

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:36:19 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:35 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: Chanel

Last Name: Hicks

Title: Graduate Student

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counselor Association

Email:

City: Victoria

State: Texas

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

Pertaining to the specific issues of the sunset revision, as a new counselor, I would be most affected by Issue 1: The structure of the State's Behavioral Health Licensing Agencies is Antiquated and Inefficient. Like I stated before, I am in favor of the BHEC formation. There needs to be a more streamlined process for both license distribution and the disciplinary processes for counselors. Customer service is extremely important for the profession, and the community needs to be aware and informed of the status of the behavioral health services they utilize. It is unacceptable to have such as backlog of licensee distribution, and it puts the behavior heath professions in limbo. Issue 2: Key Elements of the Behavioral Health Boards' Statutes, Rules, and Policies Do Not Conform to Common Licensing Standards. Reading through this policy, I worry about the behavioral health profession. As a counselor, individuals come to us vulnerable and in need. If sufficient criminal background checks are not completed, then this could put all behavioral health professions at risk. The welfare of our Texans is extremely important, and we cannot rely on self- reporting methods alone. Behavioral health Professionals need to be held to the highest standard, and enforcing fingerprint-based criminal background checks can help reduce the opportunity for someone to slip through the cracks and practicing inappropriately.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: n/a

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree