

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, April 02, 2018 11:53:12 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 11:42 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS STATE BOARD SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS

First Name: Mary Ann

Last Name: Kwiatkowski

Title: LCSW and Board Approved Supervisor

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Please add these to the comments I previously made:

I support the creation of the BHEC through the transformation of the psychology board.

I oppose the classification of professional appointees on the BHEC as ex officio members.

The TSBSWE is not operating efficiently and effectively under HHSC.

Each board must remain independent under the BHEC.

The TSBSWE must have more money to operate effectively.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: The BHEC should be made up of nine voting members - one public and one professional from each of the four boards, with a final public member appointed by the Governor.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sunset Review of the Behavioral Health Boards  
**Date:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 5:05:08 PM

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**From:** Mary Ann Kwiatkowski  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 4:25 PM  
**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission  
**Subject:** Re: Sunset Review of the Behavioral Health Boards

Thank you for your email and the link to recommendations.

From the Sunset report, "the professional counselor board still takes an average of 949 days to resolve a complaint and 107 days to process a licensing application, and continues to have nearly 700 backlogged complaints" - yikes! Since the consolidation per HB 2292, our board has not functioned well. Social workers calling the board are placed on hold and wait long periods of time. The lengthy time for approvals of clinical supervision plans means unnecessary delays for LMSWs in getting their LCSW credentials. As someone who has hired social workers, an ineffective board slows down the hiring process for graduating BSWs and MSSWs attempting to obtain their license. I am hopeful you are working to change this.

We definitely need a more efficient and more effective as well as an appropriately funded social work licensing board. I understand that the board takes in about \$1.2 million in SW fees annually but the budget is only about \$500k so the balance ends up in General Revenue. In my opinion what we really need is a line item in the state budget.

I like the idea of a combined behavioral healthcare executive council model, which NASW proposed during the session. It would also be better to have it housed where the psychology board is located (under TDI) instead of at HHSC.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Ann Kwiatkowski, LCSW and Board Approved Supervisor

From: **Sunset Commission** <[Sunset@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:Sunset@sunset.texas.gov)>

Date: Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 1:55 PM  
Subject: Sunset Review of the Behavioral Health Boards  
To: Recipient <[Sunset@sunset.texas.gov](mailto:Sunset@sunset.texas.gov)>

March 28, 2018

Dear Recipient:

The Sunset Staff Report on the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, and Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, as submitted to the Sunset Advisory Commission, is available for your review on our website, [www.sunset.texas.gov](http://www.sunset.texas.gov). To request a hard copy of this report, contact our office. The Sunset Commission has scheduled a public hearing on this report for April 25 and 26, 2018. At that time public testimony will be taken. An agenda specifying the meeting time, location, and the order of agencies scheduled for discussion will be available on our website as soon as the meeting has been posted. You may follow announcements by the Sunset Commission on social media through information posted on our website.

If you would like to comment on this report, the commission would appreciate hearing from you. Your feedback would be most helpful if it includes the following elements:

- Your position in support or opposition for each recommendation in the staff report
- A clear, brief statement of suggested changes, if any, to these recommendations
- A clear, concise summary of any new issues or recommendations not included in the report that you would like the Sunset Commission to consider

If you submit your response by Wednesday, April 11, we can provide this information to the Sunset Commission members before the public hearing. Comments received in response to a staff report are considered public records, and will be posted on the Sunset website and released to the public upon request.

Thank you for your assistance with the Sunset review process.

Ken Levine  
Director  
Sunset Advisory Commission

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