

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:56:31 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:38 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: Alma

Last Name: Leal

Title: Retired Counselor Educator

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Rancho Viejo

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I have served as a professional member of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and the following comments reflect my experience on this board. While on the Board and while working as a Counselor Educator for 20 years, I heard of complaints from professional counselors and graduate students regarding the frustrations they faced applying for licensure and other issues. They felt the processes were inefficient and lengthy. I agree with the recommendation to organize the regulatory boards for LPCs, LMFTs, SWs and psychologists under the Behavioral Health Executive Council. This new structure would streamline application processes and regulation of the profession, and eliminate any ineffectiveness that could jeopardize the practice of these professionals and the safety and health of consumers. I do however disagree that the BHEC be comprised of one public member from each of the Boards and one professional member from each Board serving only in "ex officio" role. Professional members provide invaluable expertise, as I did while serving on the Rules Committee and Testing Committee. My work as a Professional Counselor and Counselor Educator helped me to offer perspectives and recommendations that only someone who has served in the Counseling field can understand and offer. I clearly remember how the expertise of other professional members were critical in making decisions regarding new rules, complaints, ethical issues and licensure processes.

Professional members need to have equal status to public members with decision making and voting rights in order to better protect the public. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my views regarding the Sunset Commission Staff Report. I valued my service on the LPC Board and I look forward to seeing improvements that will address identified problems while protecting the public.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

1. I support the recommendation to place the TSBEMFT, TSBEPC, TSBSWE and TSBEP under the Behavioral Health Executive Council.
2. I recommend that the professional member from each board on this Council be given equal status to the public members with decision making and voting rights.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree