

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: TBON Report Feedback
Date: Monday, October 17, 2016 12:37:50 PM

From: April Ernst
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 12:22 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: TBON Report Feedback

Dear Sunset Commission:

As an interested constituent, I wanted to provide an additional recommendation to your most recent report on the Texas Board of Nursing review. My ongoing experience is a lack of adequate space for the quarterly public TBON meetings. They are held in a small conference room at the 333 Guadalupe address where the TBON offices. I attend at least two of these meetings per year either as a participant on the agenda or as a member of the public observing the business of the Board. For the past two years, on most occasions I have not been able to enter the room as all chairs are filled and the overflow is left standing in the hallway. At the July 2016 meeting I was left to stand the hall with about 30 other people until my business was up on the agenda. Only then was I allowed to enter, and then when my item on the agenda was completed, I had to exit. This is a typical occurrence at the Board meetings.

The TBON meetings are mandated to be open to the public, but they are in reality not. There is no ancillary room where the public may sit and at least have teleconference observation or access. I have approached Board staff and been told there is no budget allowance to hold the meetings in a larger space nor is there the technology to have an ancillary room for observation. This is not an acceptable answer in my opinion.

In my consulting work, I have attended and participated in Board of Nursing meetings in Oklahoma and Florida and in both instances, these Boards meet in a hotel ballroom in order to accommodate every individual that would like to attend, participate, or observe the business of the Board.

I respectfully request that the commission consider this information and make an additional recommendation for correction of this situation.

Respectfully,

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April Ernst, MSN, RN, CNE
President, Texas Association of Vocational Nurse Educators
Member, TBON Advisory Committee for Education

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