

PHYSICIANS' HEALTH PROGRAMS

777 East Park Drive
P.O. Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820

PHP-foundation@pamedsoc.org
www.paphp.org

(717) 558-7818 (Fax)

Telephone Hours:
Monday – Thursday:
7:30 am to 5:00 pm
(866) 747-2255 (PA only)
(717) 558-7819

Friday:
Emergency Calls Only
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Caduceus Extincteus

John Martyniuk, PhD, MD

Probably due to some deep, dark subconscious need, I was ignoring the issue. Recently a PHP committee member forced me to examine what I probably was aware of all the time. “Caduceus attendance is way down. Do you still require it in the contract?” I sheepishly acknowledged that Caduceus attendance was still very much a requirement of our monitoring agreements.

While Caduceus attendance would seem to be robust if only considering the “blue cards”, several participants have clearly noted that Caduceus attendance has significantly declined over the past several years in a number of the more prominent groups. And, I have been errant in letting it go.

There are many important reasons to emphasize Caduceus attendance and participation. Perhaps the most fundamental is that it is indeed a monitoring requirement. There are certain times when there is a need for flexibility and/or individualization of monitoring agreements. However, almost all the initial agreements signed with the PHP have some degree of Caduceus requirement. Compliance and honesty are thoughts that come to my mind with respect to the above and the aforementioned blue cards. If you aren't going, don't mark it down. There may be repercussions but at least there is also honesty. *Honesty is pretty important in recovery. I remember reading something about that in the other blue thing . . . a book, I believe.*

Caduceus attendance makes you accountable to your peers. Recovering docs know recovering docs the best. Many participants who are doing well in recovery find Caduceus the most enjoyable element of their recovery activities. Reasons for not attending Caduceus such as not wanting, fearfulness, embarrassment or anger might question how robust one's recovery actually is.

Identification is another positive element of Caduceus attendance. It's my observation that it's pretty easy for docs to distance themselves from the “lay public.” Be that as it may, there's no “lay public” at Caduceus meetings. Identification with other recovering alcoholics/addicts helps with surrender, gratitude, and fellowship to name a few.

Lastly and perhaps the most obvious reason for Caduceus attendance is the ability to freely talk about medical, physician specific issues in a receptive recovery environment. Sometimes this is the only place where medical practice issues, as they relate to personal recovery, can be discussed and understood with pertinent feedback and support.

At the end of the day, the Pennsylvania PHP has its roots as a peer assistance program with support of recovery as its core feature. I would like to maintain this philosophical foundation as much as possible. And, so I appeal to your sense of honesty, commitment to your personal recovery and concern for your peer's recovery. **Caduceus Attendeeus!**



“...the ability to freely talk about medical, physician specific issues in a receptive recovery environment.”

PHP UPDATE is published semi-annually by the Physicians' Health Programs.

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John Martyniuk, PhD, MD
Shirley Stuppy
Lou Verna, MAC, LPC
Beth Ann Lepley
Wendie Dunkin
Vicki Baker

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Honorary and memorial contributions create a lasting remembrance of special individuals while benefiting the work of the PHP.

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Those hospitals contributing up to \$4.99 per staff member from the medical staff and/or the administration are recognized as PHP Hospital Contributors.

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Aria Health
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Hospitals that contributed \$10 per staff member from both the medical staff and the administration are recognized as Premier Supporter hospitals for their high level of commitment to the PHP.

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Brandywine Hospital
Elk Regional Health Center
Evangelical Community Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital - Lebanon
Hazleton General Hospital
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UPMC Mercy
UPMC Northwest - Seneca
UPMC Passavant
UPMC St. Margaret
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Forbes Regional Campus
York Hospital

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Allegheny General Hospital
Chambersburg Hospital
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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Those hospitals that met the PHP's suggested giving level of \$5 per staff member from both the medical staff and the administration are designated Key Supporter hospitals.

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Grove City Medical Center
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The Reading Hospital and Medical Center
Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital
Washington Hospital
Waynesboro Hospital
Windber Medical Center

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center
Delaware County Memorial Hospital
Ellwood City Hospital
Ephrata Community Hospital
The Gettysburg Hospital
Guthrie Health/Robert Packer Hospital
Jeanes Hospital
Jefferson Regional Medical Center
Lewistown Hospital
Mercy Hospital Scranton
Millcreek Community Hospital
Ohio Valley General Hospital
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
Titusville Area Hospital
Uniontown Hospital
UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside - Shadyside Campus
The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Forbes Regional Campus

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In 2000, the Foundation established the Physicians' Health Programs Endowment to ensure advocacy and monitored recovery services for future generations of physicians. The following listing recognizes donors to the PHP Endowment in 2010.

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Madlyn K. Orloski

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Donation Received from ProMutual Insurance Group

Last fall, Will Hermann and Diane Corjulo from ProMutual Insurance Group, one of the top ten medical professional liability insurance providers in the country, made a contribution to the Physicians' Health Programs in the amount of \$3,100. ProMutual donated over \$300,000 in 2010 to PHP programs in the eight states in which it provides coverage. The amount is based on the percentage of business it does in each state.

"Programs that promote physician well-being are integral to both the success of patient care and the healthcare system," said Gregg L. Hanson, chief operating officer for ProMutual Group. "A focus on such programs is particularly important considering today's challenging healthcare environment and we are proud to support these outstanding programs that do so much to keep physicians healthy and taking care of patients."

This is the third year that ProMutual has made a donation to the Pennsylvania PHP. We are thankful for its support.



Left to right: Virginia Henning, John Martyniuk, Diane Corjulo, and Will Hermann

MY Gift

YES, I will support the PHP/Foundation with my gift of \$_____.

PLEASE DESIGNATE MY GIFT FOR (check one):

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 ___ General Fund ___ PHP Endowment
 - Annual Fund/General Operating Support
 - Medical Student Loans
 - Medical Student Scholarships
 - Tribute gift in memory honor of _____.
- Please send acknowledgment to:

Name _____

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- Check** (payable to The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society)
- Credit Card** (or donate on our Web site at www.foundationpamedsoc.org)
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 - MasterCard
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Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

- Recurring Gift** (we will send form)
- Pledge** of \$_____ to be paid by _____.
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- I would like to learn more about planned giving opportunities.
Please contact me.

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A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Staff Changes at the PHP

Over the past several months, the PHP has undergone several staff changes. Some of the staff to whom you have been talking to over the years have left due to various reasons and new staff have or will be coming onboard. To update all of you about the staff changes, they are detailed below:



Vicki A. Baker

In July of 2010, **Vicki A. Baker** was hired as a part-time administrative assistant to help with telephone calls, paperwork, etc. in the PHP. She worked 18 hours per week.

In September of 2010, **Linda Fortney** (who handled check-ins and toxicology screening) welcomed her first grandchild, Josephine Magee. Knowing that her daughter was going to return to work after maternity leave, Linda informed us in November that she would be ending employment at the end of the year so she could spoil Josie two or three days every week. At that time, we asked Vicki to become our full-time Monitoring Assistant and assume the toxicology screening.



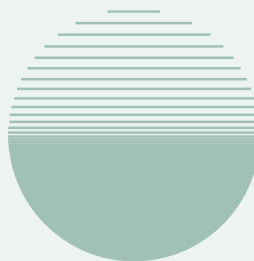
Linda Fortney

Also in September, **Robert Wolf**, was diagnosed with metastatic throat cancer and started treatment immediately. He was on extended sick leave and then resigned his position on January 1, 2011. He has had chemotherapy and is now getting radiation treatment. We wish him continued support as he deals with this illness. Anyone wishing to contact Bob can e-mail him at akela37w@hotmail.com



Robert Wolf

In late December, **Gregory K. Gable, PsyD**, who had been with the Physicians' Health Programs since 1987, submitted his resignation so that he could work more in the clinical field. He retired on February 11, 2011. Shirley M. Stuppy, who has been with the PHP for the past 16 years has been appointed Director of the Physicians' Health Programs.



Gregory K. Gable

On March 28, 2011, **Louis H. Verna, MAC, NCAC, CAC** joined the staff as Case Manager. Lou has worked with the PHP on various cases before and he is familiar with the PHP. We welcome him to the PHP staff.



Louis H. Verna

The remaining PHP staff members have long-time experience and will continue to operate the program with the high standards for which we are known.



John Martyniuk, PhD, MD

Medical Director

5 years



Shirley M. Stuppy

Director

16 years



Beth Lepley

Case Management Asst.

12 years



Wendie Dunkin

Compliance Asst.

13 years

We thank all of you for your support and patience during this transition. Changes can be good and I'm sure, with your support, the program will continue to strengthen.

Shirley M. Stuppy

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"Understanding is the first step to acceptance, and only with acceptance can there be recovery." — Joanne Kathleen Rowling



Retirement Dinner for Greg

On February 11th of this year, we gathered at the Carlisle Country Club to honor and celebrate Greg Gable's 23 years with the Physicians' Health Programs. With over 70 people in attendance, it was good to hear the stories of when the PHP was first started and how it progressed under Greg's leadership. Since the PHP Endowment Fund was one of Greg's important projects, we chose to honor him by creating a Greg Gable Fund within the Endowment. Through many contributions, we were able to raise over \$16,000 for the Endowment.



Greg Gable

Support the PHP Endowment to:

- *Help physicians seek recovery for chemical dependency and/or psychiatric problems.*
- *Assist medical professionals with managing addiction.*
- *Preserve medical careers.*
- *Support physicians in recovery.*
- *Help physicians return to safe, active practice.*

