

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:18:50 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 - 08:59

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Ryan

Last Name: Gano

Title: Marriage and Family Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Private Practice

City: San Antonio

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am very concerned about Recommendation 3.2 and the negative impact it could have on mental health services in Texas. It is essential in my view that my profession be regulated by an authoritative board comprised of fellow Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and the public. As a clinician who works both in private practice and in an acute psychiatric hospital, I see how detrimental our fearful and uninformed community is upon the patients and clients I serve. There is no good reason for the community of therapists serving the most vulnerable of our citizens to be regulated by individuals who do not understand mental illness and have not proven they have the capacity to empathize and effectively treat the mentally ill here in Texas. By turning the current board into an advisory committee, I believe the needs of the mentally ill will be more poorly served and our community will end up more at risk. It is never a good idea for authoritative state regulatory boards to be relegated to advisory positions. The TDLR does not currently regulate medical professionals and are unqualified to do so.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: It is imperative that Texas seek qualified mental health professionals with the advanced training and experience guaranteed by such licenses as LMFT, LPC, and LCSW to be involved in a supervisory role at the state level. Otherwise, the whims of political fancy become too powerful to resist. If lawmakers believe a reorganization is necessary for budget reasons, that is fine. But do not put our citizens at risk by allowing the untrained to regulate mental health professionals.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree