

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:25:28 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 10:16 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 - 22:16

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Christina

Last Name: Thompson

Title: Past President

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science

City: Port Aransas

State: Texas

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

The recommendation on DSHS report page 47 states that several currently licensed allied health professions should be deregulated by using the lack of licensure of medical laboratory professionals as justification. This recommendation should be reassessed. This statement implies that the performance and quality of Texas medical laboratories is acceptable.

However, this is disputed by several facts:

The report of the Texas State Health Plan prepared by the Statewide Health Coordinating Council has documented the inadequate requirements for clinical laboratory testing personnel and the Council recommended licensure in the 2011-2016 plan and each update since.

Analysis of CLIA statistics show that Texas is number 1 in the number of labs that had deficiencies significant enough to revoke the CLIA certification and closed the laboratories. These labs are closed after several years of documented deficiencies and suggested corrections.

In 2012, seven Texas labs had their CLIA certification revoked. Four of the labs were pediatric clinics. This represents high risk to public health and is the result of inadequate personnel standards. Not only is this a risk to the children and families visiting the clinics but it also results in significant cost to the State of Texas since Medicaid funds are wasted for inaccurate laboratory tests.

The Laboratories at DSHS depend on screening tests and secondary analysis from the clinical laboratories throughout the State of Texas. Inaccurate laboratory tests in the community clinics, doctor's offices and community hospitals could prevent the timely diagnosis of significant pathogens and immediate treatment. It doesn't matter if DSHS has high quality laboratories if the medical laboratories in the communities throughout the state are inadequate.

To suggest that other allied health professionals should follow the under-regulated standards set for laboratory

professionals is NOT the appropriate recommendation. I oppose the recommendation that licensure is not needed for medical laboratory professionals performing medical laboratory tests.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

The Department of State Health Services and all clinical laboratories in the state need licensed personnel performing laboratory tests that impact public health. Education and certification assures quality. Certification is not required in Texas, therefore, quality medical laboratory testing is not assured. The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) only requires a high school education for personnel performing moderately complex laboratory tests which includes blood typing for blood transfusions. Medical laboratory testing requires expertise that is not provided in high school. As a retired university professor, I can assure the commission that high school graduates are not qualified to perform basic laboratory tests and high school graduates certainly do not have the skills to perform more complex medical laboratory tests.

To assure quality medical laboratory testing in the State of Texas and to provide better health care for all Texans, I recommend licensure for clinical laboratory professionals that are performing medical laboratory testing in clinical, hospital and public health laboratories.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree