

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 7:45:11 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 5:36 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Stephen

Last Name: Lenz

Title: Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Corpus Christi

State: Texas

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

I am writing to request that the TSAC take action to (a) Consolidate the Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and Board of Social Worker Examiners with the Board of Examiners of Psychologists to create the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council; and (b) under new consolidated TBHEC update standards of practice for background checks to ensure the safety of Texans.

Given that Texas is in a critical workforce shortage for behavioral health professionals, the current system is beyond its capacity to serve Texas professionals and protect her citizens.

A recent survey of 2017-2018 graduates from a South Texas professional counseling program identified that it took 5 to 6 months for a transitioning from student to LPC Intern status and 3 to 4 months to transition to full licensure status once provisional period was completed. This is unacceptable and limits students from capitalizing on their educational preparation and obtaining employment that supports the mental health needs of their communities. In the latter case, emerging professionals are stymied to fill vacant positions throughout our county because they are not fully licensed.

Please mandate updated background check procedures for all Boards under the TBHEC. The fact that it takes nearly 900 days for a complaint against a licensee to be heard is socially irresponsible. Our citizens deserve better protection, oversight, and regulation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: NONE

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree