

**Cecelia Hartley**

---

**From:** Leah Campbell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2008 4:18 PM  
**To:** Cecelia Hartley  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Staff Recommendation 1.1

Another response to my inbox.

Thanks!

---

**From:** Jean Boyd  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2008 4:15 PM  
**To:** Leah Campbell  
**Subject:** Opposition to Staff Recommendation 1.1

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Re: Staff Recommendation 1.1 Abolish TYC and TJPC and transfer their functions to a newly created state agency, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, with a sunset date of 2015.

I **oppose** the idea of abolishing the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) and combining services with the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) into one agency as recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report.

TJPC has proven to be a functional and efficient agency dedicated to improved community service delivery by juvenile probation departments in order to divert children from TYC. While I hope the new leadership at TYC can turn around TYC's performance, why abolish a healthy agency with proven results and combine its responsibilities with a non-functional agency with a different mission?

Juvenile probation departments throughout our state work to rehabilitate young people referred for law violations so that they can become law abiding citizens. There is no way to calculate the impact or financial savings of averting a child from incarceration in the juvenile or criminal justice systems. The Sunset Staff Report notes that only 5 percent of juveniles referred to the juvenile justice system are committed to TYC.

During the twenty-one years I have served on the bench as a judge hearing juvenile cases, TJPC has worked to increase the professionalism of juvenile probation officers and juvenile probation departments. TJPC has provided extensive assistance to juvenile practitioners such as:

- Education and training concerning best practices
- Monitoring and assistance to help juvenile probation departments improve juvenile facilities and service delivery
- Collection of statistical data assisting the legislature and local juvenile departments to identify trends and programming needs
- Providing technical assistance and training
- Collaborating with local departments to develop and provide technology, assessment instruments and improved communication and information sharing
- Overseeing the disbursement of state and federal funding to counties.

TJPC has always invited participation by juvenile justice professionals in formulating recommended

standards for implementation. Collaboration with TYC has suffered because of the lack of continuity in TYC leadership with three conservators and one executive director serving since March, 2007. It is my understanding that the two agencies are collaborating since the appointment of Executive Commissioner Cherie Townsend. She has only had approximately six weeks to attempt to turn around TYC's performance. Executive Commissioner Townsend has impressive credentials and the respect of the juvenile justice community as well as a twenty year personal friendship with Executive Director Vicki Spriggs of TJPC. I have confidence that under this new leadership TYC will begin to correct its past problems.

I respectfully request that you consider the collective input of all juvenile justice professionals concerning this proposal. It would be a mistake to abolish TJPC. Please reject this recommendation as it would set us back years in our ongoing attempts to perfect the Texas juvenile justice system.

Sincerely,

Jean Boyd  
Judge, 323<sup>rd</sup> Family District Court  
2701 Kimbo Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76111