

From: [Texas Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 8:03:21 AM

Submitted on Thu, 11/14/2024 - 06:50

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

Lovinah

Last Name

Perkins

Organization you are affiliated with

Statewide Parole Working Group

Email

City

Houston

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

Strained Parole System-I am submitting this comment to address the strain on the parole system in Texas and propose several solutions to improve its effectiveness and outcomes for incarcerated individuals and their communities.

Your Proposed Solution

One key solution is to provide incarcerated individuals with their Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) upon arrival at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). This would allow individuals to begin taking any required classes for parole eligibility immediately, rather than waiting until they are eligible or until parole is granted. This approach has several benefits:

Family Reunification: By allowing individuals to complete required classes earlier, they can potentially reunite with their families sooner, reducing the overall time spent incarcerated.

Streamlined Reentry: Completing these requirements in advance allows for a smoother, more proactive reentry process, supporting a successful transition into society.

Another proposed improvement is to provide therapy and mental health support to incarcerated individuals throughout their sentence. Addressing underlying trauma and mental health needs can significantly reduce recidivism, as individuals are better equipped to make positive, law-abiding choices post-release. This also alleviates some pressure on the parole system by reducing the likelihood of reoffending and, consequently, the need for parole revocations.

Additionally, I would suggest the following solutions to further address issues within the parole system:

Expanding Reentry Programs: Establishing or expanding job training, housing support, and mentorship programs before and after release can ease the transition process, allowing parole officers to focus on support rather than enforcement.

Parole Case Load Reduction: Implementing a more strategic case load management system, potentially by reallocating resources or hiring additional parole officers, would allow each officer to provide more individualized attention. This shift could improve parolees' success rates, thus reducing system strain.

Implementing these solutions would not only help relieve the burden on the parole system but would also foster a rehabilitative environment that benefits individuals, families, and communities across Texas.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes