

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 12, 2014 8:04:33 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 9:33 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 - 21:32

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Marsha

Last Name: Head

Title: AA, BS, Psychology and Graduate Student earning a master's degree Marriage and Family Therapy

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

City: Cibolo

State: Texas

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It would be an egregious disservice to the public and mental health professionals to place the licensure of therapist, counselors, and social workers in a general licensing department. Therapists, Counselors and Social Workers must be allowed licensing agencies that can insure the high standards that health care must demand of its professionals. Because of the unique knowledge and qualifications that professional therapists, counselors and social workers required to have in order to offer this desperately needed service---have you listened to or read a news-report recently? -- an independent board of licensure is not an option but a requirement. Without an independent licensure board for therapists, counselors, and social workers, the people of Texas will be denied the quality mental health care they deserve.

As a graduate student I fully expect that when I have earned the right to apply for licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist that I will be held to the highest of ethical, knowledge, and legal standards, and those high standards can only be provided by the highly trained members of the Texas State Board of Examiners of marriage and Family Therapists.

Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists which includes licensed marriage and family therapists as well as public members ensures that all LMFTs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LMFTs 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 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: I strongly suggest the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists remain a separate licensing entity responsible for the licensing of therapist, counselors and social workers. The citizens of Texas deserve the best possible health care, both medical and mental available the existing board of marriage and family therapists will ensure that the state of Texas offers nothing less.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree