

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 4:00:15 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 9:13 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 09:13

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Colbath

Title: Camp Manager

Organization you are affiliated with: Circle Six Ranch Baptist Camp

City: Stanton

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I strongly disapprove the proposal to disband the Youth Camp Advisory Committee. This committee serves as our link to the DSHS, and if it was disband could cause a lot of issues in our industry. Our number one goal anytime we have guests, especially youth, is to keep them safe. The YCAC has been working with the DSHS for years to ensure that our camps are safe and that the guests can still have the life changing experience's at camp. This committee helps protect not only our guests, but also our industry. Without this committee we will lose our main means of communication between us and the DSHS, that could cause us to miss out on important changes in the law, that could potentially save a life. The YCAC works along the DSHS, to ensure our guests are safe, and also to ensure that they will still be able to have a good time at camp. Please let the YCAC to continue to help with the process. The people serving on this committee have years upon years of experience in the camping industry, and they play a vital role in keeping our kids safe.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Do not disband the Youth Camp Advisory Committee

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

Brian Colbath
Camp Manager
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I want to start off by thank you all for giving me time to express my concerns to you today, and I will try to be brief and to the point.

1. **I agree to disband the “Youth Camp Training Advisory Committee”** because it has already served its purpose, and has only met once in its existence, and the “Youth Camp Advisory Committee” has inherited the responsibilities of the “Youth Camp Training Advisory Committee.”
2. **I disagree wholeheartedly in the decision to disband the “Youth Camp Advisory Committee.”** The YCAC is the working link between our camps and the DSHS.
 - 2.2. Three years ago I took over a rundown camp, that needed a lot of help in all different aspects. The biggest area of concern was for the safety of our guests. Through extensive conversations via email, text, or by phone with members of our Youth Camp Advisory Committee, we were able to take great strides to ensure the safety of our guests. Not only did they get me up to date on the Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act, but they also keep us up to date on a regular basis on any of the changes that are being made, or changes that are being talked about being made in the future. This committee has played a vital role in keeping our camp, ministry, and lively hood protected.
 - 2.3. If the connection between the two entities is lost, both our camps and campers are at risk. If new laws are written without the input of different experts in the field, we run the risk of

overbearing the camps with rules that eventually force them to shut down. If those camps that are still able to operate after that, eventually as more laws are written, the kids would stop coming to camp. If the kids stopped coming to camp, we would lose another avenue of reaching out and protecting these child.

2.3.2. Over the past 3 years we have had multiple cases where kids came forward about some sort of abuse that they were receiving at home. Some of those cases have been going on for years, but the child had never felt comfortable enough to tell anyone until they got to camp, where they have felt safe and comfortable enough to come out and tell an adult. I feel as though if this committee disbanded we would lose the balance between safety and fun, which would hinder the impact of the camping world.

2.4. The money used into this committee is money well spent. With the diversity of our camping world, and the lack of input from experts in our field, I believe that it will cost more for the DSHS to work by themselves to research the different needs of all the different types of camps. From wilderness camps, to church camp, to boy scout camps, every camp is different. Some camps are 5 nights, some camps are up to 3 months, and different standards and rules will effect all of these camps in different ways. The YCAC would help save the DSHS both time and money in helping develop these laws to better protect our children. They are set up to help the DSHS and not to hurt it, and they have been helping for over 20 years.

Once again, I want to thank you for your time, and I strongly urge you to keep the Youth Camp Advisory Committee as a statutory committee.