

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 3:36:11 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 3:25 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Natika

Last Name: Johnson

Title: Graduate Student in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Organization you are affiliated with: University of Houston-Victoria @ Katy

Email:

City: Katy

State: Texas

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

I'm 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.

As a graduate student and future counseling professional, it's very important that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) be created, as recommended unanimously by the last Sunset Commission. I, and many of my peers, will seek licensure in the near future and it would be devastating to be told that we can't practice right away due to a backup with processing applications and other board limitations.

I wholeheartedly support the recommendation that the boards regulating LPCs, LMFTs, Social Workers, and Psychologists be housed at the new Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council. Furthermore, I request that the professional members appointed to the BHEC by each licensing board have voting privileges on BHEC. Creating this new council makes sense to be fiscally responsible by not wasting taxpayers' money, and to create a more efficient and effective structure for ALL professionals who deliver mental health services in Texas. In my humble opinion, there is no valid reason why psychologists need a stand-alone agency. Many psychologists are dually licensed by one of the other mental health boards, which justifies why they should be housed at BHEC. The bill to create BHEC passed unanimously from the House Public Health Committee because it is an excellent, solid design that will best serve Texas for years to come.

I hope that you will endorse these recommendations for the sake of future mental health professionals, and to enhance the delivery of mental health services in Texas.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Natika T. Johnson

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None at this time.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree