

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Brittany Roberson](#); [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:31:27 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 1:31 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 - 13:30

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Deborah

Last Name: Edmunds

Title: LPC/Owner

Organization you are affiliated with: H.O.P.E. Psychotherapy of Houston, PLLC

City: Cypress

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Dear Committee Members: I would like to adamantly oppose the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors be reconstituted as advisory committees at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. I worked very hard to obtain an MA degree in Clinical Psychology and my license and I offer valuable professional services to my community and to other professionals (LPC-S) entering the field. I believe LPC's are already marginalized and don't get the recognition/respect deserved by the public and by the insurance industry. We must also have clear ethics and standards to follow to ensure our profession continue to grow with healthy well trained clinicians. We need to be challenged to think of ways to bolster our field vs water it down because there are already too many people not getting services who need it. Help others view this profession as more professional and stop the stigma about receiving mental health services from highly qualified professionals! Thanks for considering my opinion.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I believe there needs to be effort put into advertising services offered by LPC's and others. The public already doesn't understand the differences between psychiatrists and psychotherapists (which includes more than one type of licensure) which makes it difficult to obtain appropriate services! Educate the public and work on taking the stigma out of receiving mental health services. It's about time don't you think?!?

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree