

**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 4:46:30 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 12:36 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 12:35

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: George

Last Name: Pate

Title: Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

City: Jacksonville

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to moving LMFT's from DSHS. I am in favor of keeping our license with DSHS due to the fact that I am a Health Care provider, I do not want my license to be taxed to pay for the move, I am a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and I do not want it to be diminished due to a move to a department that works with occupational licenses.

Marriage & Family Therapists offer specialized services addressing systemic processes that involve families, communities, cultures, religious views, and social/occupational systems. As such, in addition to addressing individuals in the contexts of these systems, we also address the possibility of systemic reorganization in order to achieve a more lasting resolution of the problems being addressed. This approach is markedly different from the primarily individualistic methods generally espoused in counseling, psychology, and in most other medical and behavioral practice training programs. It is particularly significant that the doctoral family therapy program from which I graduated (Texas Woman's University) chose to place its family therapy training program in the School of Human Ecology, rather than in a conventional counseling program.

In view of these concerns, I believe that the purpose, practices, and professional identification of the family therapy license will be diminished and undermined by the proposed move of the licensure body.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Pate, PhD, LMFT  
Core Faculty  
Marriage & Family Program

Capella University

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: In view of the above comments, please maintain the current status of the LMFT Licensing Board as an independent agency within its current organizational structure.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree