



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

October 22, 2014

Mr. Ken Levine
Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 North Congress, 6th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Levine:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the constructive review of the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (the Committee) through the Sunset advisory process. All of your staff conducted a comprehensive review of the Committee through numerous discussions and review of documentation. We appreciate their attention to detail and the professional way in which they conducted themselves.

Attached you will find the Committee's response to the Sunset evaluation report. We believe the report identifies the challenges and opportunities of the Committee and we look forward to working with the Sunset Commission and the Legislature on our important work for and with Texans with disabilities.

We look forward to meeting with the Sunset Commission and the Legislature in November to continue this valuable process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angi English".

Angi English, MS, LMPC
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Bontke".

Joe Bontke
Chair

Enclosure

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Response to Issue 1

Change in Statute

1.2 Remove provisions from the committee's statute that do not align with the committee's purpose and resources.

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (the Committee) supports this recommendation.

1.3 Require the committee to maintain and analyze information provided in the State's various long-range plans for people with disabilities.

The Committee supports this recommendation and believes it provides a valuable opportunity to help make the vital connections between various long-range plans for Texans with disabilities in a complex system of care. We see this also as an opportunity to gain insight and information related to current and potential policy recommendations. We appreciate the clarification that the Committee cannot approve or enforce other agencies' long-range plans but can benefit by their research and data.

Management Action

1.4 Direct the committee to provide information on disability-related services on its website.

The Committee supports this recommendation and believes that having an accessible and useable website that allows Texans to navigate the system of care and the vast array of services and resources is important. The Committee's webpages are maintained by the webmaster for the Office of the Governor. We will work with the next administration's webmaster to help him or her understand the need for an accessible and useable website that incorporates the elements of the Sunset recommendation.

1.5 Direct the Governor's Office and the committee to work together to re-evaluate the amount of funding necessary for the committee to carry out its functions, and to ensure its legislative appropriations request and budget reflect the actual fiscal needs of the committee.

The Committee supports this recommendation and looks forward to working with the new administration on a frank discussion of the financial needs of the Committee to meet the full legislative intent of the Committee's functions and challenges.

Change in Appropriations

1.6 The Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees should consider using the committee's large unexpended balance as a method of finance for a portion of the committee's appropriations for fiscal years 2016–2017.

The Committee supports this recommendation.