

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 1:02:51 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 12:29 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: Antoinette

Last Name: King

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: San Marcos

State: Texas

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

As a future professional in the mental health field, I am appreciative of the Sunset Advisory Commission's intent to make changes to four of the related Boards (Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and Board of Social Worker Examiners) that would be beneficial to the state, its citizens, and the professionals that make the field what it is today. I support the recommendation to create the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) to facilitate those proposed changes. The benefits to students/future professionals, current professionals, and the public that utilizes our services would be great. However, I oppose the proposed structure of the BHEC: one public member from each Board and the Governor-appointed presiding officer. I encourage the Commission to take a look at its structure. There are only two public members that work alongside the remaining ten Senators and Representatives. This structure seems to be effective as the Commission attempts to provide Texans with the most efficient and cost-effective services and protections. I am not sure how the BHEC could do so without professionals that know what their respective national licensing boards expect from them (and future professionals) and how that aligns with common licensing standards and other proposed improvements.

The Commission is concerned with creating a "model with the least disruption to licensees and consumers and the greatest benefits to the public," but the BHEC without knowledgeable professionals has a great potential to cause disruption to licensees and not benefit clients and potential clients as much as possible.

The Board seems to be most concerned with costs and benefits to the state and its citizens. I see this structure, that was proposed during the last Sunset Review, as a great preventative measure that would benefit the state, professionals of mental health fields, and Texans in getting what they are needing and deserve, which is quality service from qualified professionals in a decent amount of time. My hope is that by including professional members to the BHEC, the need to go back to the drawing board and correct mistakes would be avoided.

Thank you all.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Include one professional member from the Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and Board of Social Worker Examiners to the BHEC.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree