

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, November 10, 2016 5:01:13 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2016 3:36 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: Brenda "Brandi"

Last Name: Buckner

Title: Dr

Organization you are affiliated with: Private Practice

Email:

City: Weatherford

State: Texas

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

The Mental Health Boards must be moved from DSHS. The two options seem to be the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) or the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). While the TDLR is a licensing agency, the Mental Health License is a professional license and is a more complex

license. The HHSS has Mental Health Licensing knowledge and expertise because the Psychology Board is housed within that Commission. The three mental health boards could easily become part of that commission.

The clients of the Licensed Professional Counselor are the most vulnerable populations in Texas and the independent board would be in the best position

to protect this population. If the mental health boards are move to TDLR and the independent boards become advisory boards the situation will snowball. I don't want to see the mental health licensees cause harm to the public or because of lack of oversite not protect the public. The clients of the Licensed Professional Counselor are the most vulnerable populations in Texas and the independent board would be in the best position to protect this population.

Move the mental health boards to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission where they will be with other mental health professional licensing boards with a staff and agency who are familiar with a mental health professional license and unique mental health challenges.

A Professional independent board would hold the behavior and misbehavior of other licensed professional counselors accountable. I would like the board to remain an independent board with professionals who understand the complexity of the profession. The independent board has been dedicated, loyal, hardworking and conscientious.

Many of the recommendations by the sunset commission are in contrast to the DSHS Policies. The Independent Mental Health Boards have been voicing many of the same concerns but they were not heard by such a large

bureaucratic agency. DSHS created the complaints structure and refused to consider any other options.

Mental health issues are messy and don't always fit with a cookie cutter approach. The Independent boards have been strapped to a multi headed agency that did not have the work force to listen much less evaluate the Mental health boards backlog situation.

The independent board members are dedicated, loyal, selfless and the professional members

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

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My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree