

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 7:48:33 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 10:07 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

First Name: Rachel

Last Name: Patterson

Title: MA, NCC, LPC Intern

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or

Opposed: I believe that the board as it currently exists has significant issues as illuminated in the Staff Report. I hope that in the Sunset Committee's eagerness to protect the public and remedy these issues that no harm is done to the state's ability to safeguard all consumers of all regulated services. Please honor the unique abilities and concerns of consumers of mental health services and throw the full weight of your support into improving the existing board.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

1. Allow boards to continue to function autonomously. TLDR is not equipped to regulate mental health professionals, as none of the occupations currently governed by them include working with individuals who are struggling with challenges related to their mental health. That TLDR knows best how to regulate and ensure access to care for these people/this population despite a lack of experience doing so seems unlikely. Please support the boards to continue autonomously with their current structure. As Texas Counseling Association said in a recent call to action, "Setting and enforcing clear, ethical training and practice standards for mental health professionals can only be accomplished by professionally specialized and independent licensing boards. Best practice to protect consumers is to have Independent, professionally specialized boards with public members that regulate mental health care."
2. Appropriately and adequately fund the boards. Please allocate funds generated by licensing fees to support the regulatory function of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors (as well as other mental health boards).

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree