

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 1:03:27 PM

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From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 11:55 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Kelsey

Last Name: Ondriezek

Title: M.Ed Student

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Tech University

Email:

City: Lubbock

State: Texas

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

I am a clinical mental health counseling student at Texas Tech University and will be applying for licensure within a year. I am also a member of the American Counseling Association, the world's largest organization representing professional counselors in various settings.

There are significant problems and challenges that cannot be resolved within the current structure” and “the continued administrative attachment of the marriage and family therapy, professional counseling and social work boards to a large agency...is still not working...The dysfunction created by such a model places the livelihoods of licensees in jeopardy and puts the public at risk.”

I support these Sunset staff recommendations: “The consolidated agency [TSBEMFT, TSBEP, TSBSWE and TSBEP] structure of the Behavioral Health Executive Council presents the best approach to align the regulation of these behavioral health professions and elevate the attention and oversight of these programs.”

“More efficient and effective regulation of these professions will not only provide improved services and increased responsiveness to licensees but also will better protect behavioral health care consumers.”

I oppose these recommendations: “The executive council would be composed of one public member appointed by each of the four boards and an independent presiding officer appointed by the governor.”

I recommend that the structure of the BHEC, as proposed during the last Sunset Review, include one professional and one public member appointed by each board, with the presiding officer appointed by the Governor. Currently, no board that regulates health professionals in Texas is composed exclusively of public members. In fact, the Sunset Commission staff recommendations for the Board of Medical Examiners do not propose to restructure that Board to create an all or majority public member structure.

Including professional members on the BHEC is much more likely to enhance consistency in standards of practice, licensing and enforcement decisions because no single profession would hold a majority on the BHEC."

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I also propose that LPC-Interns can have 100% of their supervision conducted via web conference. This will allow for LPC-Interns to find and receive supervision in lesser known or little-addressed areas of counseling. For instance, I plan on gathering LPC-Intern hours in an Applied Behavior Analysis clinic. There are virtually no LPC-S in West Texas who have experience in ABA and autism. If I was able to choose a supervisor in other areas of Texas and conduct supervision via web conference, supervision would be a much more enriching experience.

I also propose that the LPC-Intern application does not require a site to be listed. This is a huge barrier to entry for mental health professionals. What is actually occurring is jobs are requiring a license and the license is requiring a site. It's a catch 22. So, it is really hard for LPC-Interns to begin working towards full licensure. If we could be awarded LPC-Intern licensure with just a supervisor, this would open many doors and help so many people in Texas.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree