

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:04:26 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Kitty

Last Name: Walker

Title: LCSW

Organization you are affiliated with: National Association of Social Workers
(NASW)

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

To the members of the Sunset Commission: I understand your concerns about the lag time in complaint resolution. As a licensed clinical social worker who has, herself, been a participant in that process several years ago (the complaint was resolved without board sanctions to me), I believe that I have a special vantage point from which to share about this situation.

When a complaint is filed, no matter how frivolous, my board takes immediate action to inform me. In my case, I was required to answer that complaint in a timely manner (I disputed it). Following that, an investigator was charged with interviewing all parties, responding with his/her results to the board, followed by a scheduled meeting of the full board, the investigator, and myself. The entire process was resolved within approximately six months, which I consider reasonable. As your report indicated, the board includes a certain number of licensed clinical social workers, like myself, who are sensitive to not only the "vulnerable parties" who initiate the complaint process, but also to the social worker targeted in the complaint. This, I firmly believe, is critical to the process.

In my case, the investigator was not a mental health professional, and recommended I be sanctioned. The majority of the board disagreed, because, as mental health professionals themselves, they were sensitive to the clinical nuances of the case.

It is my understanding that the regulatory body you are recommending does not contain licensed mental health professionals at all. In my experienced opinion, this would be a grave mistake. If your mission is to protect all vulnerable citizens in a complaint process, it is vital to include the targeted mental health professional in that population. Believe me, there are fewer more vulnerable positions to be in than a professional who has received a complaint, especially when the complaint involves an ethical dilemma regarding a grey area of clinical practice (as mine and many others have).

I hope you will consider my input as you continue your admittedly daunting project.

Respectfully,

Kitty Walker, LCSW

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: (see above)

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree