

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 5:25:18 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:54 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 - 15:53

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Jennifer

Last Name: Zatopek

Title: Qualified Mental Health Professional

Organization you are affiliated with: Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I'm sending a comment to oppose the Recommendation 3.2. I believe it's absolutely vital that counselors and social workers have the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors because it provides oversight for helping professionals with experienced and well-trained professionals in the field. The Board is expected to help those of us in the helping profession maintain high standards and best practices in order to protect the public. I don't think it makes sense to put Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists with jobs that don't even require a bachelor's degree as they would be in the proposed TDLR group. There needs to be oversight in order to maintain best practices in our fields of study; with no regulatory board that means no monitoring of professionals who may pose a threat to the public if they are impaired or unable to perform their job according to the board's standards. I also think the public deserves to know that counselors and social workers aren't practicing with no guidance or oversight. It's not fair to the public and it's not fair to those of us in the profession who work hard to maintain best practices in our chosen fields.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: My recommendation is to keep the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors to keep the public safe and monitor the impact of Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree