



April 20, 2018

RE: Sunset Advisory Report for the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists

Dear TASP Member:

The Sunset commission recently issued their staff report reviewing the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. This report contained the same recommendations from the previous Sunset review. One prominent issue raised within the recommendation report calls for the consolidation of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP) into the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (TBHEC). Other boards recommended for consolidation into the TBHEC include: Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and Board of Social Worker Examiners. The full scope of that recommendation can be found here: [Sunset Review TSBEP](#)

The TASP executive board met to review the Sunset recommendations and have rendered a position in favor of the consolidation of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists into the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council. The full board resolution is as follows:

Resolution Regarding the March 2018 Texas Sunset Report for the Behavioral Health Boards Recommendation for the Behavioral Health Executive Council

School psychologists help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community for all students.

Whereas there is a clear need to regulate the practice of psychology and other behavioral health specialties to protect the public based on established professional standards;

Whereas, the practice of psychology, counseling, social work, and marriage and family therapy are distinct professional disciplines which each require specialized training and professional competencies; and

Whereas the Texas Sunset Advisory Committee has completed their review of the Texas Behavioral Health Boards (Marriage and Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Psychologists) and recommended the current Behavioral Health Boards be consolidated, creating the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Texas Association of School Psychologists:

1. Supports the Sunset Committee's recommendation for the consolidation of Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists into the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (TBHEC);
2. Expects that this agency will equitably represent every licensee group within the practice of psychology;
3. Expects that the TBHEC would ensure that no one professional group holds power or more influence over that of another group; and
4. Seeks to collaborate with the Texas Legislature and other stakeholders in the development and operation of the TBHEC to ensure the informed development and regulation of the practice of psychology within the state of Texas.

Approved by the TASP Executive Board on 04/14/18

Please email me if you're interested in participating in advocacy opportunities or for questions/comments: Stephanie Kneedler @ govtrelations@txasp.org

Sincerely,

Thomas Schanding, PhD

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