

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 8:03:52 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 4:39 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PSYCHOLOGISTS

First Name: Lanice

Last Name: Bennett

Title: LPC-S

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Bryan

State: Texas

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

It would appear that the Texas Board for Psychologists provided inaccurate information to support their position as remaining separate and distinct from the other mental health licensing boards. Maintaining the status quo or creating two separate administrative agencies for the four mental health licensing boards is NOT the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The state's interests are best served by forming ONE agency as recommended in the Sunset Commission Staff Report.

Additionally, some elitist ideology assumes psychologists are the only ones holding a doctorate, which is simply not true. Many other mental health providers also hold this degree. This is no reason to have a stand-alone agency for psychologists. In fact, many psychologists are dually licensed by one of the other mental health boards – another reason they should be housed at BHEC.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: ALL mental health providers should be equally under the BHEC with each retaining role and scope decision making for their respective boards and equal voting weight to most effectively and efficiently use tax payer dollars.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, April 06, 2018 11:23:09 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Lanice

Last Name: Bennett

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Bryan

State: Texas

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

Thank you for taking the time to review our board and propose much needed changes. I believe the combined BHEC board will serve to eliminate much of the current problems with the LPC board. Recently, my supervisees have waited

4 months to receive word that they have been approved, despite finishing their requirements to become licensed. This impacts not only their financial wellness given the cost to continue receiving supervision during the wait, but also reduces the speed in which we provide licensed providers to the state and people of Texas - during a critical shortage time. Additionally, in requesting to begin supervising new professionals, the wait has taken at least 3 months to receive approval to begin supervision. This is simply unacceptable to both the LPC intern as well as to the public. To add more difficulty, in attempts to reach the board to follow up on any clerical mistakes they make during these processes or ask clarifying ethics questions, an outgoing message either states to call back later or places one on hold for nearly 2 hrs, again, impacting the ability to actually see clients during that time.

We need a different process. The BHEC board seems like the best approach.

Each licensed group under the board should have equal representation as having any one board over the other three groups would create a hierarchy that would not serve the public well. Ego does not need to be involved in the creation of a new board. The public's interest in receiving qualified mental health care from ALL entities trained to provide this service is what is needed. Having any one group dictate the role and scope of the other groups has the potential to limit the number of qualified providers to the state of Texas.

Having a board with equal representation so that each individual licensing group retains their ability to establish their role and scope for the respective licensees provides the most qualified providers to the people of Texas. The economy is positively impacted through the various universities that provide education to these groups, who in turn graduate productive citizens who can contribute to the state of Texas financially and socially. Additionally, the more providers available to Texas residents improves citizens' productivity for the economy and

reduces jail space as a result of easily accessible mental health services by a large variety of providers.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lanice Bennett, MS, LPC-S, NCC
Lic No 63126

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I believe in a BHEC that is equally weighted/represented for all four mental health licensing bodies.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree