

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 8:38:47 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:10 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 16, 2014 - 20:10

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Grandjean

Title: LPC

Organization you are affiliated with: Marital and Family Therapy Association and the Texas Association of Professional Counselors

City: Allen

State: Texas

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

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulatory Services at this time holds under its sway agencies that do not require a BA or higher degree.

The current regulatory boards for LPCs and LMFTs and Social workers deal specifically with medical professionals who have at least a masters degree, at least 80 or more accredited hours of education and well over 3,000 hours of counseling training.

TDLRS lacks the medical knowledge to effectively regulate medical professional of this caliber. More specifically, having it regulate individuals with this level of training would suggest to the insurance companies that we are not medical professionals despite being acknowledged as such by the state of Texas.

As clinicians we fight an uphill battle to help stop suicidal attempts, depression, autism, and numerous other difficulties while insurance companies continue to decrease our salaries every year. The average salary for working 40 hours a week in Texas and having a masters degree is now less than 30,000 dollars a year. If you put counselors under the TDLRS insurance companies will use this move as further reason to decrease what small salaries we already receive. The result.....sub par treatment and in the long run more expensive cost for the state as we would no longer be able to keep a majority of those who need help out of the hospitals.

This would be despite our degree's, acknowledgment by the state of Texas that

we have the clinical abilities to address mental health issues you will be stating that we are no longer medical professionals and cannot regulate ourselves and that an agency that has no experience in the mental health field (The Texas Department of Regulatory Services has both the medical knowledge and training to regulate who and what we are as medical professionals.

This poses three problems, 1) The TDRS does not have any such training and has limited if any knowledge of the mental health field. 2) By putting the mental health field under TSRS you will be effectively saying we are not medical professionals. 3) Insurance companies which have decreased our salaries by over a thousand dollars each year for the past 7 years will follow this line of reasoning and use it to further decrease our ability to run effective mental health practices by drastically decreasing what we can earn as mental health professionals 4) this will produce sub par care with limited positive medical results and will encourage people to NOT get the necessary training to be able to deal with difficult mental issues such as suicidal ideation, autism, Personality disorders etc. Finally this will increase the mental harm within the community. I STRONGLY recommend that you not take this action and leave the counselors regulated by their own boards to insure a level of professional medical care.

which provide does Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, 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: Leave the regulatory boards as they are. If you wish to improve regulation of counseling practices then improve how the board is conducted. Mandate a limited time for any complaints to be held and dealt with. Revamp the existing boards so that if any complaint is sent it can be filed into a category of serious, moderate or unimportant and trivial. Limit the time for complaints to be dealt with by the board to 1 year. This will encourage the serious issues to be addressed and put pressure on counselors to be even more focused on ethical considerations.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 8:08:54 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:03 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 - 21:03

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Grandjean

Title: LPC

Organization you are affiliated with: Emerald Palace Practice

City: Mckinney

State: Texas

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

I, Brian Grandjean, do NOT wish to have the LMFT's and/or LPC's moved from DSHS to TDLR. I am in favor of keeping our licensing boards with DSHS due to the fact that I considered to be a Health Care provider. I do not want my license to be taxed more to pay for the costs and repercussions of the move, nor do I wish the LMFT's and/or LPC's moved from DSHS. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor. I am also in the process of gaining my Doctoral Degree in Marital and Family Therapy as well as my license in this field. I do not want either license to be professional devalued due to a move to TDLR, a department that works primarily with occupational licenses.

We are Health Providers as stipulated by the Federal Government and the Texas Medical Liabilities Act and should stay with the department that works with other health care entities, specifically DSHS.

Unlike the other licenses being moved, our license is at a Master's degree level or higher, unlike vocational certifications for cosmetologists, sanitation workers, and most of the other entities being moved. TDLR has no history in working with mental health issues.

Such a move could cause insurmountable problems. My foremost concern is with our ability to be paid/reimbursed by insurance companies for our services. It is highly likely that insurance companies will decide to not reimburse LMFT's and/or LPC's because we would no longer be under the jurisdiction of Texas Department of State Health Services. As a clinical professional who's salary has been decreasing every year for at least the past 6 years (first due to decreases with Medicaid reimbursements followed by other insurance companies) and in the state of Texas which currently holds the ranking of the second to the last of all mental health programs in the United States, can we really afford to further reduce the quality of our programs?

As licensed professional counselors, my colleagues and I save the state of Texas hundreds of thousands of dollars every year just by keeping clients out of the hospital. If the boards are moved to TDLR, and the insurance companies decide not to reimburse LMFT's and/or LPC's for their services, many of the people serviced to sustain healthy and productive lives will end up going to the hospital for an indeterminable length of time, which will result in the state of Texas footing the bills. Doesn't it make better sense for the state of Texas to pay less by keeping the boards where they currently are and have mental health clients lead healthier lives with secure mental health treatments and services than to jeopardize those treatments and services by moving the boards to TDLR?

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Improvements can be made to our regulatory boards, but not by moving from DSHS to TDLR. If you are looking at decreasing cost, then help the boards become more efficient and streamlined. I recommend the boards change their operational policies to require that all complaints made by a client or a clinical professional against clinical professionals be made within 1 year of the occurrence as well as require the boards to resolve complaints within the span of no more than 2 years. Such efficiency would help decrease government costs and wastes and reduce the numbers of complaints that are inappropriate or without merit, giving the boards more time to deal with important professional issues.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree