

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 2:41:38 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 2:05 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Michelle

Last Name: Gonzalez

Title: Counseling Student

Organization you are affiliated with: SMU Masters in Counseling Program

Email:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I agree with the Commission's recommendation that these organizations be consolidated into one. As noted, the backlog of complaints and licensing is a failure that must be remedied. We need to ensure that the professional credibility of the counseling profession is upheld by effective enforcement of standards across the profession. Additionally, the backlog in licensing serves as an additional hurdle for entry into the counseling profession. This unnecessary, and preventable, issue must be remedied for the future of the profession. I believe that consolidating these four agencies into one will provide each with the resources necessary to effectively fulfill their missions and their duty to the citizens of Texas.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: As part of this newly-formed joint agency, I believe the agency needs to not only focus on handling licensing and complaints in these fields, but also needs to work to spread awareness among the people of Texas of the benefits offered by licensed professional counselors. I believe the agency has a duty to work with cities and school districts around the state to educate their citizens and students on how counselors can benefit them. Additionally, I believe the agency needs to serve as an intermediary between counselors and the legislature, and advocate for the profession to the state government. There is a significant need for counselors in school districts around the state.

Students are in need of counselors to serve them, but school districts are not hiring enough counselors to effectively serve the needs of the students.

This is just one issue on which the agency can work with the legislature to resolve.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree