



Texas Physician Health Program

Medical Director: Brad Fitzwater, M.D.

333 Guadalupe, Tower 2, Suite 520, Austin, Texas 78701 Phone: (512) 305-7462 Fax: (512) 463-0216 www.txphp.state.tx.us

November 16, 2016

Mr. Ken Levine
Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
P.O. Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711-3066

Dear Mr. Levine,

On behalf of the Texas Physician Health Program ("program" or "TXPHP"), we appreciate the opportunity to respond to the staff report on the Texas Medical Board issued November 2, 2016.

Regarding Issue 5, *An Undefined Structure and Few Funding Sources Limit the Texas Physician Health Program's Success*, the program concurs with and supports the staff's report and the findings regarding the program's relationship with the Texas Medical Board (TMB) and program funding issues.

The Texas Physician Health Program is in agreement with the two recommendations contained in Issue 5 of the staff report to develop an operational memorandum of understanding with TMB and to authorize the program to accept gifts, grants, and donations.

The program supports Recommendation 2.4, which would remove the statutory limitations on the Medical Board to set fees, including TXPHP program fees.

The Texas Physician Health Program appreciates the professionalism, thoroughness, and courtesy of the Project Manager and the team. We look forward to continuing the cooperation during the review process.

Please contact Dr. Fitzwater if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alison Jones, M.D.
Presiding Officer

Brad Fitzwater, M.D.
Medical Director

GOVERNING BOARD

Eugene Boisaubin, MD * Mary Boone, LCSW, LCDC * Ronald Brenz, DO * Vicki Chancellor, MD * Judy Googins, MD * Alison Jones, MD *
Helaine Lane * Martha Leatherman, MD * Anand Mehendale, MD * Russell Thomas, Jr., DO * Vicki Waters PA-C