

Cecelia Hartley

From:

Sent: Monday, November 24, 2008 5:36 PM

To: Sunset

Subject: Reconsider Rehabilitation vs Punishment

As a long time volunteer and past director of the Texas Coalition for Juvenile Justice, an organization that helped support the formation of the Juvenile Probation Commission, I have some history about the purpose and goal of the agency.

Your plan to abolish the agency will have dramatic impact on the services provided to children throughout the state.

The agency was created to provide support and assistance to local juvenile probation departments and increase their efforts at rehabilitation services to those children caught up in the juvenile justice system. Most of those children had a prior history with CPS or came from abusive situations. Texas took a long time reaching the point where rehabilitation and protection of these children became a priority.

The issues with TYC can be resolved with effective leadership and without destroying a structure of TJPC that has been critical to the success of local juvenile departments in working with children and their families to keep them out of the adult criminal system.

By combining the two agencies and child populations, the **priority** will fall to the most serious offenders and to the **punishment** aspect of the juvenile justice system - where we were 30 some odd years ago. I am simply astounded that you are proposing this change.

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May you always have love to share, health to spare and friends that care.

11/25/2008