

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:25:46 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:25 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: Awa

Last Name: Jangha

Title: Assistant Professor

Organization you are affiliated with: Seminary of the Southwest

Email: awa.jangha@ssw.edu

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Thank you for taking time to read the comments, recommendations, and concerns about the staff report from practicing professionals in the field. I am a licensed professional counselor and professor in a graduate program preparing students for clinical mental health counseling in Austin, TX. I encourage my students to be aware of the changes in the field, at the national level and especially at the state level. That being said, the recommendations included in the staff report will greatly impact not only current practicing professionals, but also graduate students preparing to enter the field. In light of the weight of these recommendations, I would like to share my comments and express my support of my professional organization, Texas Counseling Association:

I agree with your finding that the continued administrative attachment of the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling and social work boards to a large agency is still not working. They are underfunded and understaffed. The dysfunction created by such a model places the livelihoods of licensees in jeopardy and puts the public at risk.

I support the staff recommendation that the consolidated agency [TSBEMFT, TSBEPC, 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 and that 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.

I disagree with the staff recommendation that 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. Similar to my colleagues in the field, I believe you should follow Texas Counseling Association's recommendation that the structure of BHEC, as proposed during the last Sunset Review, should include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. The reasons for these

recommendations are included in the following section of of commentary.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I believe you should follow Texas Counseling Association's recommendation that the structure of BHEC, as proposed during the last Sunset Review, should include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. The reasons for my opinion are based on the following:

- As one of my colleagues has mentioned, "including professional members on BHEC is much more likely to enhance consistency in standards than interference on standards of practice, licensing and enforcement decisions since no profession would hold a majority on BHEC." I completely agree with this and believe that the members of the BHEC should have professional members especially when they are responsible for professional decisions that impact the field of counseling.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree