

## **WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATED JUNE 24, 2010**

*P. Bradley Hall, M.D.*

*Medical Director, WVMPHP*

The West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program (WVMPHP) has been up and running for thirty-two (32) months. The WVMPHP continues to be the only physician health program recognized by the West Virginia Board of Medicine and the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy. Our southern office is located within the State Medical Association building in Charleston, West Virginia, with a northern office located in Bridgeport, West Virginia. The WVMPHP has provided educational lectures to in excess of 1,800 physicians, hospitals, medical staffs, medical societies, students and residents since its inception. Funding, to date, has been largely provided through the West Virginia Mutual Insurance Company, grants from the West Virginia Hospital Association, licensure boards and support from the West Virginia State Medical Association, pro-bono services by many individuals involved, donations and participant fees.

Currently, there have been fifty-one (51) signed participants, most of whom continue under an agreement, impacting in excess of twenty-six (26) hospitals and/or medical schools where these participants have privileges. Ninety-two plus percent (92+%) of these individuals, who have completed treatment and are under contract, resumed working, remain abstinent, licensed and practicing medicine safely. Forty-five percent (45%) of current participants were referred by their licensure board formally through consent order or informally through direct contact, eight (8) participants reside and practice out of state and maintain their active West Virginia medical license as a direct result of their participation with the WVMPHP. Specialties include: family practice; internal medicine; pediatrics; ophthalmology; orthopedics; obstetrics and gynecology; general surgery; emergency medicine; endocrinology; pathology; psychiatry; cardiology; medical students and residents in training. Twenty-five (25) of the fifty-one (51) have been returned to the active, safe, monitored practice of medicine. Thirteen (13) of the fifty-one (51) had previous issues and recurrence of their chronic medical condition further supporting the need of our physician health program and long-term guidance, assistance and monitoring. During initial evaluation, ten (10) were found to have some type of impairment, all but three (3) of which resolved with treatment. These three (3) remain impaired and are disabled due to physical disorders detected, but unrelated to their original participation diagnosis. These permanent impairments unrelated to mental illness or substance abuse would have not been discovered had they not sought the assistance of the WVMPHP.

The West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program is fulfilling its mission of protecting the public and providing a mechanism for the successful, rehabilitation of the sick physician and his/her return to the safe monitored practice of medicine to the benefit of the public and physicians themselves. The continued support of organized medicine and the healthcare community including treatment professionals is necessary and greatly appreciated.