

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 06, 2014 2:42:37 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 1:11 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 13:10

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Alma

Last Name: Leal

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor & Retired Counselor Educator

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

City: Brownsville

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Thank you for your hard work on the Sunset Review. However, I'm writing to oppose Recommendation 3.2 that would transfer the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as an advisory committee. As a former counselor educator and member of the Texas LPC Board, I feel that this move would greatly jeopardize the health and safety of Texans who receive services by LPC's. The entire country has recently been faced with many challenging mental health issues that have led to suicides, murders, shootings in the workplace, campuses and public schools, other types of violence and abuse. If there was ever a time to maintain the regulatory independent board, it is NOW. Streamlining DSHS's operations and shrinking resources are not good enough reasons for making changes that DO impact public health and safety. Advisory committees downplay the critical functions of the LPC Board, which ensures that LPC's meet rigorous training and licensure criteria that impact cases of life and death. I served on the LPC Rules Committee and Testing Committee, and our functions, as well as those of the Applications Committee and Complaints Committee, ensured the regulation of a profession that directly impacted the lives of clients such as veterans, school children, and many diverse populations. The LPC Board as a regulatory board comprised of public and professional members provides the balance necessary to maintain the outstanding work the LPC Board has done for many years to protect public health.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: My recommendation is maintain the status of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as an independent regulatory board.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree