

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 5:33:03 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:57 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 - 13:56

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Kaylene

Last Name: Brown

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor, PhD

Organization you are affiliated with: Private practice

City: Lubbock

State: Texas

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

Regarding 3.2 of rolling the LPC Licensing Board into an advisory board. If this action is taken, the general public and those with mental illness that seek help from counselors will be at risk. (It is difficult enough to encourage persons with mental illness to seek help. This does not include the current health care fiasco.) Currently, the licensing board oversees and controls the licenses of LPCs. The current license requires a Master's Degree and 3000 hours of experience prior to practice. Without the licensing board, there will be no way to insure that clients and the public receive quality care from qualified professionals. Without a licensing board, the public will have no protection from unqualified, shady persons who present themselves as counselors. Additionally, licensed counselors maintain their license through approved continuing education requirements. Placing professional licensed counselors under an "advisory board" will basically remove the need for a license (and it's required graduate education) or continued professional accountability in the field. This will also open the door for possible insurance fraud by unqualified practitioners, not to mention the great possibility of harm that will come to the mentally ill by unqualified persons. Further, there are no qualifications for persons serving on the "advisory board." This means that unqualified, uneducated persons would be "advising" in a field where professions must have a Master's Degree and 3000 hours of practice. This will open up counselors to frivolous and costly unfounded civil lawsuits. Everyone loses in this arrangement. Please do not follow through with this recommendation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Make the law enacting the LPC Licensing Board a permanent law and not subject to the Sundown rules.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree