

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: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 2:03:31 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:30 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 - 10:29

Agency: DEPARTMENT STATE HEALTH SERVICES DSHS

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Yarus

Title: Licensed Dyslexia Therapist

Organization you are affiliated with: Academic Language Therapy Association

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Licensure for dyslexia therapists was created to ensure uniformity in treatment. There are too many controversial therapies available and parents spend 10's of \$1,000s on inappropriate help for their children. Parents and children become more and more frustrated as they are spending time, money, and effort on products and methodologies that are unproven and not research based. Many children are working with someone who does not have the appropriate training to help them. You would not send your child to an unlicensed physician. A license is even required for hair removal!

Please help our children and keep licensure for dyslexia therapists in place.

Our children are too important and their futures depend upon it.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If anything, there should be stronger standards for dyslexia interventionists at public and charter schools. I work with adult students (18+) and see what happens on a daily basis with people who do not receive the appropriate instruction in school. They are struggling to get and maintain jobs. They struggle to get through college (if they make it that far) and many give up and drop out. They fall victim to people who take advantage of their low literacy. They struggle to support their families. Please make a better future for Texas.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

Mary Yarus

Sunset Advisory Commission
June 25, 2014
Department of State Health Services
Licensure for Dyslexia Therapists

Mary Yarus, M.Ed., LDT, CALT
Director of Family Support and Adult Literacy
Neuhaus Education Center
Bellaire, Texas
Co-Chair, East Texas Branch of the Academic Language Therapy Association

Neuhaus Education Center is a non-profit professional development center for teachers, providing evidence-based training. We work with many independent school districts across the state, charter schools, and private schools. We are also one of the training centers in Texas for dyslexia therapists. We have a cohort with Southern Methodist University so that teachers in Houston can earn a Master's degree in Education, Reading and Writing and become Licensed Dyslexia Therapists.

In the Family Support Office, we are contacted by approximately 3,000 parents and family members annually seeking help for their children who struggle with reading, spelling and writing. While Neuhaus does not provide direct resources to children, we do provide information and referrals to families. Most of these families are seeking dyslexia therapists. Frequently parents contact us after spending hundreds to thousands of dollars on controversial methods, only to discover that their child continues to struggle with reading. Sometimes parents have hired people who claimed to be experts, but had actually received minimal training.

The Academic Language Therapy Association (ALTA) provides certification for dyslexia therapists on a national level, but there is no certification on the state level. When parents hire a Licensed Dyslexia Therapist to work with their child, they can rest assured that they are receiving services from a skilled and knowledgeable provider. Rather than taking someone at their word, the parent can go to the state website and confirm that the person is licensed.

Texas has come so far in helping our students with dyslexia. Taking away licensure will have a huge negative impact on the ability of parents to make informed decisions about the professionals who work with their children. Please continue to protect our children and support licensure for dyslexia therapists.