

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 4:47:01 PM

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From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:45 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 08:45

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Johanna

Last Name: Holmes

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Irving

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I am a former Texas resident who had two planned home births with a midwifery practice in Grand Prairie, TX. I did not realize that the care I received was incredibly substandard, resulting in me taking risks that I would never have taken if I had actually been told what the status of my pregnancies and births were.

With my first planned home birth, I experienced two complications: one was shoulder dystocia, where the baby's shoulders get caught while descending and the other is postpartum hemorrhage. Both were life threatening emergencies.

Within two hours of birth my midwife informed me that the reason my daughter and I had almost died was because I had "had too much ice cream" resulting in a large infant who got caught as she was born. My midwives did not actual notice that I had lost consciousness from blood loss, and did not transfer me to a hospital because of the hemorrhage I had sustained. They left my home within a few hours of birth when I could not stand without collapse.

I assumed my licensed midwife was correct, that my diet had been responsible for my medical complications, and my next pregnancy I followed her recommendations precisely. My midwife at no point let me know that I was measuring for an even larger infant than my previous complicated birth, even though my medical records show that I was measuring far higher than my previous large infant. I again encountered the exact same complications and only narrowly avoided consequences to my health and injuries to my child.

I was stunned to discover when speaking with physicians that the complications I encountered with my first home birth should have risked me out of any further home birth, and aghast when I discovered based on my medical records that I had been well outside of normal limits while planning my second home birth with a Texas midwife.

The care provided by my midwives was substandard, and I made decisions about my care and the care of my baby based on direct manipulation on the part of my midwife.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Texas mothers and babies deserve choices, but they deserve the best choices and to make those choices with all of the information. Please amend the regulatory process and licensing standards for Texas home birth. Texan mothers and children deserve better than this.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree