

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 4:46:20 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 2:53 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 27, 2014 - 14:52

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Dr. Peter D.

Last Name: Bradley

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Association for Marriage & Family Therapy

City: Flower Mound

State: Texas

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

Dear Sunset Commission,

First, let me thank you for all the work you do on behalf of Texans. I know those servings the public is not always easy as issues are often very complex.

I want to express my opinion in opposition to the proposed move of the Texas State Board of Examiners in Marriage & Family Therapy from the DSHS to TDLR.

The practice of Marriage & Family Therapy is highly regulated in all 50 states and is recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services as one of the five (5) Core Mental Health Professions in the USA including psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers and psychiatric nurse specialists. If a change is necessary I believe a more appropriate move for mental health professions would be to the Texas Medical Board.

A brief history of the field of Marriage & Family Therapy reveals that it is the only mental health profession that grew directly out of the practice of Psychiatry. It evolved due to some MD's noticing a high recidivism rate when treating severe mental health disorders including Schizophrenia. What they observed was that patients improved when hospitalized but symptoms would often recur when the patients were sent home. After a great deal of research these Psychiatrists started to treat the whole family and/or the primary authority of the 'sick' children (Marriage) and found that when treating the illness in the context of the family there was a higher rate of success. This is the reason the field is called "Marriage & Family Therapy".

Marriage & Family Therapists are held to the highest standard of training of any mental health profession. While it is common for a master's degree to consist of 45 graduate credits and 50 – 150 hours of required clinical experience Marriage & Family Therapists from accredited programs are required to obtain a minimum of 60 graduate credits

and a minimum of 500 hours of direct client contact as part of their master's degree. An additional three years of experience is required in most states before one can obtain LMFT license.
I hope this gives you just a glimpse into the rigorous training and knowledge necessary to become an LMFT and why it is important for the profession to remain under DSHS or the Texas Medical Board.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter D. Bradley, PhD., LMFT, LPC
President - Texas Association for Marriage & Family Therapy Owner – Cross Timbers Family Therapy, Flower Mound Texas

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If a change is necessary I believe a more appropriate move for mental health professions would be to the Texas Medical Board.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree