

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 09, 2014 7:51:55 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Saturday, June 07, 2014 7:37 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Saturday, June 7, 2014 - 07:37

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Charles

Last Name: West

Title: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

City: Lantana

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to reconstituting the Texas Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists into an advisory committee at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. This change would significantly reduce the voice of Texas LMFTs on the regulation process, rules, and needed changes.

Specifically:

- Recommendation 3.2 places the public at risk. The regulatory oversight provided by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists which includes licensed marriage and family therapists as well as public members ensures that all LMFTs are well trained and adhere to high professional standards. The impact of LMFTs 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 Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, 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.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: To leave the current Board as it is constituted.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree