

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 3:35:53 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 3:12 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

First Name: Jean

Last Name: Polichino

Title: Senior Director, School-Based Therapy Services

Organization you are affiliated with: Harris County Department of Education

Email: jpolichino@hcde-texas.org

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

It was my honor and pleasure to serve the citizens of Texas on the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners (TBOTE) from 1995 – 2007, nine of those years as its Presiding Officer. I also served on the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE) from 1997 – 2004 as the professional member from TBOTE. I am strongly in favor of retaining the current configuration of the ECPTOTE, and am strongly opposed to moving TBOTE and TBOTE into a larger, umbrella agency.

From an administrative perspective, the structure and function of the boards in this agency are both efficient and effective in serving Texas consumers of occupational therapy and physical therapy services. ECPTOTE administrative oversight of the agency relieves the OT and PT boards of the responsibility of hiring the executive director and dealing with agency budgetary issues, personnel concerns and performance measures. This allows the OT and PT boards to focus solely on issues related to licensing, professional practice and continuing competency. ECPTOTE also ensures the rule-making functions of the OT and PT boards respect the unique knowledge, skills and abilities of each respective discipline, serving as a barrier should one discipline seek to encroach on the scope of practice of the other. This system, by design, protects Texas consumers from practitioners employing practices for which they are not properly educated or trained.

Because ECPTOTE agency personnel serve both the OT and PT boards, they have developed knowledge of the 2 professions represented, expertise in the necessary processes associated with licensing and discipline for both professions, and are adept at answering questions from licensees and the public. Because systems have been streamlined over the years within the agency, the licensing process is quick and efficient. Complaints are responded to promptly and investigated within a reasonable period of time.

ECPTOTE is a model regulatory agency that Texas can be proud of. For the past 20 years, it has performed its functions effectively and has been an excellent steward of allocated state funds. I urge

you, in the interest of Texas consumers, to sustain its current structure within the executive branch of our state government.

Yours truly,

Jean E. Polichino, OTR, MS, FAOTA
License # 101287

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: No.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree