

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:31:00 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 2:30 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 14:29

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Cynthia

Last Name: Kent

Title: Ms.

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

City: Leonard

State: Texas

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

I am rather confused as to why this change would be considered. At a time when mental illness is rampant in our country, when the divorce rate exceeds the marriage rate, and when illegale drug use is pandemic, what purpose is served by essentially spitting in the faces of those trained to help alleviate these problematic areas? We have soldiers returning from a decade old war and several deployments suffering from PTSD with their support system (the VA) becoming the victim of partisan politics, unable to properly help those who have served our country.

While I understand the consolidation of similar licensing into one agency with separate advisory boards, I believe the specialized qualifications and training of LPC, LMFT, and LMSW have been overlooked or forgotten altogether.

Our licensing requires an advanced degree at the masters level in addition to literally thousands of hours in internships under supervision followed by a rigorous exam. We are also required to provide evidence of CEUs every other year, including three hours of ethics. In addition, we must successfully pass the jurisprudence test in order to remain licensed.

Counselors and Social workers work hand in hand with doctors, lawyers, the courts, and all community agencies.

Do we not deserve the same respect as these other professionals? Do our clients not deserve the same protection? Please reconsider this thought as it is offensive to an entire professional group and lends itself to leaving those already vulnerable with unprotected rights.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: This agency is necessary. I have no alternative or new recommendations. As the saying goes, "If it's not broken, don't try to fix it."

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree