

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 30, 2014 4:45:29 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 4:45 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 16:45

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Lucy

Last Name: Smith

Title: Med, Licensed Dyslexia Therapist, Certified Academic Language Therapist, Qualified Instructor, Texas
HOPE Literacy Founder

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas HOPE Literacy Inc, Academic Language Therapist Assn., International
Dyslexia Assn.

Email: Lucy@texashopeliteracy.com

City: Bedford

State: Texas

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

PLEASE do not abolish state licensure for dyslexia therapists and practioners in Texas. I am the parent and grandparent of family members who are dyslexic.

My journey started many years ago with my oldest son who despised kindergarten and all the grades thereafter. Born in 1958, now 55 years old, he grew up a time when very few were aware of what would become a dyslexia "epidemic". No one knew his struggles, neither his teachers nor me, that he was reading entire sentences backwards. It was not until he was locked up in a TDCJ prison that a chaplain figured it out. Rewinding to his early academic years, he started using weed in elementary school, nearly failing or failing every grade, dropped out in 7th grade, got into the "hippie" scene, more drugs, alcohol, got arrested at 17 where the judge gave him the choice of getting his GED and going to the army or prison. The teachers always said he was very bright so he chose the army where he learned to improve on his drug and alcohol habit, followed by an honorable discharge, wife, baby, no job, money, or working car...this began a trail of endless expenses for my husband and me...6 months later, his wife left with the baby & never returned. Later, in his early 20's, he was sentenced to 20 years, did 3 1/2, paroled out and finished the rest on annual parole. Prior to this, no one in our family had ever known anyone who had been in jail, prison, probation or parole. Standing in line at the County Jail with countless others was a new experience for me. Years later, a repeat performance with another son, also who has dyslexia and ADHD, got in trouble at 18, did 8 years on probation with 2 to go, no new offense, revoked on a technicality and sentenced to 13 years Again, the same type of experience with academic failure in a time period similar to my other son's. During all this, I left a successful career in real estate and entered the field of Language Therapy. I have spent 20 years educating myself in this field, learning how to teach dyslexic people of all ages to read, write, and spell. I have taught many children and I am happy to say that the majority of them are in college now. You see, when they are taught in the way they

learn best, they can be highly successful. The dyslexic therapists and practitioners receive specialized instruction taught by Qualified Instructors who are certified in this field. The organizations that I belong to (listed above) adhere to what the scientific evidence shows about dyslexia, that it is a neurological problem and when treated using an Orton-Gillingham based multisensory systematic structured intensive phonics method, dyslexic students respond very well to this treatment. In an effort to eradicate functional illiteracy in prisons and jails, I founded a non-profit organization called Texas HOPE Literacy Inc. (aka HOPE) in 1997.

For 17 years, I have trained 1000's of inmates to tutor their peers using the above methodology in one-on-one settings so they can earn their GED prior to release; many demonstrate learning disabilities. Current focus is on incarcerated parents since they are the direct link to their children. Our organization is the originator of the HOPE Community Reentry Model and programs for prisons and jails. All models have leadership opportunities where the inmates can practice positive behaviors and attitudes. We have field-tested them on prison and county jail sites. HOPE has received three Texas Governor's awards and national recognition. I received the Governor's 2000 award. HOPE goals are to equip the inmates to be responsible citizens during their incarceration; post-release so that they will be better parents to their children, our neighborhoods and communities will be safer, and recidivism lowered. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice salutes HOPE as the "premier volunteer initiative that has provided our offenders with outstanding services to assist in their transition back into the community." TDCJ leads the nation in peer driven programs as a result.

Awards 2000 Governor's Religious Volunteer Award
2001 Dallas Reads Champion Educator in Adult Literacy
2005 National Crime Prevention Council Recognition
2005 Governor's Most Innovative Program Award
2006 Governor's Community Capacity Builder Award

I implore you to consider the dyslexic children and adults that need your help right now and prevent the abolishment of this licensure. If we lose this licensure, these children and adults will be further handicapped by their disabilities. We will fund more homeless and unemployed people. Licensure enabled dyslexia therapists and practitioners to offer services to more of this population. With it, we were able to train even more people for this field. Without licensure, more children will fall through the cracks. Texas needs these bright intelligent children. They are the future...the hope of our state and nation. Please do not fail them now!

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Insanity is when we do the same thing over and over expecting different results. When people work together for the good of the "community", those who struggle can get the help they need. It is time to stop the "us and them" mentality, that being who is the best of all.

Our prisons need help for its learning disabled population. Please consider this alternative. The Texas HOPE Literacy Board of Directors asks you to look closely at what we are doing in the Texas prison system.
www.texashopeliteracy.com

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree