

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 7:49:52 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 7:18 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: James

Last Name: Orellana

Title: LMSW

Organization you are affiliated with: NASW

Email:

City: Port Arthur

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am opposed with combining Social Board of Examiners with LMFT and LPC boards. Our education is much different. Social Workers take a holistic approach with assisting our clients whereas the other professions are strictly pathology. Our educational path is much more diverse than the other MH occupations. In addition we have become insurance specialist and help clients access care through the DHHS. Therefore our approach is drastically different. Our clients wellbeing will be compromised by ignoring our licensing we have studied and tested for in order to qualify to serve our population. For example social workers have an extra layer of licensing called the LCSW before they can privately treat clients, but the other occupations do not have this extra training. In addition we should not be held accountable for failures of other regulatory boards or underfunded agencies. Everyone knows the Social Work Board of Licensing is strict, comprehensive, and enforces our code of ethics much more severely than any other board I know of. I went into social work because of its rigorous standards and their unique ability to solve clients distress that other professions do not possess. We do not have time for on the job training with other occupations. We need Social Workers to stand alone to help our clients in the unique way we have been taught in our nations most prestigious universities.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: My solution is to leave the Social Work Board of Examiners as independent and increase staffing as licensing demands grow. This will accommodate any backlog that may exist.

Do not weaken Social Work by combining them with other professions that do not have the same expertise or holistic approach. I would wait for another two years and address the States' concerns if any with the Social Work Board of Examiners, and give them time to access and accommodate targeted areas of improvement. Do not penalize the Social Work Board of Examiners because other licensing boards have failed in their duties and functions. The other mental health occupations can be combined because their academic approach and education is the same. Leave the Social Work Board independent due to the differences in licensing, implementation, and code of ethics.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree