



NANCY J. STOCKSTILL  
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JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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LAMESA, TEXAS 79331

DAWSON COUNTY  
LAMESA, TEXAS 79331

December 12, 2008

To: Sunset Commission

FAX NO: 1-512-463-0705

ATTN: LEAH CABELL

I am faxing the Dawson County Juvenile Board's Unanimously approved Resolution regarding their opposition to the recommendations made by the Sunset Commission. This Resolution was unanimously adopted at yesterday's Regular Dawson County Juvenile Board Meeting.

Please have the Sunset Commission take note of our Board's strong support of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission remaining as separate agency with continuing oversight and in partnership with the one hundred sixty-six juvenile probation departments in our state.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy J. Stockstill".

Nancy J. Stockstill

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DAWSON

JUVENILE BOARD RESOLUTION

**BE IT REMEMBERED** at a Regular Meeting of the Dawson County Juvenile Board on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008, the following Resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission was created in 1981 and the purposes of the agency according to Chapter 141 of the Texas Human Resources code are to:

Make probation services available to juveniles throughout the state;

Improve the effectiveness of juvenile probation services;

Provide alternatives to the commitment of juveniles by providing financial aid to juvenile boards to establish and improve probation services;

Establish uniform standards for the community-based juvenile justice system;

Improve communications amount state and local entities within the juvenile justice system; and

Promote delinquency prevention and early intervention programs and activities for juveniles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sunset Commission staff completed their analysis of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and released their staff report on November 22, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, THE Sunset Commission found inadequacies of the Texas Youth Commission focusing on management problems – while acknowledging numerous areas where the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission has been successful and citing problems mainly in the area of their collaboration with the Texas Youth commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sunset Staff Report makes the recommendation to abolish the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and transfer their functions to a newly created Texas Juvenile Justice Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Juvenile Probation services in Texas in partnership with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission have risen to exceed the challenges of the 1995 juvenile justice reforms, including the reduction of commitments to the Texas Youth commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the juvenile probation departments handle 95% of the juvenile justice referrals committing only 5% of the most serious offenders to the Texas Youth Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Dawson County Juvenile Board feels that Ms. Cherie Townsend, the newly appointed Executive director of the Texas Youth Commission, has the experience, intellect, passion, and skill to provide transformational leadership of the Texas Youth Commission and should be afforded the opportunity to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Dawson County Juvenile Board believe the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission effectively and efficiently fulfills the mandates of their mission and understands the importance and value of maintaining local control; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dawson County Juvenile Board strongly oppose the recommendation of the Sunset Commission staff targeting the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for elimination and aggressively support the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission remaining a separate agency with oversight and in partnership with the one hundred sixty-six juvenile probation departments in the Texas.

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.



Sam Saleh, Chairman  
Dawson County Juvenile Board