

Impaired Practitioner Program

The mission of this program is to promote the early identification, intervention, rehabilitation, monitoring, and successful re-entry of recovering licensees. The Wellness Program encourages voluntary reporting, assists in evaluation and treatment referrals, and with cooperation on the part of the affected individual will support re-entry to the profession. A committee has been established in which the Board will rely on for guidance on issues of the recovering licensees. The committee will be overseen by Wellness Program Director, Dr. Mike Garver. (Dr. Garver is the only person who will know the identity of the referrals to the Wellness Program.)

The program has developed suggested policies and procedures for Board approval regarding every aspect of assisting the recovering licensee and their family. This covers everything from reporting, getting a thorough evaluation of the individual's specific case with specialists, appropriate treatment referrals, and assistance in preparing for a Board hearing. An impairment may be by reason of illness, inebriation, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, controlled substances, alcohol, chemicals, or other dependence forming substances, or as a result of any physical or mental condition rendering such person unable to meet the standards of their profession.

Through the Wellness Program Director, the Committee monitors the licensee upon successful completion of treatment with the goal of re-entry to the profession through ongoing support and monitoring for five years. While this may seem lengthy and perhaps invasive, monitoring provides the most reliable form of accountability, which, in the interest of public protection, enables the Board to allow people back to work safely. Monitoring provides a measure of legal protection for the affected individual and is also the number one reason why the recovery rates are so high for healthcare professionals!

DR. MICHAEL C. GARVER, D.M.D., has a history of over 30 years of working with recovering health professionals and Boards in their monitoring programs. Being in recovery while actively maintaining his practice has enabled him to bring a unique perspective with assisting health professionals who have had problems with all types of addiction and substance abuse problems. With training in intervention, relapse prevention, and co-dependency issues, Dr. Garver has the ability to assist the licensee in all phases of their recovery, from the re-integration with family and practice to the important aspects of recovery beyond the contract periods mandated by Boards.

To seek assistance or have questions, contact **Dr. Garver** at **251-695-2882** or email **mcg1309@gmail.com**.