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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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STANLEY E. CLARK
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November 21, 2008



COMMISSION
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Joey Longley, Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Longley:

The Department of Public Safety provides the following comment on the Sunset Staff Report on the Texas Youth Commission, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, and Office of Independent Ombudsman:

Issue 1, Recommendation 1.9

Require the Department to adopt a memorandum of understanding with TCOOMMI for continuity of care for juvenile offenders with mental impairments.

Recommendation 1.9 proposes that DPS serve as a participating entity in the development and implementation of an MOU administered by the TCOOMMI. Senate Bill 839 from the 80th Regular session requires DPS to cooperate with TCOOMMI, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS), and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) to implement a system that allows those jails governed by TCJS to inquire into the DSHS mental health system via the DPS Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS). The purpose of those inquiries is to identify adult offenders who may have mental impairments, and who could benefit from appropriate continuity of care. That inquiry capability is now being developed and implemented. The juvenile justice agencies could be added to that capability with minimal impact to DPS. However, TLETS connections would have to be established by the juvenile justice and local law enforcement agencies in appropriate locations, if they did not already exist. In addition, personnel would have to be trained on the use of the system and the information. DPS believes that data exchange between the participating agencies would serve the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stanley E. Clark'.

Stanley E. Clark
Director

SEC:DRF:js