

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 25, 2014 4:41:50 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 10:51

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Tonya

Last Name: Rose

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Blanco

State: Texas

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

I have not personally utilized a midwife during childbirth. However, I was present as two of my daughters have utilized them for home birth's on three separate occasions. I was very impressed with how they helped my daughter's have excellent birth events, including the quick thinking and knowledge that prevented harm to both mother's and babies during two minor emergency situations. I feel that certain suggestions that are being considered would have detrimental impact on the ability of my four daughters to bring any more of my grandchildren into this world in a home birth or birthing center setting.

1. Please consider that the Texas Midwifery Board is not due for Sunset Review until 2016-2017. I think that discussion to make any changes to this board or it's laws or rules should wait until that review.
2. The Texas Midwifery Board should not be moved to the Department of Licensing and Regulation. DSHS is best equipped to regulate health care professions. The move will eliminate rule-making authority of the Midwifery Board, an ability crucial to continually improving safety and maintaining best practice standards.
3. In the past, the Sunset Review Commission has rejected the idea of moving the Texas Midwifery Board to the Medical Board or the Board of Nursing. These are not viable alternatives since Licensed Midwives are not doctors, nurses, or physician assistants.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

1. Comments have been made that there is a conflict of interest due to Licensed Midwives holding the majority on the Midwifery Board. I believe this is reasonable since doctors hold the majority on the Medical Board and nurses hold the majority on the Board of Nursing. During the last Sunset Review, it was the Sunset Review Commission that chose to give midwives a majority on the Board since other Boards at DSHS and around the country have practitioners from that profession as the majority on the Board.

2. ACOG/TCOG have stated in their comments that "lay midwives" should have to comply with ACME standards and take the AMCB exam for certification. First, Licensed Midwives are not "lay midwives". The Texas Midwifery Board already requires standardized education for Licensed Midwives as well as the NARM exam, a 350-question, eight-hour comprehensive midwifery exam. NARM is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) which is the same accredits ACME. The requirements recommended by ACOG/TCOG are for nurse-midwives with an expanded scope beyond that of the Licensed Midwife and are not specialized for providing care in out-of-hospital settings. These standards would put over 200 midwives out of business, harming Texas' economy and reducing access to maternity care for thousands of Texans.
3. No changes are currently needed to the Texas Midwifery Board and revisions should be discussed during the 2016-2017 review.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree