

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018 8:08:33 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 10:08 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PSYCHOLOGISTS

First Name: Amanda

Last Name: Wetegrove

Title: Psychologist

Organization you are affiliated with: Bexar County Psychological Association

Email:

City: Helotes

State: Texas

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

Amanda Wetegrove-Romine, PsyD

Clinical Psychologist/South Texas Veterans Health Care System Adjunct Professor/Our Lady of the Lake University

E-mail: awetegrove@gmail.com

April 23, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the unique opportunity of being dually licensed as a master's level LPC and doctoral level psychologist until September 2017. At that time, I chose not to renew my LPC and continue to practice only as a psychologist. As an LPC, I understood different ethical guidelines and was not well-versed in the stringent APA ethical guidelines that dictate the standards for psychologists. During my doctoral program in psychology, I also received extensive training in cognitive and personality functioning, which was not heavily emphasized during my master's level program. Psychologists' application of and contribution to evidence-based research is another difference between most doctoral level and masters level mental health practitioners. Overall, the breadth of my psychology training was much greater than the training I received during my master's program.

When I held an LPC and contacted the board for guidance on various issues, I often spent over thirty minutes placed on hold. Sometimes there was no answer at all. Two close colleagues who have social work licenses in Texas also experience lengthy wait times when contacting their board. In fact, one recently waited two-and-a-half hours to have an important question answered.

On the other hand, TSBEP currently fields questions and resolves practice complaints in a timely manner. I worry

that an over-arching mental health agency would become much less efficient than TSBEP and create problems for psychologists seeking guidance on ethical issues, waiting to resolve complaints against them, and needing to renew their licenses.

While I respect and highly value the role of all mental health providers in Texas, my experience has highlighted the differences between LPCs and psychologists, specifically. Doctoral-level training is vastly different when compared to master's level; I can attest to this personally. I believe it is unlikely that masters level members of an over-arching mental health agency could adequately supervise issues related to my doctoral level practices. TSBEP has been supporting doctoral level psychologists in Texas and I have been pleased with the efficiency in which the board. On the other hand, my experience working with the LPC board was typically frustrating due to lengthy wait times for responses, and I do not wish to experience that again.

Sincerely,
Amanda Wetegrove-Romine, PsyD

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree