

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 5:48:30 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:50 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Carly

Last Name: Bassett

Title: LCSW

Organization you are affiliated with: Family Eldercare

Email: cbassett@familyeldercare.org

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I support the staff recommendation for a consolidation agency (TxBHEC) which would include the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. This consolidated agency is an innovative strategy that creates efficiency, maintains appropriate oversight of behavioral health professionals, aligns with the state's goal of responsible consolidation, takes full advantage of operational efficiencies and economies of scale, as well as protecting the state's immunity from restraint of trade claims.

I disagree with staff recommendation for an all public member board. I support the original recommendation from the 2017 Sunset Advisory Commission to create an executive council composed of one professional member from each of the four boards and one public member from each of the four boards with the Governor appointing the chair.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: It would be beneficial for the Board to have systems in place to enhance communication with licensees, or perhaps an online system where licensees could check the status of their applications and paperwork. We need a Board that is able to handle the volume of calls and inquiries it receives because we rely on this in order to do our jobs and serve the public. Efficiency is critical and timeliness is so important to us. Please utilize the funds that we pay through our fees toward our Board and its business. For fiscal year 2017-2018, TSBSWE received \$1, 282.629 in fees. The operating budget for TSBSWE was \$500,168. Phones are not being answered, mail is being lost, staff report being overburdened by volume. Funds are available to remedy this, and we desperately need the support and structure in place to support our profession of over 25,000 Texas social workers. The average length of time for resolution of a complaint was 874 days. This is an injustice to the public, as well as professionals who must wait over two years for resolution.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree