

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:26:27 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:48 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 15:47

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Mike

Last Name: Lanman

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor, BIPP Facilitator

Organization you are affiliated with: Aid for Victims of Domestic Violence

Email: mikel@avda-tx.org

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am opposed to the recommendation that would result in the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker licensing boards shifting to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation as an "advisory committee". This change would put the public at risk because it would remove the regulatory oversight provided by actual licensed professionals who sit on the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals. Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees, are considered Health Professions under Texas law, and rely on the expertise of licensed board members. Rulings from the board can impact licensed professionals who most definitely impact the health and safety of their clients. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend that the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker licensing boards remain under the Department of State Health Services with licensing boards that includes professional members who hold the applicable license and have the experience and training to act in the vital interest of the public and their mental health care needs.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree