

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 12:55:31 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:57 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: Pamela

Last Name: Love-White

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

Email:

City: McKinney

State: Texas

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

I agree that the TSBEPC is working in good faith and making progress in addressing identified problems made by the commission staff. However, I do believe that the current structure will prohibit TSBEPC in achieving the necessary goals of providing quick resolution of complaints as well as quick turn-around for licensee approval. Licensed professional counselors, as well as marriage and family and social workers existing under the large agency is not and will not work. Staying within the large agency will continue to place a undue burden on the licensees which in turn puts the public at risk.

I am in total agreement with a consolidated agency (TSBEPC, TSBSWE and TSBEP) structure of the Behavioral Health Executive Council. This move would not only be the most efficient and effective means to improve the overall operations of these boards, but will send a strong message to Texans regarding the state's priority for behavioral health services.

I disagree with the proposed structure of the BHEC to be composed of only public members and the presiding officer appointed by the governor. While the public members are important, I strongly support that each board appoint one professional and one public member with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. As an LPC in Texas, I would feel like counselors would have a guiding voice and be represented on their own board. I am positive that the other behavioral health providers feel the same way. These boards play an important role in establishing and monitoring the professions as well as ensuring the protection of behavioral health care consumers.

On issue 2, I agree that the behavioral health licensing boards need to support criminal background checks and explore processes around these checks as well as the reporting of other disciplinary data.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I support the recommendation that each board (TSBEMFT, TSBEPC, TSBSWE, and TSBEP) appoint one professional and one public member with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. As an LPC in Texas, I feel this would include counselors as a guiding voice on the board with representation. These boards play an important role in establishing and monitoring the professions as well as ensuring the protection of behavioral health care consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments regarding the Sunset Commission Staff Report.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree