

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 8:03:25 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2018 5:01 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: Bethany

Last Name: Smith

Title: LPC-S

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Bryan

State: Texas

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

I support the recommendation that the boards regulating LPCs, LMFTs, Social Workers, and Psychologists be housed at the new Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, as this will create a more efficient and effective structure for all professionals who deliver mental health services in Texas.

However, I request that the professional members appointed to BHEC by each licensing board have voting privileges on BHEC. The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council is essentially an administrative agency – not a licensing board. It will achieve efficiencies and consistency where appropriate, such as in administrative activities related to applications and investigations.

The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council will not create one combined board for all mental health professionals. Each of the four licensing boards will retain their integrity and rule-making authority for each distinct discipline. Maintaining the status quo or creating two separate administrative agencies for the four mental health licensing boards is NOT the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The state's interests are best served by forming ONE agency as recommended in the Sunset Commission Staff Report. The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council will not be authorized to establish rules. They will review rules but will only be able to reject or send rules back to each board if the rules violate current statutes or create anti-competitive, monopolistic, or anti-trust scenarios.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 09, 2018 2:01:58 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 1:39 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: Bethany

Last Name: Smith

Title: LPC-S, NCC

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Bryan

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I agree with the proposed BHEC board in order to eliminate the many problems our current board faces. Due to being understaffed and overwhelmed without the resources available to process items accordingly, our LPC-Interns face many barriers in first attaining their temporary license for internship and subsequently the transition from LPC-Intern to fully licensed professional. This not only puts financial strains and untimely roadblocks onto the interns, but the public and citizens of Texas also are put at a disadvantage by having less mental health professionals to access for care.

The current structure is not working and hasn't for some time. The board is operating at an unacceptable rate - recently, 4 months to approve full licensure, 3 months to approve new temporary licenses, and a lack of response through email or phone in order to get pertinent questions and concerns answered. One entity for all mental health professional boards could tremendously help the operating procedures.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I disagree with the staff's recommendation for the structure of BHEC.

Including a professional representative from each of the Boards will provide expertise and is more likely to enhance consistency in professional standards rather than interference across professions. The professionals have the training and expertise to know what will best serve the citizens of Texas and can work together instead of against one another if any one professional board has power over the others. Each profession has unique elements that help to provide quality treatment, and having equal representation will help establish a board that can fully serve people in all aspects of mental health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bethany Smith, MA, LPC-S, NCC

License No. 63495

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree