



## Physicians Health Program Message

### **TMF Broadens Scope, Continues Work with Impaired Physicians**

By Roland W. Gray, MD

TMF Executive Director and Medical Director

The Tennessee Medical Foundation and the Physicians Health Program continue groundbreaking work with Tennessee's impaired physicians, but have also expanded the scope of educational instruction to medical professionals on all aspects of professionalism and healthy practice.

Under the capable leadership of our Board President J. Mack Worthington, MD, the TMF in 2010 oversaw a total of 261 physicians currently under contract with the PHP or involved in aftercare. There are currently 142 participants enrolled in and being monitored by the urine drug screening program, 31 of whom are voluntarily enrolled post-contract.

Vince Parrish, LCSW, has taken a position as development director and coordinator of the worksite monitoring program; he also assists with fundraising. Field Coordinator Jeanne Breard manages the cases of 91 physicians currently under contract who do not have BME involvement, contacting each one quarterly and traveling statewide for face-to-face meetings twice a year in Memphis, Jackson, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Johnson City, as well as Nashville.

TMF PHP Administrator Mike Todd has been involved with the case management of 73 participants, most of whom require quarterly reports to the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners. He is also involved in assisting participants with pre-board issues.

As medical director, in addition to the day-to-day operation of the program, I have been called on to educate medical professionals both statewide and abroad about the spectrum of services the Tennessee Physician Health Program provides. Our presentations have expanded from talking solely about alcohol and drugs to teaching about proper prescribing practices, appropriate professional boundaries, disruptive behavior in the workplace, and all aspects of professionalism. I serve on the State Commissioner's Task Force on Physician Prescribing Practices, as a consultant and voting member of the FDA's subcommittee on Drugs and Medical Risk Management, and as a consultant to the ONDCP (Office National Drug Control Policy) for the 2011 national drug control strategy.

As always, if you or a colleague need assistance the TMF or Physicians Health Program can provide, please contact Ms. Breard at 615-467-6411. To make a tax deductible contribution

to the PHP, contact Mr. Todd at 615-467-6411, visit [www.e-tmf.org](http://www.e-tmf.org) or write to the Tennessee Medical Foundation, 216 Centerview Drive, Suite 304, Brentwood, TN 37027.

**PHP Clinical Program Statistics: 2002 through 2010.**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>IDENTIFICATIONS:</b>		
<b>Chemical</b>	52	601
<b>Behavioral</b>	47	385
<b>Psychiatric</b>	16	124
<b>Sexual Boundary</b>	2	79
<b>Over-prescribing</b>	13	52
<b>BME Referrals</b>	4	59
<b>Other/ Consultations</b>	25	55
<b>Undesignated</b>	2	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	161	1359