

**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 5:31:11 PM

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

From: [sundrupal@capitol.local](mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local) [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 2:27 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 - 14:26

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Nathan

Last Name: Driskell

Title: MA, LPC, NCC

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

Dear Committee Members: I would like to adamantly oppose the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors be reconstituted as advisory committees at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Being a mental health professional needs to include training, and needs to be an advanced profession. Most in this field hold Masters and greater Degrees, and I believe these degrees are needed, to ensure the best for our clients and patients. Someone with little training will do unintentional harm, as they will not know enough to provide quality care.

In addition, to be a mental health professional, commitment is required.

Someone has to be willing to spend years in training, so they can take their responsibility seriously. If someone is allowed to provide training with no degrees, or minimal degrees required, they will not have the knowledge nor motivation to handle things when times get tough. Being a mental health professional is not easy, and requires commitment.

As an LPC, I spent almost 10 years in school and training to get where I am.

I learned much, and am still learning. Given the low pay in this field, it was a sacrifice. I feel to be a good mental health professional, you have to sacrifice. If someone enters the field with little or no training, and no advanced degrees, they will leave when times get tough, or the pay is not to their liking, causing a shortage. Greater commitment = better professionals.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I recommend LPC's be expanded in the services they can provide. For example: being able to take Medicare. I feel we should be allowed to provide all the services a social worker can, given are advanced training in clinical services. I feel if this measure passes, it will be the death of my license, and greatly damage my profession.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree