

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 7:59:39 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Jack

Last Name: Nowicki

Title: Owner / Operator

Organization you are affiliated with: Jack Nowicki's Collaborative Counseling, Consulting, & Training

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I have been a licensed social worker in Texas since we were "certified" social workers. I have been a TSBSWE-approved supervisor for 28 years and have supervised social workers seeking their Clinical Social Worker license both in agencies and privately. I am a long standing member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I am very pleased with the efforts of the Sunset Commission to streamline our licensing procedures, especially the recommendation to create a Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC).

However, I do not agree with the idea of the various professionals (SW, LPC, LMFT, and Psych) represented only as ex-officio members without the ability to VOTE. I recommend that our professionals know more about our needs and as such they need to have full rule making authority over the scope of practice, etc. (as has worked for other boards). As it stands now, the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners (TSBSWE) is NOT effective under the operation of the Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)! The staffing and administration is horrible! In the last 5 years only one of 8 supervisees have had their paperwork processed without difficulty. The other 7 supervision packets were either lost (and thus have had to be resubmitted) or misfiled (and had to be resubmitted). I tell my supervisees to take their paperwork to the physical site and hand it to a person and then get them to sign a receipt that they have received the paperwork. Even then, several have been "lost". When people send them in, I hear that it can take up to 4 months for them to be approved. The office needs more staff and upgraded administrative procedures. This is not even to mention the months and months it takes for any social worker to have their renewal paperwork approved.

I also suggest that a greater portion of the \$1,282,629 in fees that Social Workers pay for their license be earmarked for administering the licensing office: of the fees paid in 2017, only \$500,168 were allocated to operations.

I believe the rest goes into the general operating fund. These boards are also required to police the many complaints that come in and the lack of staff to investigate and resolve complaints results in an average of 874 days

per resolution (NASW information). Finally, I would recommend that each of the four boards remain independent under the proposed BHEC.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: We members of NASW recommend that the BHEC be composed of nine voting members as follows: one public and one professional voting member from each of the four boards, with a final public member appointed by the Governor to facilitate the group.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree