2,475 people licensed to provide the education.

However, as part of this unique program, DSHS should continue to establish statewide offender education curriculum standards the courts use in sentencing. Also, developing and approving curriculum is not resource-intensive, as the agency receives assistance for this task from universities."

**We are quite concerned by these findings. We also ask the following questions to be considered.**

- **Was it DSHS Agency policy not to conduct investigations nor encourage enforcement actions? All of us within the Coalition strive for educational excellence, yet we have heard of issues of non-compliance. Why were these issues not reviewed, investigated, and taken into consideration? Our Coalition mission is to be effective. Evaluation and regulation is necessary to maintain integrity.**
- **Did you know in 2012, TDSHS Offender Education services educated 101,461 people on all topics by licensed instructors? If we consider an average of 7 people per student education (families, friends, significant others, drinking/drugging buddies) an impact is about 710,227 people. That represents about 3/4 of million Texans, how can this be construed as "low impact?" These Texans are influenced by the importance of this work, is this not important? Worthy of reflection?**

We look forward to your response and we will duly advise our coalition of your thoughts and kind consideration about these questions. Thank you again for your valuable time and kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Herb and Kathy Boatwright  
Texas Coalition of Concerned Alcohol-Drug Interventionists (TCCADI)

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2014 5:09:18 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 4:05 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 19, 2014 - 16:05

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Kathy

Last Name: Boatwright

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: DSHS - Offender Education Instructor

City: Lubbock

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am writing to request that you maintain the integrity of the current DSHS Offender Education programs by continuing to require licensing and certification of the instructors that provide that education. Without the training and restrictions that are currently in place, programs could easily lose their effectiveness and evolve into "Comedy DWI" classes that deliver the required certificate with no possibility of a difference in thinking or behavior. It is imperative to continue to require a high standard for Offender Education providers to insure meaningful instruction that truly transforms lives. Nothing takes the place of a qualified, knowledgeable and enthusiastic teacher focused on helping offenders realize the vast consequences of DWI/Drug offenses, the importance of behavior change and the benefits that can result. I have been teaching these classes for over 10 years and have personally realized the rewards of assisting offenders do just that.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Continue to require certified instructors for the Offender Education programs. Allowing anyone who simply pays a small fee to teach would be a tremendous mistake because they would have no interest in the results. This will ultimately reduce the efficacy of the programs which have been successful for many years as they are.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree