

**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 5:31:06 PM

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

From: [sundrupal@capitol.local](mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local) [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 2:28 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 - 14:27

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Melissa

Last Name: Sutherland

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas College Counseling Association

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

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

I am writing to state my opposition to Recommendation 3.2 to transfer the Texas State Board of Examiners to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and to reconstitute the this board as an advisory committee.

I believe that this is a dangerous move. Licensed mental health professionals such as Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, and Licensed Clinical Social Workers are required to have a minimum of a Master's degree, a lengthy supervised internship and continuing education to maintain the safety of the public we serve. We all have ethical standards and guidelines to follow and the Texas State Board of Examiners is essential in maintaining the quality of our fields. They assure that those holding such licenses follow the ethical standards and issue consequences in cases where they are not. By making the board an advisory committee, you will remove their authority to uphold our standards and assure that the public receives ethical and quality service.

The people with the licenses in question often work side by side with Medical doctors and psychologists. We are responsible for the assessment of clinical symptomology and to make professional judgment calls in the midst of crisis situations. It is extremely dangerous to risk the decline in standards set by our board.

Please consult with Texas Counseling Association and other professional organizations that represent the licenses in question before making a decision that has the potential for dire ramifications for our fields and more importantly for the public.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I do not understand the rationale for such a move, therefore it is difficult to propose a recommendation.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree