

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 10:57:40 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 10:39 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: Todd

Last Name: Burns

Title: Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

Email:

City: Mt Pleasant

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I support the recommendation that the boards regulating LPCs, LMFTs, Social Workers, and Psychologists be housed at the new Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, as this will create a more efficient and effective structure for all professionals who deliver mental health services in Texas. 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. Holding a doctorate is not unique to psychologists. Many other mental health providers also hold this prestigious 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 the TBHEC. I request that the professional members appointed to the TBHEC by each licensing board have voting privileges on BHEC. I also support the fact that under the TBHEC, each board will still be appointed by the Governor as currently set forth in the Occupations Code. Each board's rule-making authority will remain intact and licenses will be issued by each Board – not by BHEC.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: none

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:** Thursday, April 05, 2018 12:15:38 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 12:15 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: Todd

Last Name: Burns

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

Email:

City: Mt Pleasant

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As a Licensed Professional Counselor, member of the Texas Counseling Association, and the President of the Northeast Texas Counseling Association (a branch of the Texas Counseling Association), I have heard from numerous LPC-Interns and LPC-Supervisors about the long wait and difficulty LPC-Interns are having in getting their license. This delay, due to the current structure of the TSBEP, cause many future counselors to go without income, and causes the clients they could serve, to be at higher risk because a counselor is not there to serve them. Therefore, I support the staff recommendation that: “. . . 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.” and

“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 to consumers.”

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I disagree with the staff recommendation that: “. . . 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.” I suggest the structure of BHEC as proposed during the last Sunset Review to include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree