

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:59:20 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:25 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 27, 2014 - 08:25

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Kristine

Last Name: Tawater

Title: Licensed Midwife & Consumer

Organization you are affiliated with: MotherMe Midwifery

City: Rowlett

State: Texas

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

It has come to my attention as a midwife and as a mother who has used midwives in her own births that Sunset is looking to move The Texas Midwifery Board midwifery governing agency to the TDLR. My first concern is that the Midwifery Board is not open to review until 2016-2017 and therefore should not be under review until that time.

I feel this is a move that will not benefit the midwives of Texas or the mothers, babies, families that we serve. TDLR is not an agency that has experience in overseeing healthcare professions and moving the Midwifery Board to TDLR would result in the Midwifery Board losing their authority and oversight of Texas Midwives and their responsibility to practice safely and be held accountable for their decision making and care of mothers and babies. The Midwifery Board should stay under the umbrella of DSHS.

While Midwives are not seen as "Medical Professionals" but the overseers of normal, healthy, low risk pregnancies and births, we require understanding of the subtle nuances that entails and DSHS is the best place for that in order to keep the highest standards of care available to the consumer. . We are unique in our care and of the clients we serve. The best governing body of midwives ARE midwives and the midwifery board as it currently stands comprised of members of our own community, lay people/consumers and a physician experienced in childbirth. It is important for the longevity of midwifery and the safety of the choice to mothers. Mothers deserve to be able to choose midwifery care for their pregnancies but they also deserve midwives who are professional and well trained and understood by their governing bodies in order to provide the best and safest choice.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Leave the Texas Midwifery Board as it stands, this process and it's members have responsibly served the families of

Texas for many years. The Midwifery Board, like the Nursing is comprised of nurses and Medical board that is comprised of physicians is comprised mainly of midwives who take their responsibility to safe practice very seriously. Licensed Midwives in Texas are not *lay* midwives. We are highly trained in the art and science of normal, low risk, physiological birth. Texas holds its standards of midwifery education in high regard. We have standardized education, we are required to continue our education yearly, we are required to pass the national midwifery exam comprised of 350 questions over 8 hours of testing and skills assessments. This exam & it's agency NARM is recognized by NCCA which also accredits ACME. Please do not hold licensed midwives to the standards of Nurse Midwives, our scope of practice differs greatly and while we work well in conjunction with them and the physicians that serve Texas mothers our specialization is different.

I do not feel that at this time. As a midwife that serves the mothers and babies of Texas and as a mother who has been served by midwives, I do not feel that there is any benefit to this change and it would only seek to s\destroy a successful system that has been in place for years to the detriment of the 200 midwives who take their practice seriously, who support their own families with this work and who bring choice to the mothers of Texas. The Texas Midwifery Board has proven time and again they are responsible and take that responsibility to ensure safe practice very seriously. No review is needed before the already scheduled review in 2016-2017.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree