

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 12:57:54 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 12:45 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Tue, 11/19/2024 - 11:44

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

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Last Name

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Email

City

Austin

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

The problems inside TDCJ are all well known. Dangerous environment for residents and staff. excessive deaths by homicide, suicide, and inhumane conditions, lack of adequate mental health care, understaffing, poor quality food, unairconditioned prisons, prisoner escapes, etc. This is just a short list. There are not nearly enough proactive measures in place to deal with these matters and administrators do not seek help that is available from outside their agency.

Your Proposed Solution

TDCJ has long resisted independent oversight. Some form of oversight would greatly reduce existing problems. In 2007, lawmakers saw the need for oversight by creating the Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee. This committee had only one meeting in 200-9 and never issued the reports required in the statute. It is still on the books but does not have a quorum, so it does not meet. The statute authorizing this committee outlines how it would address ongoing issues within the criminal justice system. There is a huge need for more than piecemeal problem-solving. The CJLOC would go a long way towards a more comprehensive approach.

Local TV station KXAN did a story and a follow-up several years ago. Here are both:

KXAN original report on CJLOC: <https://www.kxan.com/investigations/state-committee-tasked-with-improving-texas-criminal-justice-system-sits-unfunded-unused-for-over-a-decade/>

New members appointed to the committee: <https://www.kxan.com/investigations/texas-house-speaker-appoints-members-to-defunct-criminal-justice-committee-but-will-it-be-reactivated/>

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes