

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 8:04:45 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 4:48 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 - 04:47

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Brandy

Last Name: Schumann

Title: PhD, LPCS, RPTS, NCC

Organization you are affiliated with: SMU

City: McKinney

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: As an LPC-Supervisor and a counselor educator, I am opposed to dissolving the current DSHS. 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) could put the public at risk. Assignment of licensing and management to a new, untrained, inexperienced advisory committee likely produces inaccurate evaluation of application and performance. Current operations provide expertise management through experienced, trained staff that are knowledgeable of the specific issues and clinical concerns of both the public and licensed counselors. Transfer of duties to a newly formed procedure within TDLR creates the likelihood for 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 (sometimes in conflict with other licenses), and state law. 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, and in a worst case detrimental to the critical statewide needs for mental health counseling.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: none

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree