

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 10:10:47 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 10:07 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: Megan

Last Name: Bond

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor - Intern

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Bryan

State: Texas

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

I am commenting on the Sunset Commission Staff Report and in response to the public hearing on the Behavioral Health Licensing Boards held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

I support the recommendation that the boards regulating LPCs, LMFTs, Social Workers, and Psychologists be housed at the new Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, because this will create a more efficient and effective structure for all professionals who deliver mental health services in Texas, which will in turn allow for all providers to be on the same page.

The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council will not create one combined board for all mental health professionals. Each of the four licensing boards will retain their integrity and rule-making authority for each distinct discipline.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: There should be just one agency to handle the administration of all the mental health professional licensing boards, because we all have the same goal, to help. This model will make it easy for the public to both find providers and learn how to file complaints when necessary.

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: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:14:45 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:14 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: Megan

Last Name: Bond

Title: Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Bryan

State: Texas

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

I am a licensed professional counselor intern and a member of the American Counseling Association (ACA).

ACA and the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) support the Texas Sunset Commission findings that “the boards are acting in good faith and have made notable strides in addressing the previously identified problems...However, significant problems and challenges remain that cannot be resolved within the current structure” and “the continued administrative attachment of the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling and social work boards to a large agency...is still not working...The dysfunction created by such a model places the livelihoods of licensees in jeopardy and puts the public at risk.” We have to create a new structure to ensure the safety of the public, that standards of practice are being upheld, and the swiftness of the licensing process for new professionals, which in turn impacts how quickly we are able to practice.

ACA and TCA support the following Sunset Commission staff recommendations:

- “The consolidated agency [TSBEMFT, TSBEP, TSBSWE and TSBEP] structure of the Behavioral Health Executive Council presents the best approach to align the regulation of these behavioral health professions and elevate the attention and oversight of these programs.”
- “More efficient and effective regulation of these professions will not only provide improved services and increased responsiveness to licensees but also will better protect behavioral health care consumers.”

ACA and TCA disagree with the following Sunset Commission staff recommendation:

- “The executive council would be composed of one public member appointed by each of the four boards and an independent presiding officer appointed by the governor.”

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

We recommend that the structure of the BHEC, as proposed during the last Sunset Review, include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. Currently, no board that regulates health professionals in Texas is composed exclusively of public members. In fact, the Sunset Commission staff recommendations for the Board of Medical Examiners do not propose to restructure that Board to create an all or majority public member structure.

Including professional members on the BHEC is much more likely to enhance consistency in standards of practice, licensing and enforcement decisions because no single profession would hold a majority on the BHEC."

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree