

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#); [Brittany Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:23:08 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 16:42

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

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

I strongly encourage the opposition to the recommendation 3.2 of the Texas Sunset Commission staff to make the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the Marriage and Family Therapist and Social Worker licensing boards advisory committees at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation unless the Commission insists that licensees maintain the same or higher standards currently required by the respective licensing boards. The Commission needs to recognize that the regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals. Mental Health services throughout Texas are already sorely lacking and in some cases poorly provided even by those licensed by these Boards but at least they maintain a standard and can revoke licenses. Without such an entity in place, there is a strong chance the standards for licensure could decrease which could create even more problems for providing efficient and effective mental health services. Perhaps one needs to look no further than the LCDC which at one time had minimal requirements and almost anyone could become licensed and offer counseling. However, that is no longer the case as LCDC's need a college education and a required set number of training hours. This change suggests that someone obviously believed more is better than less. This is no less true for LPC's and LMFT's. Please do not pass or accept this recommendation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Maintain the two licensing boards as is or if made into advisory committees that the standards currently recommended for licensure by the Boards are implemented.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree