

**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:** Tuesday, June 10, 2014 5:10:28 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 4:13 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 - 16:13

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Gay

Last Name: McAlister

Title: Dr.

Organization you are affiliated with: Southern Methodist University, Program in Counseling

City: Plano

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am opposed to dissolving the current DSHS. As an LPC-Supervisor and a counselor educator, I am concerned that acceptance of the Sunset Review recommendation to abolish the independent licensing boards for professional counselors (Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers) would put the public at risk through the assignment of licensing responsibilities and oversight to a new, untrained, inexperienced advisory committee. Current operations through the present board provides expertise through experienced, trained staff who are knowledgeable of the specific issues and clinical concerns of both the public and licensed counselors. Transfer of responsibilities to a newly formed system within TDLR creates the potential for extensive harm to the public through delay in receiving services as a consequence of the necessary transition period, and numerous opportunities for misunderstanding of multiple statutes, ethical codes, and state law (sometimes in conflict with other licenses). LPCs, MFTs, and Social Workers are professionals with advanced degrees and clinical skills who have spent years in training, supervision, and in building professional reputations and practice. To disrupt current careers and public access to needed mental health services by implementing an entirely new process of oversight seems at best imprudent and counterproductive, in a worst case detrimental to the statewide needs for mental health counseling.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Remain current design and agency construction

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree