



TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUNSET REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

To obtain more information on how to get involved in the Sunset Process, please contact us at: tleete@criminaljusticecoalition.org, (512) 441-8123 ext. 106, or mail us at the address below.

Family & Friend Sunset Questionnaire

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) prepared the following questionnaire. TCJC is not affiliated directly with the Sunset Advisory Commission. **To share your concerns about the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for possible inclusion in our report, please submit your completed questionnaire electronically (save and attach) by email to jehinmoro@criminaljusticecoalition.org OR print and mail the completed questionnaire to the address below.**

Confidentiality:

The information in this questionnaire may be shared with legislators, potential media sources, members of the Sunset Commission and their staff, the agencies under review, and members of the public. **Please let us know what you want us to do with your personal information (your name, address, phone, etc.) by checking the box below indicating your preference.**

- Please keep all my personal information, such as my name, secret.
- You may use my name,* but do not share my personal contact information – email, address, phone, etc.
- You may use my personal information.*

* This information may be shared with legislators, media, members of the Sunset Commission and their staff, the agencies under review, and members of the community. If information, such as your name, is used in our report and published materials it will be accessible to the public.

Survey Questions

1. Please provide:

Your Name: _____

Your City: _____

Your Organization: (if any) _____

2. If you would like to participate in the Sunset evaluation process and would like us to contact you, or you would simply like more information, please provide your contact information below:

Your Mailing Address: _____

Your Email: _____

Your Phone(s) (and a good time to call): _____

3. If you are willing to help or participate during the Sunset Review, please check the box next to the activity(s) you would be willing to provide (*mark any that apply*). **We will follow up after receiving your response.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide oral testimony at public hearings. | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with advocacy groups, like TCJC, during the Sunset Review. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide written testimony, input, or feedback for submission to Sunset Commission and staff. | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Commission members and/or legislators and make phone calls during Sunset Review and Legislative Session. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help others develop written materials or oral testimony. | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer with TCJC. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help disseminate handouts/brochures. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>). |
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4. In the space provided, please tell us about your relationship to the agency you are commenting on (*check all that apply*):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a parent/guardian of an incarcerated individual. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a friend of an incarcerated individual. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a child of an incarcerated individual. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a staff person of a Texas criminal justice agency. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a family member (other than parent or child). | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a an outside organization, service provider, or volunteer. |

5. Please specify the organization(s) on which you wish to provide input (*mark all that apply*):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and/or the Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Windham School District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Correctional Managed Health Care |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>) |
-
-

6. Please indicate the most important issues that you would like to see improved by ranking the topics listed below each lettered category in the order of their importance (1 means the issue is most important, higher numbers mean the issue is less important). For example, if you consider access to medication to be the most important issue within the "Health Care" category, please write a number 1 next to "Access to proper medication" below "**Health Care.**" **You will have an opportunity in question seven to give a more detailed description of the specific problem(s) that the Sunset Advisory Commission should address.**

I. ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

A. Public Input & Interaction - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Transparency, which means how much information the agency shares with the public.
- Public access, which means how clear the agency's policies and rules are, whether the public has access to them and whether the agency accepts public input in policy and rule development.
- Availability of staff or administration – for questions, assistance, etc.
- Responses to questions and problems – how quickly the agency responds to questions, issues, problems, and complaints from inmates and other members of the public, and how meaningful the agency's responses are.
- Amount of public participation in the agency's open meetings and/or board meetings.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Public Input & Interaction issue that should be added to this list.)

B. Agency Evaluations & Monitoring - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Need for more evaluations and meaningful reviews of the organization, including self-evaluations.
- Need for an independent group, one that is not part of the organization, to evaluate and monitor the organization – including unannounced visits.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Agency Evaluations & Monitoring issues that should be added to this list.)

C. Staff - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Agency's staff training – quality, amount of trainings, etc.
- Number of staff in agency – not enough guards, administration, personnel, etc.
- Poor treatment or abuse by agency staff – for instance, excessive use of force.
- Lack of staff protection from other individuals.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Staff issue that should be added to this list.)

D. Technology & Communication - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Communication between departments, divisions, or other organizations/agencies.
- Problems or lack of communication with the public – for example, the agency's website is unclear or too hard to use.
- Issues with inmate records and the record keeping practices of the agency.
- Issues in receiving information, files and records, when transferring or after discharge.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Technology and Communication issue that should be added to this list.)

E. Mailing - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Problems with the mailing process.
- Access to mail and delivery issues.
- Personal mail being opened and read.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Mailing issue that should be added to this list.)

F. Visitation - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Frequency, duration, flexibility with family and friend's schedules, etc.
- Accommodations and special considerations for children.
- Considerations for people with disabilities.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Visitation issue that should be added to this list.)

G. Classifications & Designations - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Problems with identification of security threat groups and designation of security threat groups.
- Issues with sexual predator status/identification.
- Problems with disciplinary status, including discrepancies with security designation or level.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Classifications & Designations issue that should be added to this list.)

H. Transfers - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Issues with the agency's transfer policies and procedures.
- Special considerations – for family, ability for family and friends to visit, health issues, access to programs or educational opportunities, etc., when determining where and when to transfer.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Transfer issue that should be added to this list.)

I. Grievance Process - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Accessibility of grievance process – ease in bringing up a complaint or problem with the agency.
- Clarity in process and how useful it is in actually addressing problems raised
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Grievance Process issue that should be added to this list.)

II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. General Conditions of Confinement - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Space and overcrowding.
- Access to adequate heat during cooler months and/or adequate fans or cooling ventilation during times of extreme heat – also include any issue with heat, such as access to ice during extreme heat.
- Access to adequate drinking water, and quality drinking water.
- Basic personal health needs – access to showers (especially during hotter months), tooth brush, tooth paste, dental floss, soap, tampons, other women’s products, sun protection for working outside, etc.
- Cleanliness of the facility.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other General Conditions of Confinement issue that should be added to this list.)

B. Safety Conditions - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- General feelings that facility and individuals are safe.
- Safety precautions and procedures that are implemented by the agency.
- Dangerous or threatening conditions in the construction and structures in the facilities themselves.
- Racism – among inmates, guards, or personnel.
- Dangerous or threatening conditions from the people, hostile environment, fighting, violence, etc.
- Protection issues from other individuals.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Safety Conditions issue that should be added to this list.)

C. Gangs - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Identification or misidentification of gangs and gang members.
- Threats, pressure, coercion to join, and general danger from gangs.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Gang issue that should be added to this list.)

D. Discipline - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Issues with discipline procedures and administration – what is used for sanction and punishment, etc.
- Inconsistencies in discipline administration and criteria.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Discipline issue that should be added to this list.)

E. Administrative Segregation (ad. seg.) - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

Criteria for placement and/or removal into and/or out of ad. seg.

Duration in ad. seg. and frequency of its use.

Other: _____
(Write in any other Administrative Segregation issue that should be added to this list.)

F. Privileges - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

Granting or revoking privileges – issues with how privileges are earned or taken away.

Access to privileges and resources like libraries, including access to updated books, law books, resource guides, types of books available, types of other resources available.

Access to recreation, exercise and entertainment.

Other: _____
(Write in any other Privileges issue that should be added to this list)

G. Commissary - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

Options in goods and services, variety, and quality.

Availability and expenses of goods.

Other: _____
(Write in any other Commissary issue that should be added to this list.)

H. Property - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

Storage – where property is kept and whether it is allowed in cell or housing facility.

Issues of confiscation.

Problems with trying to donate or give property away.

Other: _____
(Write in any other Property issue that should be added to this list.)

III. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

A. Health Care - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Assessment instruments and screening tools – things used to evaluate and decide what types of health issues a person has or may have had.
- Frequency of health assessments and evaluations (*see above*) – how often is a person evaluated for health issues.
- Access to proper medications, including prescription and over the counter medicine.
- Type and amount of doctor visits, including regularity of women’s exams.
- The quality of health care provided.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Health Care issue that should be added to this list.)

B. Mental Health & Disabilities - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Lack of resources or services for mental health or disability needs.
- Accommodations/consideration for mental health or disability issues.
- Treatment and assistance programs available and tailored to mental health and disability needs.
- Problems with screening and assessments – tools used to evaluate and determine whether someone has a disability or mental health issue.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Mental Health & Disabilities issue that should be added to this list.)

C. Substance Abuse - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Lack of resources or services for people with substance abuse problems.
- Accommodations/consideration for people suffering with substance abuse.
- Problems with screening and assessments – tools used to evaluate and determine whether someone has a substance abuse problem.
- Access to treatment – criteria and restrictions to participate in treatment and/or programs.
- Availability of substance abuse programs or treatment.
- Usefulness of programs and quality of the programs.
- Drug use in prison and difficulties with addiction.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other issue Substance Abuse issue that should be added to this list.)

D. Physical Health/Well-Being - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Availability and frequency of exercise opportunities.
- Variety and options in exercise opportunities, including accommodations for people with disabilities, age appropriate exercise, etc.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Physical Health/Well-being issue that should be added to this list.)

E. Food & Nutrition - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Availability of alternative meals, including issues with dietary restrictions, health issues or food allergies, vegetarian meals, options, etc.
- Nutrition and quality of food.
- Inmates served different food than guards.
- Not enough food.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Food & Nutrition issue that should be added to this list.)

IV. EDUCATION, TREATMENT & PROGRAMMING

A. Vocational Training & Education - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Types and variety of programs and education available, including GED or college courses.
- Access issues, how often vocational and educational training programs are available, restrictions to participation, criteria to participate, etc.
- Quality – are the programs helpful, do they need to be improved, and do they produce positive outcomes.
- Importance of volunteers from the community, including how well the agency includes and uses community-based groups or volunteers, and how often the agency includes community involvement.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Vocational Training & Education issue that should be added to this list.)

B. Rehabilitation & Treatment Programs - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Types and variety of rehabilitation and treatment programs available.
- Access issues, how often rehabilitation and treatment programs are available, restrictions to participation, criteria to participate, etc.
- Quality – are the programs helpful, do they need to be improved, and do they produce positive outcomes.
- Taking away the privilege to participate as a tool of discipline.
- Importance of volunteers from the community, including how well the agency includes and uses community-based groups or volunteers, and how often the agency includes community involvement.
- Other: _____

(Write in any other Rehabilitation & Treatment Program issue that should be added to this list.)

V. COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, PAROLE & REENTRY

A. Probation/Community Supervision - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Oversight issues, including accessibility and communication with supervisors, relationship with supervisors or officials.
- Conditions of probations, violations, including administrative or technical violations, etc.
- Access to and variety of treatment, rehabilitation, and education programs, including availability.
- Access to programs and additional services outside of just rehabilitation or treatment, like computers or job placement resources, help with resumes, etc.
- Quality of programs, positive outcomes from programs, availability of those programs that do work.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Probation/Community Supervision issue that should be added to this list.)

B. Parole Board - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Any problems with communication or relationship with institutional officers, officials, supervisors, parole board, and potential parolee.
- Transparency in the process, how much information family or inmates are provided, wrong information in the parole files, problems understanding the process and how clear the process is.
- Conditions and requirements placed on person on probation, etc.
- Approval and denial rates and decisions.
- Revocations – inconsistencies, process is unclear, technical or administrative violations, or any other problems.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Parole Board issue that should be added to this list.)

C. Parole - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Oversight issues, including accessibility and communication with supervisors, relationship with supervisors or officials.
- Parole conditions and requirements placed on parolees, revocations, and violations.
- Access to and variety of treatment, rehabilitation, and education programs, including availability.
- Access to programs and additional services outside of just rehabilitation or treatment, like computers or job placement resources, help with resumes, housing assistance, etc.
- Quality of programs, positive outcomes from programs, availability of those programs that do work.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Parole issue that should be added to this list.)

D. Reentry Issues - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Significant barriers to employment and housing – discrimination based on record.
- Assistance in transitioning to community, general preparation for “reentry”, lack of reentry plan and assistance, including guide to resources, availability of recourses and services.
- Access to programs and treatment, after care available after leaving a facility, continuity of care,
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Reentry issue that should be added to this list)

VI. OTHER CATEGORIES

A. Veterans - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- No special considerations and a lack of services, resources, or assistance.
- Issues related to Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD), or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), including the evaluation process used to determine whether someone suffers from one of these.
- Issues with substance abuse, including the evaluation tools to determine if individual has a substance abuse problem.
- Mental Health Issues
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Veteran’s issue that should be added to this list.)

B. Family Continuity - Rank the following in the order of their importance [1 = most important]

- Efforts made to keep families together.
- Considerations made to make sure that families see on another, have access to one another on a regular basis, and continue to allow individuals to develop and strengthen family ties and bonds.
- Other: _____
(Write in any other Family Continuity issue that should be added to this list.)

C. Other – If there is/are any issue(s) not included in the list above that you think needs to be addressed and explained, please use the space provided below and rank the level of importance as you did in the items above (if you need more space, attach separate page and indicate which question or concern you are discussing):

7. Based on the issues you identified in the previous questions, please provide a brief description of the specific problem(s) with your top six concerns. For instance, if you identified Health Care as one of the most important areas to be improved because access to medication is a major problem, please describe your concern(s) and experience in more detail and offer any potential solution(s).

List of Concerns (1st– 6th)	Please provide a brief description of the problem(s) and potential solution(s). <i>(If you need more space, attach a separate page and indicate which question or concern you are discussing.)</i>
1 st Concern:	<u>Description & Solution:</u>
2 nd Concern:	<u>Description & Solution:</u>
3 rd Concern:	<u>Description & Solution:</u>
4 th Concern:	<u>Description & Solution:</u>
5 th Concern:	<u>Description & Solution:</u>
6 th Concern:	<u>Description & Solution:</u>

8. In the space provided below, please provide a few examples of individuals, programs, or experiences with one of the agencies that had a positive impact on you. If a particular officer, case manager, treatment program, educational program, etc., had a positive impact on you, please explain.

What/who positively impacted you?	Please provide a brief description of the positive impact of the person, experience, program or treatment identified in the left column. <i>(If you need more space, attach a separate page and indicate which question or concern you are discussing.)</i>
	<u>Description:</u>
	<u>Description:</u>
	<u>Description:</u>
	<u>Description:</u>

THANK YOU!

Thank you for participating in this questionnaire. We appreciate your willingness to take the time to provide us with this valuable information. Please contact us if you have any additional questions or would like more information. We strongly urge you to get involved and share your knowledge and insight with policy makers. There are many opportunities to voice your concerns during and after the Sunset process, and your voice matters!