

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:33:13 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:51 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 - 13:50

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Judith

Last Name: Nelson

Title: Ph. D., LPC-S, LMFT

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association, Past President (2009-2010)

City: The Woodlands

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.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please continue to support the LPC, LMFT, and LMSW licensing boards. These boards protect the public from poorly trained mental health professionals, those who do not take their ethical responsibilities seriously, and those who do not stay current with current legal and ethical issues in the counseling field by being active in professional organizations.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree