

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 7:57:42 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2018 5:56 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: Elizabeth

Last Name: Wedell

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor/ TX & Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist/TX

Organization you are affiliated with: S

Email:

City: Bonham

State: Texas

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

I strongly support the creation of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) to be the administrative Council that helps to house all the mental health professionals under one roof. I understand that each licensing board would maintain its own autonomy in regards to having its Board of Examiners appointed by the Governor and that each Board would be responsible for licensing new applicants and for setting the Board rules and ethical standards for its mental health professionals. Having the licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage & family therapists, licensed social workers, and psychologists under the BHEC structure would provide consistency and administrative assistance to all mental health providers in the state of Texas.

I see no reason for creating a separate Council under the Sunset Commission for psychologists. This would cost taxpayers' dollars, and all four behavioral health Boards are responsible for those serving the mental/behavioral health needs of Texans. I personally know many mental health professionals who have dual licenses, which includes that of being a Licensed Psychologist with the prestigious Ph D. degree and being licensed under another mental/behavioral health Board. All of us provided valuable services to the communities we serve. Often, psychologists choose to only provide testing and assessment tools that they are licensed to perform, while others prefer to do behavioral/mental health counseling. To me, personally, it is the quality of the service being performed by every experienced counselor or psychologist that counts more than what degree one may have.

I do strongly recommend that a Member from each of the four licensing Boards be appointed to the Board of the Texas BHEC with the rights to vote on any issues that require a vote by the Board. Voting rights for each of the various Boards to be housed under the BHEC would be equitable for all.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: See the last paragraph in the Comments made about the Staff Report. The original recommendation of the Sunset Commission was for the Governor to appoint someone from the public sector to lead the BHEC, and each of the four Licensing Boards heretofore mentioned

would have someone representing each Licensing Board on the Texas BHEC. However, these representative would not have voting rights on measures requiring a vote. I want to see each representative of the four Licensing Boards who serves on the Board of the BHEC to have voting rights.

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: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:04:19 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 5:10 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: ELIZABETH

Last Name: WEDELL

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor/ TX

Organization you are affiliated with: Self-employed/private practice

Email:

City: BONHAM

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I hold two behavioral health licenses in Texas: Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. I support the formation of the new BHEC as a regulatory board, but I have concerns about its composition and the rights of members.. I strongly believe that there needs to be a professional representative from each of the four behavioral health groups to be included in this new governing body. In addition, I think that this representative should have voting rights just like that of the public-appointed representative/s chosen by the state or Sunset Board. In other words, LPCs, LMFTs, Social Workers and psychologists should each have a representative on the BHEC with voting rights. I oppose giving only the public representative the right to vote and make all decisions.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The alternative recommendation has been included in the above statements/comments about the Staff Report. Each of the professional bodies to be regulated by the BHEC should have an appointed representative with voting rights.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree