

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, December 08, 2016 12:32:26 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 8:06 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PSYCHOLOGISTS

First Name: Kayla

Last Name: Jones

Title: LSSP

Organization you are affiliated with: TASP

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

1. Rename licensure from "Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP)" to "School Psychologist"

Rationale: This will eliminate confusion experienced by parents, educators, consumers, and the public

2. Ensure proportionate Representation of LSSPs on the TSBEP

Rationale: School psychologists represent 30% of the licensees regulated by TSBEP, but only have half of one seat on the TSBEP board.

3. Allow LSSPs to practice in private schools

Rationale: While currently prohibited, this will enable students in private schools to receive access to mental health services.

4. Align State Law and Regulation for Practice to Reflect National Standards for the Practice of School Psychology

Rationale: As a matter of alignment, the state standards should be in line with the national standards.

5. Ensure that LSSPs have a conferred degree in School Psychology or a Re-Specialization Certification from a School Psychology Program

Rationale: This will ensure those who seek to work with children are trained in this area of practice.

6. Maintain the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Rationale: TSBEP continues to have value for licensees and the public.

7. Remove the Prohibition of LSSPs Ability to Practice in Private

Clinics

Rationale: This provides access to services for children who would not have access to mental health services.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

As tragedy after tragedy continues to plague our country, the cycling conversation that's heard around the nation is "we need to do better with our mental health services." As a LSSP I have the unique opportunity to work with children where they spend the majority of their time; the schools.

Struggles with one's mental health often begins much earlier than initially thought. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 1 in 5 children either currently or at some point during their life, have had a seriously debilitating mental health disorder. The role of the LSSP is important for identifying, evaluating, and providing services to children in our schools. Given our presence in the day to day of children's lives, we are the most hands on mental health professionals working with our children, and yet we are poorly represented on our own licensing board.

Additionally, as parents navigate the confusing world of helping their children through mental health crises, or lifelong diagnoses, they deserve quality care in line with national standards and simplicity in access to services. Simplifying our title to School Psychologist to be in line with the rest of the nation may seem unimportant, but Texas's classification of our job as LSSP only proves to add to the jargon of the world of education, and confuses the understanding of our role.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree