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## CPPP COMMENTS ON TWC SUNSET; PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN UNTIL JULY 8

NOW is the last chance to make your voice heard  
about Sunset's review of this important state agency.

### OVERVIEW

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission is charged with periodically evaluating state agencies to determine their effectiveness and need for continuation. Over the course of the last several months, Sunset staff conducted interviews throughout the state with TWC and its network of 28 local workforce development boards, as well as with numerous organizations and individuals interested in the work of TWC and the local boards. In addition, Sunset staff accepted written comments from interested parties throughout the state. Based upon the comments collected, Sunset staff produced their review of TWC. The report can be accessed on the web at:

<http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/sunset/78.htm>.

The Sunset Advisory Commission, comprised of members of the Texas House and Senate and two public members, met this week to discuss the TWC Sunset report. Members of the Commission will discuss Sunset staff recommendations and vote on recommendations in the months to come. Those recommendations will become legislation next session. Remember, the Texas Department of Human Services is also under Sunset review. The CPPP will provide information on its review later.

### KEY DATES

**The FINAL date Sunset will accept comments on TWC is July 8, 2002.**

The Sunset Commission's decision meeting on TWC will take place September 24-25, 2002.

### HOW DO I COMMENT?

Sunset will be accepting comments on its review of TWC at [sunadmin@sunset.state.tx.us](mailto:sunadmin@sunset.state.tx.us), by visiting <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/sunset/question.htm>, or by calling (512) 463-1300. Individuals with a hearing impairment may call 1-800-735-2989 for an operator's assistance in contacting the Sunset office. **Remember, you do not have to give your name when you make a comment to Sunset.**

### KEY ISSUES - WORKFORCE

Full CPPP testimony on workforce issues contained within the Sunset report can be found at <http://www.cppp.org/products/testimony/testimony/tst62602-pb.html>. In brief, the CPPP offers the following comments on workforce Issues contained within the Sunset report:

**Issue 1:** The CPPP supports the Sunset finding to restructure TWC to a seven-member body. While current commissioners do an admirable job, we believe that the full-time, three commissioner structure has serious limitations and complicates the oversight and management of the agency's functions. The Center also supports the Sunset recommendation that the TWC public testimony procedures be made more open to outside input and supports the creation of a Local Workforce Board Advisory Committee.

**Issue 3:** The Center supports the Sunset recommendation that the adult education program, not including Even Start Family Literacy activities, be moved from the Texas Education Agency to the Texas Workforce Commission.

**Issue 4:** The Center supports the Sunset recommendation that TWC move beyond its current monitoring and compliance emphasis toward a model based more on helping boards develop local capacity.

**Issue 5:** The Center supports the Sunset recommendation that workforce services be further integrated. We are particularly interested in seeing the lowest-income clients have broader access to education and training opportunities and no longer be subject to a completely different set of services and program expectations from other TWC customers.

## KEY ISSUES – CHILD CARE

Full CPPP testimony on child care issues contained within the Sunset report can be found at

<http://www.cppp.org/products/testimony/testimony/tst62602-js.html>. In brief, the CPPP offers the following comments on child care issues contained within the Sunset report:

**Issue 6:** While we are sensitive to the concerns of Texas' large cities, the Center supports the Sunset recommendation that child care allocation formulas be modified to emphasize poverty over population. Center staff are currently researching the feasibility of using increased funding that may result from reauthorization of the TANF and child care block grants to hold large metropolitan areas harmless during a transition to an allocation formula more driven by poverty. The Center also supports the creation of a Child Care Advisory Committee and recommends that its membership include

not only workforce development board members, but also child care providers and advocates, employers, and recipients of child care subsidies.

**Issue 7:** The Center supports the Sunset recommendation that the child care program be evaluated on its ability to help low-income workers get and keep good jobs. This recommendation was also echoed in the Texas Senate Health and Human Service Committee's interim recommendations on welfare and child care reauthorization.

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