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TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave. ★ Austin, Texas 78701-1494 ★ 512/463-9734 ★ FAX: 512/463-9838 ★ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Robert Scott
Commissioner

November 25, 2008

Joey Longley
Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711-3066

Dear Director Longley,

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to the Sunset Advisory Commission as the mission and performance of the Texas Youth Commission, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, and the Office of Independent Ombudsman of the Texas Youth Commission are currently being reviewed by the Legislature. As specifically addressed in the Sunset Advisory Commission request for comments, action will be required by TEA to Issue 1, Recommendation 1.9 of the report (Require the Department to adopt a memorandum of understanding with Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) for continuity of care for juvenile offenders with mental impairments). TEA could participate in such an MOU within the confines of FERPA regulations.

Audits conducted by the Texas Education Agency of 10 Texas Youth Commission schools reviewing special education programs are now complete, with a single report being compiled by TEA. Funds in excess of \$3,000,000 are allotted to the Texas Youth Commission and Windham Schools through the Texas Education Agency oversight of No Child Left Behind, Title I D Subpart 1.

In regard to additional information, data, and related recommendations, TEA offers no additional disagreement or modification at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Harris-Lawrence

Sincerely,

Robert Scott

Robert Scott
Commissioner of Education

RPS/jhl