

**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:** Friday, June 06, 2014 2:44:01 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 12:08 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 12:07

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Andy

Last Name: Gentry

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor; Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association; Fort Worth Independent School District

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

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

I OPPOSE RECOMMENDATION 3.2. IT IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC'S BEST INTEREST. IN THE BEST INTEREST OF PUBLIC MAINTAIN OVERSIGHT OF COUNSELORS AS A PROFESSION THROUGH A RECOGNIZED REGULATORY BOARD!

- Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. 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.
- Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: IT IS IN THE PUBLIC'S BEST INTEREST TO MAINTAIN THE LPC REGULATORY BOARD. COUNSELORS WORK TOO HARD TO EARN AT LEAST A MASTERS DEGREE AND CLINICAL TRAINING IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC. AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BOARD TOO OVERSEE INSTEAD OF A BEAUCRATIC COMMITTEE IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PROTECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSION.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree