

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 3:50:24 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 3:28 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD EXAMINERS PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

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

The goal of the Sunset Commission staff report is to consolidate regulatory functions in Texas at the Texas Department of Licensure and Regulation, an agency that has no experience with mental and behavioral health care providers.

While the proposed recommendations clearly state how administrative, investigative and procedural roles could be consolidated, resulting in lower expenditures related to licensing, my primary concern centers around the fact that licensed professionals are best suited to understand ramifications of LPC rules/regulations and their implementation. Removing licensed professionals from the ethical and legal oversight process could also leave the public unprotected. It is agreed that a backlog of 850 complaints is unacceptable, but a lack of resources and prioritization devoted to the respective mental health boards has contributed to this condition, among others.

One of the most powerful mediators to some of the concerns brought up by staff has been the relationship between the TSBEP and appointed liaisons from the Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (TACES) and the Texas Counseling Association (TCA). Ten years ago, I was appointed as the first TACES Liaison to the TSBEP, and since that time, have developed a strong working relationship that resulted in collaboration with committees like the Rules and Supervision Committees to help them consider the ramifications of proposed rules and regulations. Despite the fact that rules were proposed that seemed to serve the benefit of only a few, voices of Liaisons as well as the professional members of these professional associations were quick to point out lack of fairness, and the rules were ultimately not included in the most recent revisions.

Despite TDLR's ability to regulate non mental-health related boards, I would be greatly concerned with their oversight of not one, but three mental health boards. Allocating licensing fee revenue to these boards, along with implementation of new streamlined procedures could address many of the issues presented in the staff report, also without costs being passed along to license holders. My recommendation is to retain the structure of these boards,

but provide support to help them work out of the concerns presented by staff.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Despite TDLR's ability to regulate non mental-health related boards, I would be greatly concerned with their oversight of not one, but three mental health boards. Allocating licensing fee revenue to these boards, along with implementation of new streamlined procedures could address many of the issues presented in the staff report, also without costs being passed along to license holders. My recommendation is to retain the structure of these boards, but provide support to help them work out of the concerns presented by staff.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree