From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: <u>Janet Wood</u>

Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 3:12:24 PM

----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local]

Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 1:53 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: Brittany

Last Name: Lash

Title: Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Professional Recovery Network-Texas Pharmacy Association

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

When I first moved to Texas, my family was very lucky that my husband was making very good money in the oil fields. Had he not been, the time I was waiting for my license to get accepted in the state of Texas, we would have not been able to pay bills or live. I waited over 7 months for my license to get approved despite the fact that my credentials exceeded those required by the State of Texas. I started the transfer process before I even moved to Texas, and that 7 months does not include the time before I moved. If I include that, I probably waited 8-9 months.

I sincerely support the concept of the BHEC however only if all the members are licensed professionals representing each profession.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Currently none of these boards have access to a peer assistance program for licensees that becoming impaired to practice due to mental health, cognitive impairment, or substance misuse problems. Of all the professions that should have access to these substances, the mental health professions should be at the top of the list. I really advocate for a requirement that these professions obtain a peer assistance program.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree