

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 4:00:06 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 3:36 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: Brenda

Last Name: Lopez

Title: LPC-S

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors

Email:

City: Rosenberg

State: Texas

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

I support the staff recommendation that the consolidated agency structure of the Behavioral Health Executive Council presents the best approach to align the regulation of these behavioral health professions and elevate the attention and oversight of these programs. Also that, more efficient and effective regulation of these professions will not only provide improved services and increased responsiveness to licensees but also will better protect behavioral health care consumers.

However, I disagree with the staff recommendation that the executive council would be composed of one public member appointed by each of the four boards and an independent presiding officer appointed by the governor.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I agree with the Texas Counseling Associations recommendation that the structure of BHEC be as proposed during the last Sunset Review to include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. Currently, none of the boards that regulate health professionals is composed exclusively of public members. In fact, the Sunset Commission staff recommendations for the Board of Medical Examiners does not propose to restructure that Board to create an all or majority public member structure. Professional members bring expertise that would likely be lost if BHEC was composed of public members with professional members relegated to "ex officio" roles. Including professional members on BHEC is much more likely to enhance consistency in standards than interference on standards of practice, licensing and enforcement decisions since no profession would hold a majority on BHEC.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree