

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sunset recommendations for psychologists in Texas  
**Date:** Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:01:26 AM

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**From:** ANDY MCGARRAHAN [mailto:Andrew.McGarrahan@childrens.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:11 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Sunset recommendations for psychologists in Texas

To whom it may concern,

Please deliver my email recommendations to each of the members of the Sunset Commission. Thank you.

Andy McGarrahan, Ph.D.

Children's Health/Children's Medical Center

Center for Pediatric Eating Disorders

Dear Sunset Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts regarding the commission's recommendations for psychologists.

1. I would like to ask that the Sunset commission keep the oral examination for psychologists. I believe that the oral examination helps prepare individuals in our field for presenting clinical information to others in a way that they can understand it. My experience as a psychologist has been that many people do not have experience thinking or talking about mental health issues. The oral examination is a way for those entering our field to present data from a case example to experienced psychologists in our field in succinct and organized way .

2. I would request that the commission keep the requirement to obtain 3500 supervised hours after the conferral of the doctoral degree. I believe that this additional supervised training requirement is an essential one in helping the new psychologist be prepared to make

important clinical decisions related to areas of treatment and patient safety.

3. I recommend that the commission keep the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists be kept independent of other agencies. The TSBEP is uniquely aware of the needs of psychologists. I believe that taking away our board and staff would not be helpful to our licensees or to the general public that is counting on us for important mental health care.

4. Any definition of psychology should take into account that psychologists must make diagnoses. In my work I make diagnoses in order to help patients and parents understand the mental health difficulties that are being experienced by the one seeking treatment. Being able to make a diagnosis is also critical in that insurance companies require them on billing sheets in order to reimburse not only the psychologist but also the claimant/client. Finally, The Medicare Definition of psychologists includes the word "diagnose". If the federal government recognizes these type of service then it stands to reason that states, including Texas should as well.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on these important matters.

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