

Dear Committee Members,

I chose the profession of social work to provide social-emotional support to children and families in vulnerable communities. Nineteen years ago, I became licensed in the state of Texas after completing my Masters in Social Work. My area of focus has been school-based services. I obtained my clinical licensure while employed as a school social worker. I have served as a Regional Board Member for 2 terms with the National Association of Social Workers Texas. Currently, I am a Board Approved Clinical Supervisor.

Over the last 5 years, providing clinical supervision to social workers who are seeking advanced licensure has been quite a challenge. There has been lack of consistency and clarity, when communicating with the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners.

- One of my supervisees needed to discontinue her supervision plan while on maternity leave. We submitted all the necessary documentation to close out the plan. When she returned from maternity leave, we submitted the forms necessary for her to continue with supervision. After 2 years of supervision hours completed, the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners would not accept her hours. They questioned whether she was employed full-time or part-time. We provided a form from her employer verifying her full-time employment. This was not sufficient and we were asked to file an appeal with the TSBSWE. When we arrived in Austin, we spent 3 hours waiting for her appeal to be heard before the Board. Once they reviewed the case, they commented about why we had not been granted an approval over the phone. They stated this was a simple fix and it could have been remedied without an in-person appeal.
- Within one supervision group, I have had two supervisees receive correspondence from the TSBSWE regarding supervision plans, and another supervisee in the same group who has *not* received *any* correspondence from the board.

These are just a few of the experiences which exemplify the **lack of consistency and clarity** when working with the TSBSWE.

The social workers that I supervise for licensure work with clients that are experiencing a range of difficulties such as mental health conditions, abuse, and trauma. They seek clinical licensure to ensure a high quality of interventions for their clients. We need a licensing board that will understand the complex issues faced by social workers in different settings (schools, hospice, hospitals, police departments). The social work profession has a unique set of core values and ethical code. It is imperative that the Sunset Commission adopt the **BHEC mode, with independent boards. I am advocating that the BHEC be comprised of voting professional and public members as recommended by NASW/TX, TCA, TAMFT & TSCSW.**

Thank You,
Shubhra Endley, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker