



**CORYELL COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES**

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JUVENILE BOARD
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November 26, 2008

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

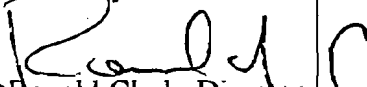
Dear Mr. Longley;

Thank you for the copy of the Sunset Advisory Commission's staff report dated November 2008 on the Texas Youth Commission and Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. I have reviewed the report with particular interest to staff recommendation 1.1 to abolish TYC and TJPC and transfer their functions to a newly created agency, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department that would effect Coryell County Juvenile Probation Department. After careful review and weighing the most critical issues that could effect my department and our juvenile offenders, I respectfully oppose the recommendation to consolidate both agencies. The following comments are submitted in rebuttal of your staff recommendations:

- All requirements of SB 103 have yet to be evaluated and to change course midstream would be premature and not cost effective.
- The practices of consolidating a dysfunctional agency with a functional agency to achieve a higher degree of success is preposterous. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission presently performs at a very exemplary level and to combine both agencies would be more detrimental then beneficial. You can not combine two separate distinct functions into one, yes you can put them under one agency and they will still have separate objectives. There is nothing more destructive than an unsound idea persuasively expressed.
- We utilize TYC only as a last resort for our most habitual felony offender as noted in SB 103 and for your staff to state that counties do not consistently send their most troubled youth to TYC is an insult to every Probation Department and Juvenile Judge.

I am all in favor of applicable changes when and where required, however I'm totally against consolidating both of these agencies. Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments.

Sincerely


Ronald Clark, Director
Juvenile Probation Services

County Annex, 702 E. Leon St., Gatesville, TX 76528