

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: Friday, June 06, 2014 11:56:21 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 10:33 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 10:33

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Carrie

Last Name: Proctor

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

City: Round Rock

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am opposed to the Sunset Commission's recommendations to move oversight of mental health licensing boards (currently housed at DSHS) to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Upon looking at the types of licenses that are regulated under that body, I was dismayed to see nothing in common with the medical/mental health field. While I do want the person coloring my hair or fixing my home's wiring to be licensed and regulated, I do not see the rationale for moving master's degree level counseling professionals that deal with public health under this umbrella. I feel it is vital that the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors remain an independent licensing board housed at DSHS due to the importance of regulatory authority and the professional knowledge base needed to ensure public safety. Without a detailed analysis and data indicating how public safety and operations would be improved by a move of this magnitude, I cannot support this recommendation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I am requesting that the Texas State Board of Professional Counselors maintain its independent board status under the Department of State Health Services until the scheduled Sunset Review (in current statute) in 2016. In 2016, I would request that a detailed analysis on ramifications of a move to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation be conducted and that specific consideration be given to ensuring that final authority of rules, regulations and disciplinary actions remain the province of people knowledgeable and trained in mental health professions.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree