From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Janet Wood</u>

Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:10:16 AM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com>

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 9:43 AM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>

Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Mon, 11/11/2024 - 08:19

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Public Comments

1

First Name

Evangelina

Last Name

Alvarez

Title

Volunteer

Organization you are affiliated with

On-Point Re-Entry Consortium

Email

City

AUSTIN

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

I am concerned with the Reentry that is being provided to Offenders exiting TDCJ. I was incarcerated for 13 years and was released in 2013. It was a difficult time for me as I received little to no reentry information. Everything was very confusing for me to reenter into a world of technology that I did not understand. I was not given any information on resources available to me to help with food or clothing. Nor was I given information to a resource for public transportation. Many individuals exiting are afraid to ask questions or not sure what needs to be asked which then leaves them vulnerable. Recently an individual I know was released and I asked her if she went through reentry and what information did she receive. Her response was she received a lay in and was told they were unable to prepare her ss card and Id and she would be responsible for it once released. And asked her if she had any questions. I don't believe that this is enough.

Your Proposed Solution

I would like to see a reentry that is given to everyone with a list of Resource information for the city they are paroling to outlining food, housing, transportation and employment assistance. Preparing individuals for a better work search and opportunity to be successful immediately. I would like to see the Reentry programs that are put in place by parole be monitored more closely. When I attended the classes that were on my stipulations, I found that the locations I attended were a bit unsafe. I feel that if these programs were more closely monitored then they could focus more closely on the needs of the individuals and there would be less sketchy behavior in the parking lots. Taking time to get to know these individuals on a one-on-one level may give us the opportunity to dive in and get to the core issues of recidivism and how we can prevent this from happening. As well as being able to identify individuals that may need additional support and/or treatment.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes