-----Original Message-----
From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 10:50 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 10:50

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Lori

Last Name: Payne

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Lori Payne, LPC-S

City: Allen

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed: Recommendation 3.2 puts the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are highly trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve demands the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals. Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please keep the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors under the umbrella of the Texas Department of State Health Services. It is vitally imporant that all LPCs, social workers, and LMFTs have accountability and oversight through this department and Board.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree