

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: Thursday, June 05, 2014 12:45:32 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 11:49

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: John

Last Name: Shirley

Title: Retired counselor

Organization you are affiliated with: Self

City: Richardson

State: Texas

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

Recommendation 3.2 places the public unnecessarily at risk.

The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors which includes licensed professional counselors as well as public members ensures that all LPCs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LPCs on the health and safety of the clients they serve mandates the oversight of an independent regulatory board that includes experienced licensed professionals. Unlike the other professions recommended for transfer to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation in Recommendation 3.2, Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Social Workers must hold advanced graduate degrees and are considered Health Professions under Texas law. None of the occupations currently licensed by TDLR are required to hold even a bachelor's degree.

Professional Counselors and MFTs are currently serving the public mental health needs at a high level of competence. Let's not mess with the current system of regulation or combine them with other occupations that require no college degree.

This recommendation is ill-advised and totally unnecessary. The way things are working now is just fine. If it isn't broke don't fix it.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: no, except for my recommendations above.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree