

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 8:05:29 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 10:32 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PSYCHOLOGISTS

First Name: Marysa

Last Name: Enis

Title: LSSP

Organization you are affiliated with: Austin ISD

Email: marysa.enis@austinisd.org

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

The recommendation to change the title of LSSP to School Psychologist would be very helpful, especially as more people move to Austin from other states. Because people are confused by the title "licensed specialist in school psychology," they often defer to calling me a counselor or a diagnostician. This does not adequately convey my role and leads to many misunderstandings, most often involving confusion regarding informed consent to provide consultation or counseling services.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: As long as we are not permitted to work in the private sector, it would be very helpful to be given more flexibility in the school system. At present, being given the same restrictions as fully licensed psychologists greatly inhibits our role in the school. Public school children are in desperate need of mental health support and teachers are desperate for guidance. Most parents are grateful when teachers mention the prospect of support from an LSSP, but It can be very hard for working parents to meet in person. It is natural for educators to reach out for support from the LSSP when they encounter serious mental health conditions (such as OCD or self-harm). The public school climate is one in which educators step in to help one another in times of need. It can place a metaphorical wall between lssps, the school campus, and parents when we are not permitted to pitch in because of how narrowly our role is defined. It seems that if we are to be held to the same standards as fully Licensed Psychologists, we should be permitted to refer to ourselves as psychologists and use clinical terms in our evaluations (such as DSM-V vernacular). If, however, we are not identified as psychologists, then it seems that we should have more freedom to work with all public school children (in the same manner as a teacher, guidance counselor, or social worker.). At present, it feels limiting to have a foot in both doors, so to speak, without the full benefit of either.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree