

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, April 06, 2018 11:51:25 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Ashley

Last Name: Hamm

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

I agree with the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) in its support for the Sunset Commission's recommendation to organize the regulatory boards for LPCs, LMFTs, SWs and psychologists within a new agency, the Behavioral Health Executive Council.

I also agree with TCA's recommendation that the structure of BHEC should be as proposed during the last Sunset Review to include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Regarding Issue 6, I am disappointed that it only addresses the ability of psychologists to deliver services across state lines. All of the behavioral health disciplines have portability concerns that should be addressed. There should be more collaboration between states to allow LPCs and other mental health professionals to serve people in need across state lines. Telehealth is growing in popularity and provides a valuable way for people in under-served areas to receive services that normally would not be accessible to them and also allows for continuity of care when clients travel or move out of state.

The current licensing process also makes it very challenging for LPCs to move between states as each state has different licensing requirements. Texas should work with other states to create more portability of licenses. I believe this will strengthen the quality and reputation of our license, as it will show that not only does our license meet Texas requirements, other states recognize that our license is up to their standards as well.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree