

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:59:35 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:12 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 27, 2014 - 08:12

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Zolnierrek

Title: Executive Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Nurses Association

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Texas Nurses Association
8501 N. MoPac Expy, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78759
512-452-0645

June 27, 2014

To whom it may concern:

Subject: Sunset Advisory Commission Issue 7 "State Has a Continuing Need for Texas Health Information
Collection (THCIC) Program"

We are offering support on behalf of the Sunset Advisory Commission (SAC) Issue 7, "State Has a Continuing Need for Texas Health Information Collection (THCIC) Program." As a representative of the more than 300,000 practicing nurses in the state of Texas, I and numerous other Texas Nurses Association (TNA) leadership value the THCIC program data in at least two ways that we feel supports the health status improvement of the most needy citizens of Texas.

1. Teaching Future Health Care Provider Students – THCIC program data has been used to teach future advanced practice nurses (APNs) how to use the data for a clear understanding of health, safety and costs associated with both inpatient and outpatient delivery of care. This analysis yield the specifics needed to track and trend patient centered outcomes measures in support of APN care delivery, as well as in hospital-based measures in support of acute care

RN care delivery.

This state-level analysis provides a benchmark comparative measure by which the student may compare their geographic area patient outcomes with those at the state-level. In addition to general demographics of case-level data, the significantly important patient safety indicator data (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality [AHRQ] patient safety indicator [PSI] metrics) has been analyzed.

2. Population Health Analysis – Population health is defined as, “Population health is defined as the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group.”

The THCIC program data is one of the primary sources of data for this type of analysis in the effort to understand the outcomes of the various populations in Texas. With its gender, age race, ethnicity and primary diagnoses data elements, for example, the THCIC program data provides the main source of population health analysis for predicting health care delivery demands.

Ultimately, without the THCIC program data, we estimate that providers will have less than optimal understanding of the characteristics of their local patient populations, and that a significant portion of the Texas population will yield less than optimal health care and patient safety/quality status.

As such, we strongly support the findings of the SAC report on Issue 7 and urge acceptance of the “Key Recommendations,” (p. 7).

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Dorman-O'Donnell, MSN, RN
President

Cindy Zolnierek, PhD, RN
Executive Director

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: As above

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree