

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**  
**SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION REVIEW MEETING**  
*December 15, 2008*  
Youth Commission, Texas  
Juvenile Probation Commission, Texas

My name is Clifford Gay. I am here representing myself, and hopefully by doing so, speak for those that can't or will not speak for them selves.

I want to commend the staff of the Sunset Commission for a very well written and 'straight to the point' report on the Texas Youth Commission and Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

I concur with the recommendations of the Sunset Commission Staff Report, especially recommendation 1.1. **(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).**

If you look at the history of TYC you will see a troubled agency making corrections and 'fly' right for a time, then later on, more problems arise (example the recent sexual abuse scandal at Peyote and other facilities). In my opinion, the recommendations of the Sunset Commission Report will minimize the risk of the agency not 'flying' right in the future, by forcing accountability.

For the youth of TYC (the Customers) to complete a successful re-entry back into their communities a "vehicle" is required. This vehicle, in my opinion, is the combined agency, The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). Also, in my opinion a model similar to the web based juvenile probation needs tracking model in Dallas County Juvenile Probation, will also be required, to ensure that the rehabilitation needs of the youth are met.

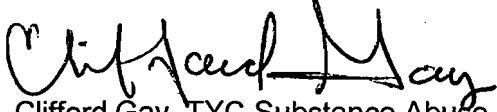
For the first time we will have broken the communication barrier that currently exist and the staff of the two agencies will begin to talk to each other, for the real benefit of their Customers. In my opinion, this will also increase the accountability of the two agencies, to see that the youth (the Customers) will now have a greater opportunity to successfully re-enter their communities and become productive citizens of Texas.

All of the 'bloody flag' waving (low blow scare tactics), by folks, is not justified, in my opinion. We have been going to a secure TYC facility for some time, and we have not felt threatened or intimidated by the youth. The only feeling of threat and intimations was felt coming from the staff on the administrative segregation unit (what a snake pit). ("The only dog we have in this hunt" is the well being of the youth)

Let's start with a new mind set, the well being of the youth of TYC, our customers, as our number one priority. Approve the recommendations in the Sunset Commission Staff Report, especially, **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.**

Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clifford Gay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clifford Gay, TYC Substance Abuse Volunteer

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