

An Update on the Structure and Function of the PHP including one Physician's Personal Journey to Wellness

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Disclosures

- No relevant financial relationships with any commercial interests.

2024 Appalachian Addiction Conference

September 19 – 21, 2024

Embassy Suites

Charleston, WV

www.aapdac.org



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Special Populations – Safety Sensitive

The extent of the effect on the public comes from three factors:

1. The **size** of the population they affect,
2. The **depth of damage** on a single person that arises from potential impairment, and
3. The amount of **public trust** that is implied in that worker's occupation.

***Fail first isn't safe**

Program Inception/Development

- Task Force (2005-2007)
- Enabling Legislation (2007, SB573)
- Incorporation as independent, non-profit 501(c)3 (Aug. 2007)
- Licensure fee, partial funding (May 2010)

2007 – PHP Legislative Signing



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BALANCED RELATIONSHIPS BALANCE

Confidentiality ↔ Public protection

“Illness” ↔ “Impairment”

Treatment ↔ Sanction

*** Creative Tension**

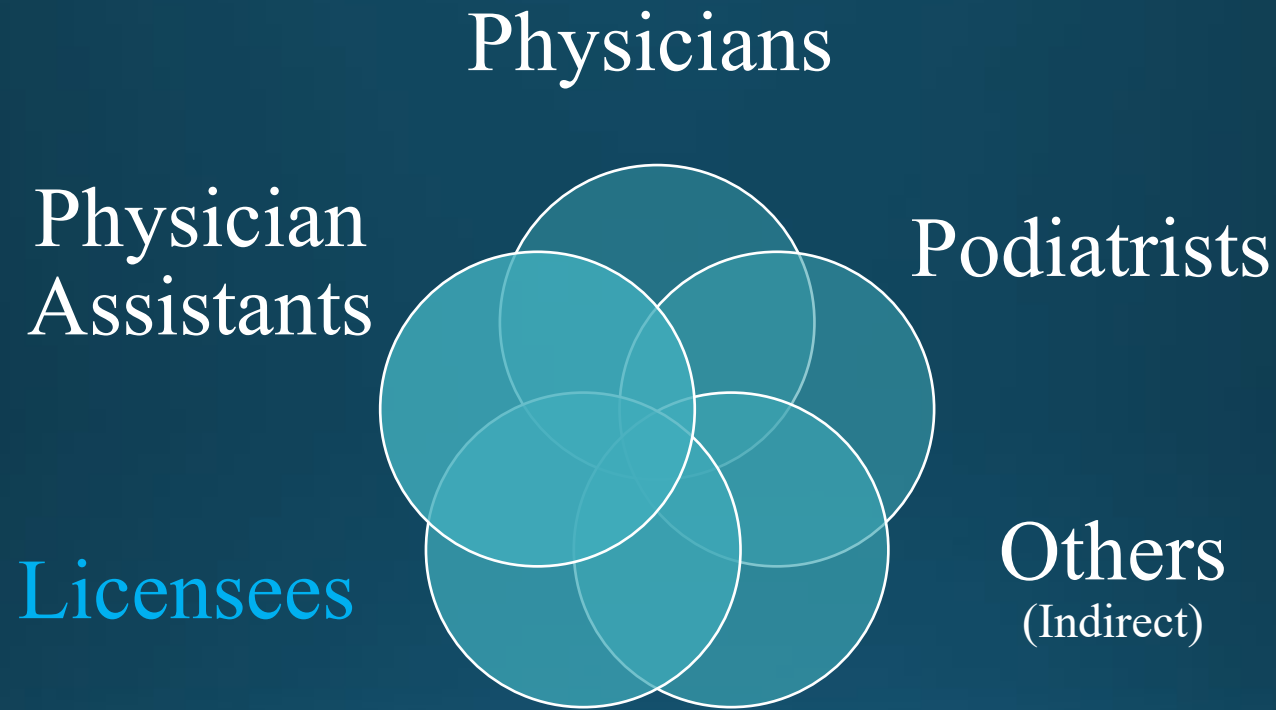
LEGISLATION

Senate Bill # 573 – March 8, 2007

- Provided PHP existence – Board discretion*
- Voluntary / Confidential *
- Protected Records*
- Immunity – Boards / PHP*
- Populations served
- Qualifying illness
- Availability
- Education
- Compliance / Monitoring
- Statistical Reports
- Funding*

* Critical

Populations Served



Non-discriminatory



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Board Agreements

- Designated PHP
- Qualifying Illness
- Availability / Referrals
- Participation Agreement(s) / Monitoring
- Qualified Providers
- Education
- Complaints Reporting to the WVMPHP / to the Board
- Compliance Documentation
- Non-compliance Reporting

Board Agreements

Reporting Requirements

- Upon initial participation
- Failure to respond to treatment
- Non-compliance with agreement
- Imminent danger to the public or self
- Program statistics every 6 months
- Quarterly reporting on known participants

Board Agreements Today

- *January 2024— West Virginia Board of Medicine officially signed an agreement with the West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program. (Renewed x5 yrs)
- *February 2024— West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine signing a similar agreement. (Renewed x5 yrs)

* Licensure Renewal Applications —Grant confidentiality

West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program

Mission Statement:

To protect healthcare consumers through seeking the early identification and rehabilitation of physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare professionals with potentially impairing health concerns including abuse of mood altering drugs including alcohol, mental illness or physical illness affecting competency so that physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare professionals so afflicted may be treated, monitored and returned to the safe practice of their profession to the benefit of the healthcare profession and the patients we serve.

Structure & Function

- WVMPHP Board of Directors – Fiduciary
- WVMPHC Case Management - Participants

WVMPHP

Board of Directors (15)

- WV Medical Schools (3) – ex-officio
- WV State Medical Association
- WV Mutual Insurance Company
- WV Hospital Association
- WV Podiatric Medical Association
- WV Society of Addiction Medicine
- WV Association of Physician Assistants
- WV Osteopathic Medical Association
- WV Citizen – WVMPHP Board Appointed
- At Large Physicians (4)

WVMPHP

Case Management Committee

- WVMPHP Board Approved
- Addiction Psychiatry
- Psychiatry
- Addiction Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Recovery
- Physician Assistant
- Podiatry
- Geography
- Personal Experience

Staff

- Executive Medical Director
- Administrator
- 2 Case Managers

How it Works (All Referrals)

- Initial contact / collateral
- Initial Follow-up – Case Manager
- Intake / Interview
 - Participation documents
 - Drug testing specimen collection
 - Referral for Assessment

*Board referrals are typically for monitoring or assessment/treatment

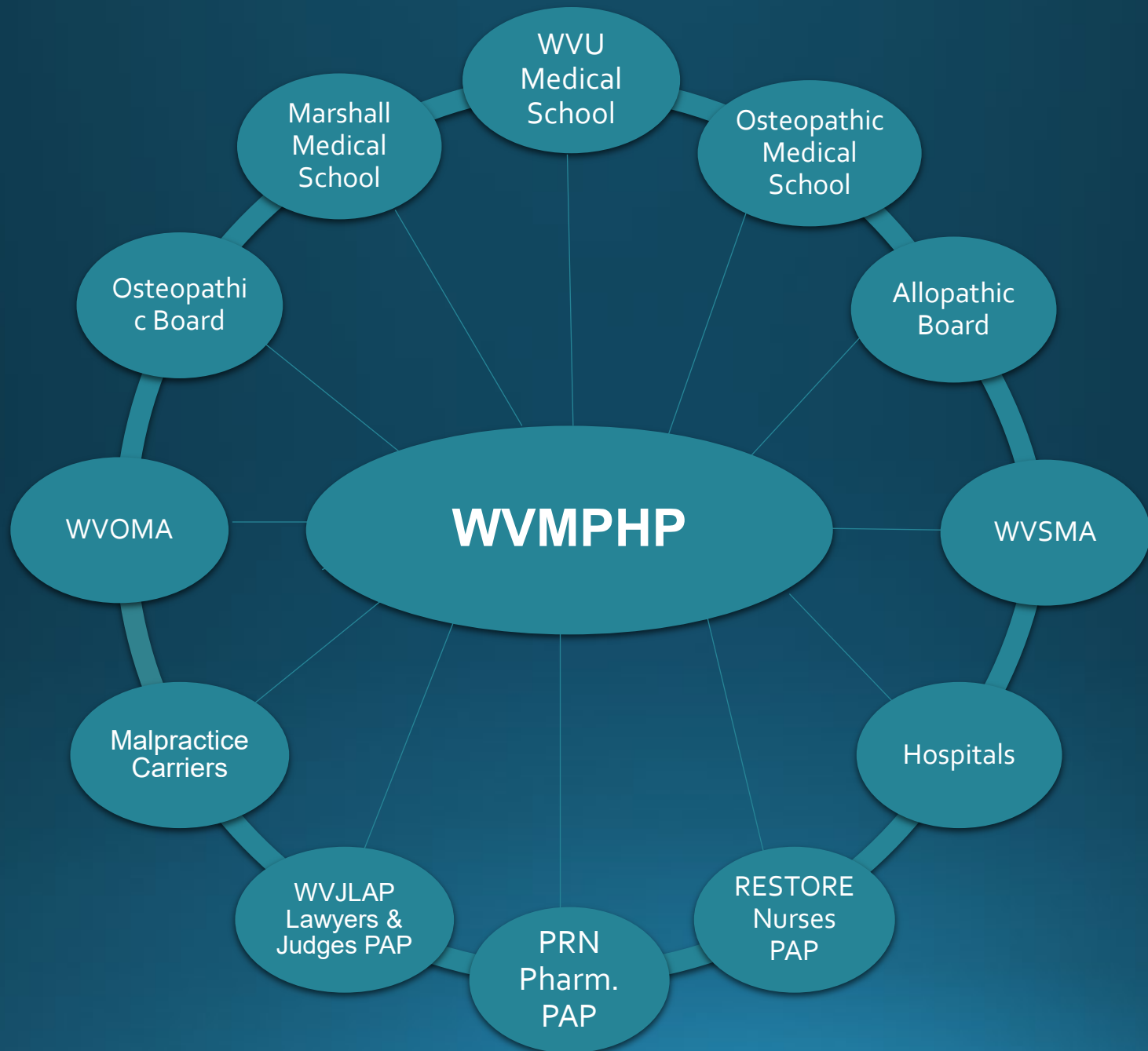
How it Works

- Assessment – Recommendations
 - Non-participation
 - Letter of Understanding (LOU)
 - Treatment
- After Treatment
 - Continuing Recovery Care Agreement (CRCA)
 - Mental Health Recovery Care Agreement (MHRCA)
 - Reciprocal / Extended
- Compliance Reporting
- Non-Compliance Reporting



Other Activities

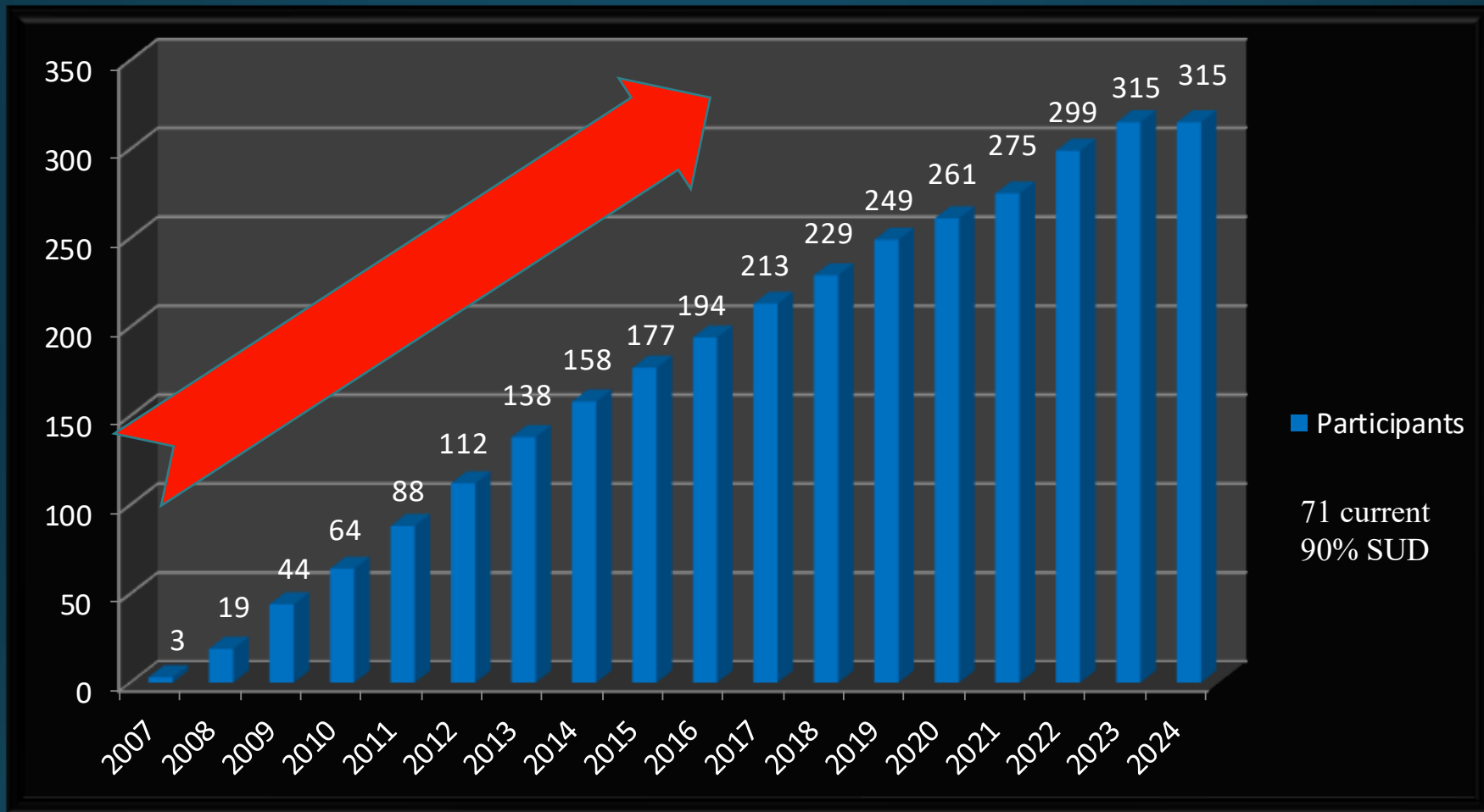
- Education (# / # attendees)
- Non-participation contacts
- Fund raising campaign
- Appalachian Addiction & Prescription Drug Abuse Conference
- 3-Hour Proper Prescribing Web Course
- Impairment DVD
- Physician Education Grant (\$200+K)
- WVSMA, WVSAM, WVADAC, WVOMA, RESTORE, PRN, WVJLAP
- Phone consultations* - live person



Effective Systems of the PHP and Boards

- ★ Physicians with potentially impairing conditions who come forward are **given the opportunity** for evaluation, rehabilitation, treatment and monitoring **with or without disciplinary action** in an anonymous, confidential and respectful manner.

WVMPHP Program Volume



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EVERYBODY WINS

- Potentially impaired physicians receive help
- Medical Community retains their physician
- Licensure Boards better protect the public
- Physician Health Programs experience assisting another physician
- The public retains a highly trained practicing healthy physician providing access to medical care

Patients with a history of addiction in Recovery (medical professionals)

CANNOT CONTROL MEDICALLY NECESSARY MEDICATION BY THEMSELVES. Someone should oversee medication administration

Cannabis





Life is an opportunity,
benefit from it.

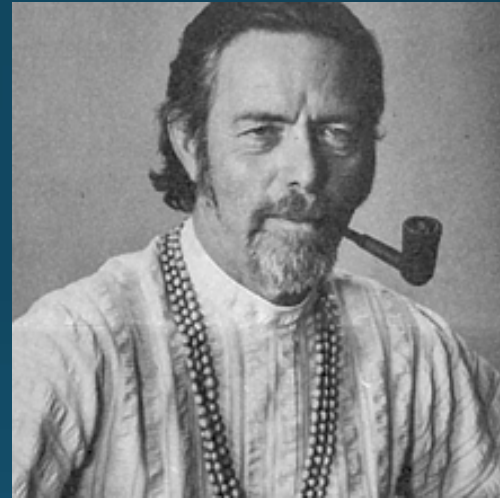
Mother Teresa

quotefancy



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The Farmer Parable



- Alan Watts, British Philosopher (1915-1973)

Once there was a farmer who worked his poor farm together with his son and their horse.



When the horse ran off one day, neighbors came to say, “What bad luck for you!”

The farmer replied, “Good or Bad....hard to say”

When the horse returned, followed by a herd of wild horses, the neighbors gathered around and exclaimed, “What good luck for you!”

The farmer replied, “Good or Bad....hard to say”





While trying to tame one of the wild horses, the farmer's son fell, and broke his leg. He had to rest up and couldn't help with the farm chores. "What bad luck for you," the neighbors cried.

The farmer replied, "Good or Bad....hard to say"

Shortly thereafter, a neighboring army threatened the farmer's village. All the young men in the village were drafted to fight the invaders. Many died.

But the farmer's son had been left out of the fighting because of his broken leg.

People said to the farmer, "What good luck your son couldn't fight!"

The farmer replied, "Good or Bad....hard to say"



Reflection

- What is the moral of the story?
- How does this resonate with your experience over the last 3+ years?

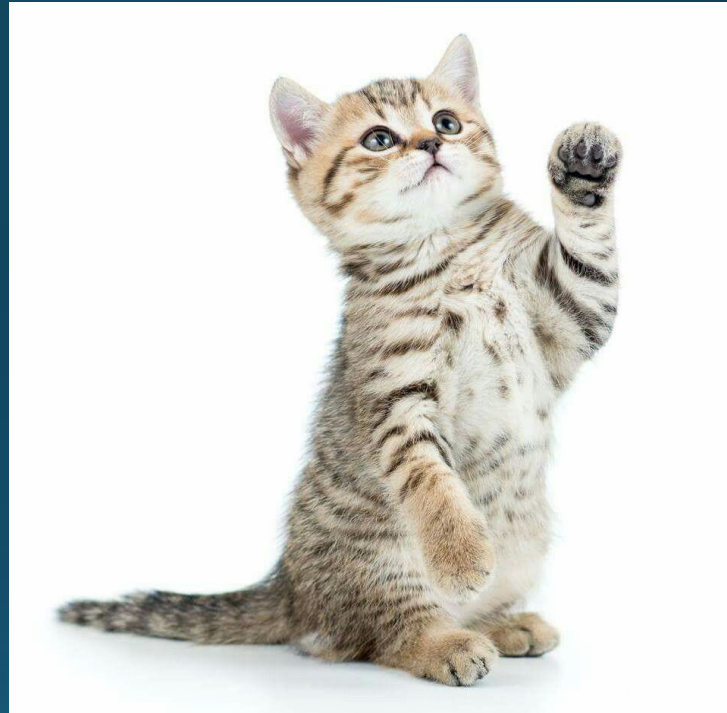
The Challenge of Changing Times

Change is the one constant in life and yet it causes the most unrest at the individual and community level due to fear of the unknown.

Special Guest Speaker

THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE AND FOR WHAT YOU DO !! Brad

Questions?



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