

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, November 07, 2016 10:42:14 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 9:31 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: STATE BOARD VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

First Name: Harold

Last Name: Emerson

Title: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Organization you are affiliated with: Lake Air Animal Hospital

Email:

City: Waco

State: Texas

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

I have been a veterinarian for 52 years this coming year and for 46 years, I have practiced in Waco, Texas at the same location. I have read many reports of things suggested for and by the Sunset Commission, the Texas State Board of Veterinary medical Examiners, and veterinarians concerning the issues being discussed.

My thoughts are these:

1. Every step of every procedure of every profession cannot be regulated. To do this, which is the route bureaucracy is on, is foolish and counterproductive.
2. Veterinarians are heavily regulated at this time, and most being honest follow and comply with the rules and regulations.
3. Requiring more regulations and measures in the handling of controlled drugs is not necessary in the veterinary profession. Veterinarians DO realize there is a serious national drug abuse problem, but our profession is not the source of these drugs. Compare a list of the drugs normally abused with the controlled drugs veterinarians stock and use and you will find practically none that correspond. Yes, there is a drug problem. No, it is not caused by veterinarians. Saying so is untrue, and adding more regulations is unnecessary.
4. Requiring increased registry (daily) is time consuming and unnecessary in a profession that realizing there is a problem, is not the source on said problem. In Waco, Texas today, Heroin is one of the most abused drugs. I know families whose children have been affected by this plague. The heroin did not come from veterinarians.
5. Requiring involving clients and their data further in the small amounts of controlled substances that veterinarians utilize and sell is not necessary.

We sell small amounts for use in pets. Speaking from experience, if we believe someone is attempting to divert controlled substances we prescribe, we prescribe no more. The veterinarians I know follow this same simple tenet.

6. Veterinarians, as a profession in Texas, realize the need for oversight simply because a few out of thousands may be bad. I do not deny that fact, but the vast majority are honest, and on the drug scene, we have made an successful attempt over the many decades I ave been in practice to police ourselves. We have been successful in that attempt. If there is evidence that contradicts my statement, I would like to see it personally and have that evidence distributed through the Texas Veterinary medical Association.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

1. I believe the Executive Director of the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners should be replaced. I have seen them come and go during my five decades as a veterinarian during which I have always had a good relationship with the Board and its investigators. Ms. Oria, the Executive Director today, is the least competent of all I have known. That fact may be due to the fact that she and some of her recent employees do not appreciate or understand the profession or job they are asked to do. Whatever the case, the veterinary profession in Texas suffers unnecessarily due to her administration.

2. Overall, I believe the Texas State Board has done a good job. I have watched them in action for years. Today possibly due to staff, they are more punitive than in the past. I would like to see that corrected, but other than I have thought for years the the State Board has done and is doing a decent job. I have always treated Board inspectors well, and they have provided the same respect to me. This has been true for most of the veterinarians on Texas. I cannot say the same for the existing Executive Director or some of her close staff.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree