

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 5:23:28 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 4:36 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 16:36

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Heather

Last Name: Smith

Title: Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Counseling Association

City: Denton

State: Texas

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

Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. It is dangerous to the public to be so careless with a group of professions that have so much power to harm when not governed properly. By passing Recommendation 3.2 the state of Texas would be sending a huge message to its citizens that their mental health care is not as important as their physical healthcare; as if only a physician can harm them. With everything going on in the world today is that really the statement you want to make? Furthermore, passing Recommendation 3.2 sends even a bigger message to us professionals; a message that we are not valued as a Texas asset to its citizens. There is no doubt in my mind that if Texas chooses to make this kind of a statement to the public and its professionals that many of us will reconsider where we are building our business and hiring employees. Show the country that Texas cares. Show the country that Texas is intelligent and understands mental healthcare is just as important as physical healthcare. Do not pass Recommendation 3.2.

Heather N. Smith, M.Ed., Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Please better educate the individual who came up with this dangerous recommendation on the importance of governing healthcare.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree