

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Psychology Sunset opinions
Date: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:45:31 PM
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From: Sara Pollard [mailto:Sara.Pollard@childrens.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:45 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Psychology Sunset opinions

Dear Sunset Committee,

I am in favor of a new definition for psychologists including diagnosis as within our scope. We train to do this for years in graduate school and postdoc, and it is a key function for which other professionals and the public count on us. This is consistent with the Medicare definition of psychologist.

I am **against consolidation of our board** with other boards/agencies as we are a doctoral level profession with unique skills, the complexity of our professional practice issues and ethics code could be lost, and TSBEP has been functioning well.

I am **against the elimination of the postdoc year and the oral exam** as these are key experiences that provide additional opportunities to weed out inappropriate individuals who are not prepared for independent practice. Eliminating them might flood the market and in the short-term reduce workforce shortages but at the risk of lowering the quality of professionals accessed by the public. In particular the postdoc year allows for consolidation of skills and professional identity, increased independent decision making, and specialization; mine uniquely prepared me for my current position, for example, by allowing me to become certified in evidence-based practices for treating child trauma. The oral exam allows for assessing an individual's ability to apply knowledge, including ethical decision making to real time case scenarios, and to articulate this decision making orally in face-to-face interactions, while managing anxiety, which cannot be accurately assessed by written exam but which is key to psychology practice. Both the oral exam and postdoc year are required in most states. Eliminating these requirements might also make Texans less competitive in the national job market for psychologists, and trainees who desire postdoctoral training to be nationally competitive may leave our state, to the detriment of the public.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

Sara Pollard, PhD



Licensed Psychologist

Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence

O: 214.456.7873

F: 214.456.0536

E: sara.pollard@childrens.com

1935 Medical District Drive | Mailstop F3.37 | Dallas, TX 75235

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