

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 7:42:40 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6:10 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: Jose

Last Name: Lopez

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Corpus Christi

State: Texas

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

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Recommendation: that "Supervisory Agreement Form" for LPC-Intern application be revised for initial application process.

Justification: Its application/purpose is suited for a LPC-Intern applicant who is employed. In its current form, it seems like (but for me, it has just become) a barrier to progress for those who are not employed and seeking employment in different locations.

Regards: Seeking and eliminating any barriers that continue promotion of inefficiency.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:57:02 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:55 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: Jose

Last Name: Lopez

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: TCA

Email:

City: Corpus Christi

State: Texas

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

Praises to the Sunset Commission and staff for their hard work and dedication in continuing to identify performance concerns and areas of improvement for the regulatory boards!

I would like to say that I believe it appears to be evident that the current systems and processes, at the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors (TSBEPC)/Department of State Health Services (DSHS), for processing applications is inefficient. And I want to believe that its inefficiency is at least due to good faith effort; I don't want to believe its employees are taking their time processing applications on purpose or because no one cares. From my own experience, when I have called DSHS, it seems worse to me: phones are not answered for hours-on-end or not at all; and after holding for hours-on-end, when the answering machine responds, it references staff training, and I'm thinking, everyday from 8-5. I have called at different times and different days. If this simple customer service responsibility cannot be maintained, it is without a doubt that other areas of these organizations maybe lacking, including oversight.

I submitted an application for licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern (LPC-Intern) in late January of this year and as of submission of these comments there is no indication that a license has been issued to me based on the DSHS online search result, nor have I received a response that my application is deficient and additional information is required; clearly beyond the 20 working day processing procedure. I can tell you this; there was no delay in processing my check for the application fee.

It is apparent that the time for change has arrived. I support the recommendation to organize TSBEPC within the BHEC; the prospect of better oversight, improved services and increased responsiveness to licensees, but above all, efficient and effective regulation of this profession, will help to better serve our states behavioral health consumers. I believe swift action to get the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) operational is imperative and in the best interest of the Great State of Texas.

As a Veteran, I would like to see changes take effect as promptly as possible; whether through stream-lined systems and processes or otherwise, because all applicants in this helping profession deserve timely responses. By now, I would have liked to have been fully engaged and practicing within the scope of a LPC-Intern, especially in helping my fellow Veterans with their behavioral health concerns.

We all have a role in this; from the applicant to the board to the council. I believe we can make it work.

Together Strong!

Jose Lopez

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Recommendation: explore the prospect of reducing by 1/2 the 3000 hours of supervised experience for a LPC-intern who is a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC). This makes sense if a LPC-Intern must satisfy 1500 hours for direct client care, and another 1500 hours for indirect client care.

The 1500 indirect client care hours should be waived for an LCDC as I am certain that those hours can be accounted for in the execution of an LCDC's daily direct and indirect work with clients, especially if he LCDC has performed counseling duties for one year post-licensure.

Justification: regards efficiency and effectiveness - with today's need for more mental/behavioral health counseling professionals, this would facilitate the fielding of a full LPC possibly at least 9 months sooner to help fill the gaps where services are needed.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree