

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 08, 2016 11:01:48 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2016 10:59 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PSYCHOLOGISTS

First Name: Joan

Last Name: Bieber

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State: Texas

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

As a licensed psychologist and trainer of doctoral level psychology students I fully support the recommendations to eliminate the oral examination (Issue 1) and the year of post-doctoral supervision (Issue 2). I believe these changes will benefit Texas consumers of mental health services by making it possible for early career psychologists to more easily practice in under served areas while still maintaining high quality services.

Regarding Issue 4, I recommend that regulation of all mental health professions be consolidated. The current system creates unnecessary silos and competition among professional organizations rather than all working together for the common good of Texans who seek mental health services. I believe that there should be master's level and doctoral level licenses as mental health practitioners with specialties in one or more of the current disciplines licensed in Texas. In my 35+ years of working as a practitioner in community mental health (I am a licensed psychologist but have also been licensed as Marriage and Family Therapist) and teaching in graduate programs that prepare students for licensure as psychologists, school psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors, I have extensive knowledge of the overlap in education and practice of these professions. I don't know of any research that supports the superiority of one discipline or even level of training (master's or doctoral) over the others. In my opinion, the separate licences for these disciplines is based on history and the advocacy of professional organizations, not the evidence of best practices or the needs of Texan citizens.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: See my response regarding Issue 4 above.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree