

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 9:03:14 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:32 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: Jessica

Last Name: Lloyd-Hazlett

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

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

First, thank you for the time and consideration you have given throughout your work on the Texas Sunset Advisory Committee.

I am a licensed professional counselor and counselor educator in Texas. I am writing to express concern about the recommendation to relegate the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and the other mental health professional licensing boards to advisory status under the over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). Given the nature and volume of the work of licensed professional counselors, I believe that oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR.

Further, movement in this direction would do little to resolve current regulatory and access to care challenges. Based on my experience and expertise, I am confident that the establishment and enforcement of practice standards for mental health professionals can only be accomplished by professionally specialized and independent licensing boards. Retaining this regulatory autonomy best equips licensed professional counselors to provide evidence-based, high quality, and accessible client services.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

In response to the comments above, I support the following recommendations:

- Continue the autonomous regulation of licensed professional counselors, marriage and family counselors and social workers.
- Allocate licensing fee revenue to directly support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.
- Retain the structure and autonomy of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the TSBEMFT and the TSBESW

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree