

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 4:00:39 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 3:23 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Catherine

Last Name: Abernethy

Title: LPC

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City: Corpus Christi

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I concur with a separately administered Behavior Health consolidation structure.

However, I disagree strongly with the proposed composition of the Executive Council that would place professional board members at an ex-officio status. I support the structure of BHEC as proposed during the last Sunset Review to include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor:

- None of the boards that regulate health professionals is composed exclusively of public members. In fact, the Sunset Commission staff recommendations for the Board of Medical Examiners does not propose to restructure that Board to create an all or majority public member structure.
- The original recommendation for BHEC still creates a public majority board. Including professional members brings expertise that would likely be lost if BHEC was composed of public members with professional members relegated to “ex officio” roles.
- The behavioral health regulatory boards currently housed at HHSC work collaboratively with respect for the uniqueness of each specialization. This is evidenced by their implementation of consistent disciplinary matrices and alignment of rules where appropriate.
- Including professional members on BHEC is much more likely to enhance consistency in standards than interference on standards of practice, licensing and enforcement decisions since no profession would hold a majority on BHEC.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: N/A

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree