

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 11:14:20 AM

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From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 10:44 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: Linda

Last Name: Homeyer

Title: Professor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas State University

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City: San Marcos

State: Texas

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

I am a counselor educator and a licensed professional counselor & supervisor.

I am honored to have trained and supervised the next generations of professional counselors and marriage and family therapists in Texas over more than 20 years.

I support the Texas Sunset Commission findings that “the boards are acting in good faith and have made notable strides in addressing the previously identified problems...However, significant problems and challenges remain that cannot be resolved within the current structure” and “the continued administrative attachment of the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling and social work boards to a large agency...is still not working...The dysfunction created by such a model places the livelihoods of licensees in jeopardy and puts the public at risk.”

I know first hand the frustration and professional delay of graduates who must wait 3-4 months to receive their LPC-Intern status. This puts them in a holding pattern after graduating from a costly masters program. They cannot find work as a counselor until that temporary license is processed and issued ... this puts off their ability to earn even a meager living offered to LPC-Interns. It also delays their accruing hours and interrupts their professional development. Then, on the other end of the internship experience, they again have to wait another several months to receive their upgraded license. This continued expense of paying to supervision, once all requirements are met, but waiting once again for the processing and issuance of the upgraded license again interrupts their ability to find a higher paying counseling position, while still incurring weekly supervision costs.

It is my belief, that your recommendation of the agency to include mental health professions in Texas would help streamline the process and speed up turn-around times for these new professionals in the field.

I agree with Texas Counseling Association (TCA) ACA and TCA support of the following Sunset Commission staff recommendations:

- “The consolidated agency [TSBEMFT, TSBEP, TSBSWE and TSBEP] structure of the Behavioral Health Executive Council presents the best approach to align the regulation of these behavioral health professions and elevate the attention and oversight of these programs.”
- “More efficient and effective regulation of these professions will not only provide improved services and increased responsiveness to licensees but also will better protect behavioral health care consumers.”

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

However, I do join with ACA's and TCA's disagreement with the following Sunset Commission staff recommendation:

- “The executive council would be composed of one public member appointed by each of the four boards and an independent presiding officer appointed by the governor.”

I believe each of the mental health license boards should have a voting member on the new executive council.

Thank you for reading my comments. I look forward to decisions made in the best interest in the citizens of Texas, and the new generation of mental health professionals who are so needed in these times of the growing need for increased mental health services.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree