

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:03:40 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 8:48 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 - 20:47

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Martin

Title: Clinical Director/ Assistant Professor

Organization you are affiliated with: University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

City: Belton

State: Texas

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

Recommendation 3.2 displays a gross misunderstanding of what Marriage and Family Therapists do and the risks that they work with. MFTs regular work with mentally and emotionally vulnerable people, requiring significant oversight by the State. Failure to do so would lead to significant increases in malpractice and harm to the public, even the potential for increased violence and suicide. 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: Get used to the idea that protecting the public requires regulatory bodies. If that costs money, so be it. That's what taxes are for. Do not be afraid of that fact.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree