

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 5:32:41 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 2:02 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 - 14:01

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Marlise

Last Name: Lonn

Title: Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

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

As a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPC-S) I am writing to oppose the Texas Sunset Commission recommendation in its report on the reauthorization of the Department of State Health Services that the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker licensing boards be reconstituted as advisory committees at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

- Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. 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 and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

Licensed professionals (counselors, marriage and family therapists and social workers) have an advanced education, continuing education requirements, and are held to high ethical and licensing standards and need to continue to be represented by state licensure boards as they are currently.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Maintain current licensure board structures for Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree