

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: Thursday, June 05, 2014 12:51:24 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 10:52

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Laura

Last Name: Hodges

Title: Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association (TCA)

City: Richardson

State: Texas

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

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: I recommend that the Texas Sunset Commission staff leave the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors as well as the Marriage and Family Therapist licensing boards as they are currently set up. These licensing boards operate efficiently and are keenly aware of our licensing requirements, and additionally, excellent at administering/enforcing them so that our licenses have value and meaning to our clients. Nationally, a Texas license is well respected and honored. To have counselors overseen by another entity not in tune with what we do would be a complete mistake!

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree