

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sunset Commission recommendations  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:57:47 PM

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**From:** Michele Slaton **On Behalf Of** Robert Nichols  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:33 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** FW: Sunset Commission recommendations

*Respectfully referred.*

*Michele Slaton*  
**Office of Senator Robert L. Nichols**  
903.589.3003  
903.589.0203 FAX  
[Michele.Slaton@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Michele.Slaton@senate.texas.gov)

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**From:** [efallis@balanceforensic.com](mailto:efallis@balanceforensic.com) [<mailto:efallis@balanceforensic.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:25 PM  
**To:** Van Taylor; Juan Hinojosa; Robert Nichols; Charles Schwertner; Kirk Watson; Larry Gonzales; [Cindy.Burkett@houst.texas.gov](mailto:Cindy.Burkett@houst.texas.gov); John McCord; Dan Flynn; Richard Raymond; Senfronia Thompson  
**Subject:** Sunset Commission recommendations

- 1) Psychology is a profession that **requires** face-to-face interaction. The oral portion of the licensing exam is therefore essential. The oral portion should remain a requirement as it tests a candidate's ability to successfully interact with clients.
- 2) The pre-doctoral internship and the post-doctoral internship are *significantly* different. For the well-being of the client, all licensed psychologists should obtain the specific and pivotal experience that is unique to the post-doctoral internship.
- 3) Psychology is a doctoral-level profession which takes a special body of knowledge to provide guidance and consultation to the licensees. While other mental agencies are moving to Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), moving TSBEP to TDLR would change the structure from a policy committee to an advisory committee. If TSBEP remains an independent agency, other behavioral health professionals who are seeking licensure could be housed within TSBEP and receive administrative support from the TSBEP staff. TSBEP is a member of the Health Professional Council and actually provides administrative support to other members' agencies within HPC. If you remove a vital member of the agency, the result will be a trickle-down effect and the public will be impacted by not having adequate staff for their administrative functions.  
**WE NEED TO KEEP OUR INDEPENDENT BOARD.**
- 4) Allow psychologists to continue providing the definition of psychologists. Otherwise TSBEP may be unable to prosecute the unlicensed practice of psychology and could have difficulty enforcing practice standards from individuals who claim to be engaging in a

particular activity which constitutes the practice of psychology. In Texas, we have a practice act and a title act. Having a practice act is necessary to create an enforceable statute; and without one an individual could engage in unlicensed practice. A practice act protects the health and safety of Texans. Psychologists diagnose in their practice and even include a diagnostic code on insurance forms. Psychiatrists who consult with psychologists ask the PSYCHOLOGIST to provide a diagnoses so they can prescribe medication. The Medicare Definition of psychologists includes the word diagnose in the definition. If the federal government recognizes this type of service, then Texas should as well.

Thank you for your support,  
Emily Fallis, Ph.D.

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