

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 4:25:32 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 4:18 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: Rohanna

Last Name: Sykes

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Spring

State: Texas

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

As a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Texas I would like to submit opposition to the Sunset recommendations and submit alternative recommendations below. Continue the autonomous regulation of licensed professional counselors, marriage and family counselors and social workers. Oppose the recommendation to relegate the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and the other mental health professional licensing boards to advisory status under the over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

Oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR. None of the occupations regulated by TDLR work with fragile individuals struggling to overcome devastating psycho, social, emotional and physical challenges. A move to TDLR will not resolve access to care or regulatory challenges.

Allocate licensing fee revenue to directly support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. Issues #2 and #3 would be moot had the Texas Department of State Health Services allocated funds generated by licensing fees to support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the boards that regulate Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers.

TDLR is not equipped to regulate mental and behavioral health professionals.

Expanding the scope of TDLR beyond its mission is likely to adversely impact consumer protection across all the industries it regulates and risk its efficiency.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Please consider continuing the autonomous regulation of licensed professional counselors by opposing the recommendation to relegate the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors and the other mental health professional licensing boards to advisory status under the over-extended Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

Oversight of mental health professionals is beyond the scope of TDLR. None of the occupations regulated by TDLR

work with fragile individuals struggling to overcome devastating psycho, social, emotional and physical challenges. A move to TDLR will not resolve access to care or regulatory challenges. Additionally it is vital that licensing fee revenue be allocated to directly support the regulatory functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors. TDLR is not equipped to regulate mental and behavioral health professionals. Expanding the scope of TDLR beyond its mission is likely to adversely impact the population which greatly needs us across to professional mental health practitioners.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree