



## WASHINGTON PHYSICIANS HEALTH PROGRAM: QUICK FACTS

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### **WPHP's Mission & Vision:**

- **Mission:** WPHP is Washington's trusted resource for restoring the health of medical professionals. Our confidential support and exceptional outcomes provide reassurance of safe practice and promote workforce sustainability.
- **Vision:** Advancing the health and well-being of our medical community.

**WPHP is not the medical/licensing board:** We are an independent, physician-led, nonprofit organization funded primarily by a license surcharge paid by physicians and other licensee groups we serve (MD, DO, PA, DDS/DMD, DPM, DVM).

**WPHP is experienced:** We have been serving health professionals and the medical community in Washington for more than 35 years.

### **WPHP is voluntary:**

- Participants may self-refer to WPHP or be offered an opportunity to work with WPHP to address performance or behavioral concerns that may be due to a health condition.

### **WPHP is confidential:**

- **86% of WPHP participants are unknown to the Washington Medical Commission or other applicable medical regulatory entity.**
- WPHP records have special confidentiality protections per RCW 18.130.175 which make them exceedingly difficult to obtain by subpoena or court order.
- As long as there are no concerns for patient safety, participant information is kept strictly confidential to WPHP and only released with appropriate consent.

### **WPHP is highly effective: There is no model of care that approaches the success that WPHP participants enjoy.<sup>1</sup> Key outcome data for WPHP include:**

- Less than half of referrals require a health support agreement. In most cases, help is offered, and concerns are put to rest.
- 87% of substance use disorder participants have no detected return to use during their time in the program and 83% of participants are successfully working in their chosen profession at program completion.
- 1 in 5 participants rate the program as "lifesaving" and more than 70% rate it as "very helpful" or higher at program completion.
- 91% of participants report needing and benefitting from WPHP advocacy.
- WPHP participants have less than half the rate of burnout of US/Washington physicians (18% vs. 63% nationally).
- 80% of WPHP participants consider their illness to be in full remission at program completion.

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<sup>1</sup> Domino JAMA 2005, Knight J Psychiatry Pract 2007, Buhl Arch Surg 2007, McLellan BMJ 2008, Brooks Occ Med 2013.

**WPHP is accountable:**

- Governed by a Board of Directors representing diverse stakeholders. WPHP Board of Directors and Bylaws must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA) Board of Trustees.
- Quarterly reports to the WSMA Board of Trustees and a comprehensive program report annually to the WSMA House of Delegates.
- Detailed quarterly statistical reporting to Department of Health (DOH) and comprehensive annual program reporting.
- Annual and exit surveys of program participants and stakeholders.
- WPHP is planning to be one of the first state PHPs to undergo an external review by the Federation of State Physician Health Programs' national PEER™ program.

**WPHP is a national leader among physician health programs:**

- Chris Bundy, MD, MPH, WPHP's Executive Medical Director, is also the Chief Medical Officer and a Past President of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs, serving on its Board of Directors since 2015.

**WPHP is compassionate, fair, and highly ethical:**

- 91% of program completers report being treated with courtesy and respect by WPHP staff.
- Full informed consent occurs at the initial interview including limits of confidentiality, risk, benefits, and alternatives to program participation.
- WPHP utilizes a meaningful reconsideration process to resolve disagreements.
- WPHP has a strong conflict of interest policy and receives no funds from evaluation or treatment centers or any entity with a business interest in WPHP.
- WPHP provides need-based scholarships, payment options, and deferral of payment. Nobody is turned away due to inability to pay.