

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 7:56:24 AM

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From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 2:47 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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

While I concur that "significant problems and challenges remain that cannot be resolved within the current structure" and "the dysfunction created by such a model places the livelihoods of licensees in jeopardy" (an event I have personally witnessed too many times) I am gravely concerned for the threat to public by a proposed public majority board.

I understand the benefit and support the staff recommendation that 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." I also agree doing so will likely result in "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." But, I am strongly opposed that 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." Members of the profession are uniquely prepared to understand the complexities of the mental health professional role and bring an expertise that a public only board does not. As an active counseling professional, I often in the position of educating laymen about about the field and the complexities of applying the code to practice. That expertise is needed in moments of evaluation.

Congruently, none of the boards that regulate health professionals is composed exclusively of public members. In fact, the Sunset Commission staff recommendations for the Board of Medical Examiners does not propose to restructure that Board to create an all or majority public member structure.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: As proposed at the last Sunset Review, I recommend the structure of BHEC include one professional and one public member appointed by each board. No profession would hold a majority on BHCE and this makeup is much more likely to enhance consistency and accuracy in

application of standards of practice, licensing and enforcement decisions.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree