

**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:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:22:20 PM

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

From: [sundrupal@capitol.local](mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local) [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 4:50 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 16:49

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Adrian

Last Name: Warren

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Adrian S. Warren, PhD, LPC

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I have had my share of frustrations with the TBEPC, and there are clearly some things that need to be done to streamline at DSHS and TBEPC, however, I do not think that allocating advanced medical licensing to TDLR is the appropriate solution. I think one of the key factors that has contributed to any success with TBEPC is that there is a healthy mix of lay and professional personnel. Housing clinical professionals with master's degrees (or higher) within the same licensing body as professions that do not require a college diploma may well lead to public harm. This is not about an aversion to "stepping down" or "feeling better than" other professions; rather, it is about public safety. It would be much easier for unqualified or unethical clinicians to "get away with" misbehavior when they have to report to a board of the lay public than it is now when they report to a mixed board.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I think there are two possibilities for improving the functionality of the three master's-level boards of examiners as well as the board of examiners for psychologists. 1. Consider combining the four boards into one body to serve the greater community of mental health professionals. Our various branches have often been guilty of in-fighting over DSHS and federal mental health monies. A joint board representing all mental health disciplines would force us to tackle mental health issues as a cohesive whole.

2. By combining the fees of 50k+ mental health licensees, a new board of examiners can allocate funding to more competitive wages in order to retain highly qualified staff and improve overall functioning and continuity.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree