

AFFILIATIONS

Boards

The HPP is independent of the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, Oklahoma Board of Osteopathic Examiners, and the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry. However, documentation of participation in and compliance with our monitoring program can be essential in helping to maintain and/or restore licensure.

Associations

The Oklahoma State Medical Association, The Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and the Oklahoma Dental Association work closely with the Director and Associate Directors of the HPP in making referrals and in assisting the professionals return to practice. Funding is provided by these organizations on an annual basis.

Oklahoma State Medical Association
405-843-9571

Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
405-528-4848

Oklahoma Dental Association
405-848-8873

Oklahoma Board of Dentistry
405-524-3592

PLICO
405-286-6800

Oklahoma Board of Licensure
405-848-6841

Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners
405-528-8625

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Call the 24-Hour Confidential Hotline
(405) 427-4391
Fax: (405) 840-1143

DIRECTOR

Lanny Anderson, MD
(405) 427- 4391

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

William O'Meilie, MD – Tulsa
(918) 747- 4310

Merlin Kilbury, MD - Tulsa

Robert Westcott, MD - Lindsey

David Casper, MD - Oklahoma City

HPP STAFF

Barbara Matthews
(405) 843-9571



Health Professionals Program

A confidential, effective, compassionate approach to recovery and treatment for physicians and medical professionals with drug and alcohol abuse and behavioral problems.



WHAT *is the* Health Professionals Program (HPP)?

Since 1983, the Health Professionals Program has provided services to over 800 physicians and health care providers with alcohol and chemical dependence. HPP is an outreach program designed to support and monitor medical and allied health professionals throughout Oklahoma who are experiencing difficulty with substance abuse.

Because of the commitment to provide resources to professionals in need, HPP employs a medical director and four part time associate directors to administer the program.

The HPP continues to be a leader nationally in identifying problems, assisting in treatment, and returning to practice physicians who have suffered from substance abuse or dependency.

HPP provides a safe environment in which physicians can talk to other physicians about the stress and demands of modern medical practice. Issues often relate to the difficulties of managing practice, coping with a competitive work environment, financial pressures, dealing with administrative burdens, and work-family balance.

HPP services are confidential and are provided at no cost. Services include expert consultation and intervention designed to encourage physicians to seek help for substance abuse and behavioral concerns.

HPP is a confidential resource for any physician, resident, medical student, group practice, HMO network, or hospital faced with any of the following physician concerns:

- Stress
- Substance Use Disorders
- Behavioral Health

SERVICES

- Referral to treatment and counseling
- Recovery monitoring and documentation
- Support groups for health professionals, residents, medical students, and their families
- Consultation for stress related to practice issues
- Networking opportunities with colleagues experiencing similar issues
- Educational programs and presentations for hospitals, HMOs, and medical staff meetings
- Guidelines, statutes, and regulations to hospitals and health care organizations for handling matters of physician health

REFERRALS

When an individual contacts the HPP about a physician or about himself or herself, the director or designated associate director assesses the situation and assists in guiding the physician. Participation with HPP is voluntary and confidential. HPP will strongly urge a professional who is ill to get help, and although HPP does not provide direct treatment, we will suggest specific treatment options. We respond to the concerns of families, colleagues, and hospitals by providing coordinated interventions and referrals to treatment. In addition, HPP hosts a number of support group meetings open to all professionals, medical students, residents in recovery as well as those seeking peer support.

HPP recognizes the difficulty of reporting a colleague who may be impaired. Because of the potential risk to patient care, HPP encourages medical professionals to make referrals if a problem exists, no matter how long there has been a problem. Referrals are accepted from colleagues, family members, patients, or friends.

The Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act (Medical Practice Act) requires a Medical Doctor to report to the Board if there is a prudent basis to suspect that another physician is practicing while impaired by substance abuse or is habitually drunk or on drugs and is physically or mentally unstable.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is a cornerstone of the Health Professionals Program (HPP). HPP recognizes the importance of respecting the privacy of those who come forward to seek help, and HPP is committed to devoting its resources to protecting that privacy. It is critical to HPP that professionals feel comfortable that the information they share in the context of HPP will remain confidential and will be protected to the full extent of the law.