

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Roberson](#); [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 12:45:03 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 12:07 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 12:07

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Gail

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Title: Counselor Educator and Licensed Professional Counselor

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City: Abilene

State: Texas

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

- Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals.
- Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

I think that moving the LPC Board, LMFT Board, Social Work Board, Speech Pathologists, and other HELPING professions under the authority of TDLR would be a HUGE mistake. This would bring even more accountability issues to Texas in the way of mental health treatment. Letting non-professionals make decisions about mental health care would be DANGEROUS for the public.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

- Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals.

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DO NOT move the LPC Board or the LMFT Board under the authority of TDLR.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree