From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Janet Wood</u>

Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 9:37:33 AM

----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]

Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 9:12 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: Mary

Last Name: Jackson

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Mrs.

Email:

City: Allen

State: Texas

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

I am commenting on the Sunset Commission Staff Report and in response to the public hearing on the Behavioral Health Licensing Boards held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

I support the recommendation that the boards regulating LPCs, LMFTs,

Social Workers, and Psychologists be housed at the new Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, as this will create a more efficient and effective structure for all professionals who deliver mental health services in Texas.

- I support creation of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, but request that the professional members appointed to BHEC by each licensing board have voting privileges on BHEC.
- I agree that maintaining the status quo or creating two separate administrative agencies for the four mental health licensing boards is NOT the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The state's interests are best served by forming ONE agency as recommended in the Sunset Commission Staff Report.
- I agree that holding a doctorate is not unique to psychologists. Many other mental health providers also hold this prestigious degree. This is no reason to have a stand-alone agency for psychologists. In fact, many psychologists are dually licensed by one of the other mental health boards another reason they should be housed at BHEC.
- I agree there should be just one agency to handle the administration of all the mental health professional licensing boards. This model will make it easy for the public to both find providers and learn how to file complaints when necessary.
- I support the creation of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council which was recommended unanimously by the last Sunset Commission. The bill to create BHEC passed unanimously from the House Public Health Committee because it is a great, strong design that will best serve Texas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary Jackson

M.S. Counseling Student, Southern Methodist University

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: NA

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree