

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, June 09, 2014 7:48:12 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Sunday, June 08, 2014 10:46 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Sunday, June 8, 2014 - 10:46

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Kurt

Last Name: Podeszwa

Title: Camp Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Camp For All

City: Burton

State: Texas

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

It is my understanding that it is the intention of the Sunset committee to eliminate the Youth Camp Training Advisory Committee and the Youth Camp Advisory Committee. I agree that the Youth Camp Training Advisory Committee is not needed and rightfully should be abolished in accordance with the Sunset recommendations.

However, the Youth Camp Advisory Committee should NOT be abolished in statute as it is the working link between DSHS and the youth camps to vet health and safety issues for the Texas youth camp industry. Also, the Youth Camp Advisory Committee has taken on the additional responsibility for the youth protection rules that were originally given to the Youth Camp Training Advisory Committee.

Texas Youth Camps are diverse including day camps, overnight camps, private, religious, scout and Y camps, some as few as 5 days and others last for the summer. All must be considered when writing rules. The members of the YCAC are experienced in these areas and have connections to make sure that every aspect is considered.

I have a few concerns about the committees, suggestion about the YCAC.

First, If the committee is not statutory, the posting of meetings may not occur, and those representing the different camp types may not have access to participation. Also, if the committee is not statutory, meetings may or may not occur, according to the desires of DSHS. Finally, if the committee is not statutory, elected offices may not exist and the leadership that informs youth camp of issues may be lost.

Rule writing for this industry is tedious and involves land, water, campers, counselors, facilities, food preparation, nursing, and activities. It is a time-consuming process.

The YCAC provides feedback on the inspection process and tools used, sometimes discovering issues that need attention.

Please reconsider the elimination of the Youth Camp Advisory Committee.

Thank you

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: My recommendation is that the Youth Camp Training Advisory Committee be abolished, however the Youth Camp Advisory Committee stay in place as is.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree