

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:12:10 AM

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**From:** Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <[sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com](mailto:sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 9, 2024 2:15 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission <[sunset@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:sunset@sunset.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Sat, 11/09/2024 - 12:53

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

**Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about**

[Texas Department of Criminal Justice](#)

#### **Public Comments**

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#### **First Name**

M

#### **Last Name**

Davidson

#### **Title**

Volunteer Peer Policy and Advocacy Committee-

#### **Organization you are affiliated with**

NAMI/CTX

#### **Email**

#### **City**

Austin

#### **State**

Texas

#### **Your Comments or Concerns**

I have first-hand experience with the TX Criminal Legal System and unfortunately it was a nightmare. My son, who has serious mental illness, was incarcerated. Prison is the worst place for someone who is experiencing psychosis as it exacerbates the illness. I was unable to speak to anyone at the prison, unknown what was going on. Approximately four months into his incarceration I tracked down where he was and arranged to have a friend visit. My friend reported that it was very difficult to hear my son on the prison's phone system. My friend was able to hear my son report to him that a guard at the prison was a "sexual predator". My son reported to my friend that he was concerned about repercussions if he filed a complaint against this guard. I also learned that my son was found hitting his head against his cell wall and was taken to the ER for a CT Scan. My son also reported that another inmate punched him in the face, accusing him of leaving a towel on the inmate's bed. My son was released seven months later and is now in a diversion program.

### **Your Proposed Solution**

Proper training of law enforcement. I called law enforcement from 8/23 to 1/24 about eight times, begging them to take my son for psychiatric evaluation. I knew that he had stopped taking his meds. Law enforcement refused, and responded with "If he hurt's you more, we'll take him to jail". On 1/24, I was taken to the ER and my son was taken to jail. This was 100% avoidable if the police had acted properly. They must know the definition of the work, "anosognosia".

Prison System- transparency. Better communication between the prison and loved ones.

Training and oversight of prison guards to ensure that they are interacting with inmates with respect.

Supportive housing- people with mental illness do not belong in a prison system.

### **My Comments Will Be Made Public**

Yes