

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 4:59:36 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:03 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - 12:02

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Jennifer

Last Name: Smith

Title: Public Health Consultant

Organization you are affiliated with: Consultant

City: austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As a retired employee from DSHS, this report highlights specific concerns that have been voiced since the integration of mental health services with public health services in 2005. Though these services are complementary and connected, the scope of the mental health issues has far overshadowed the ability of the state health department to effectively continue its public health responsibilities in a pro-active manner. I agree with the specific issues and recommendations regarding the need to have sound leadership in developing an effective and efficient public health system in the state. I do encourage more strongly worded language that the state health department be a leader and convener of partners, especially local health departments, to work collaboratively and in synchronization, to establish the state public health system, its goals, objectives and outputs. The department tends to pre-maturely react too quickly and singularly to recommendations, without thoughtfully including partners in the beginning of a process. This can, intentionally or not, cause a hesitancy and reactionary response by partners, rather than a pro-active and productive problem solving experience established through mutually agreed upon discussion and decision making processes.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Include stronger language in the Issue on Public Health System development that ensures partners will be included in the beginning of any planning processes.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree