

## **Alabama Occupational Therapy Wellness Committee** **Impaired Practitioner Program**

The mission of this Board's Impaired Practitioner Program AKA Wellness Program, is to promote the early identification, intervention, rehabilitation, monitoring, and successful re-entry of recovering licensees by encouraging voluntary reporting, offering evaluation and treatment referrals, and providing aftercare support for the affected individual (*with their cooperation*) to safely re-enter the profession.

An impairment may be by reason of illness, inebriation, excessive drug/alcohol use, narcotics, chemicals/other dependence forming or controlled substances, or as a result of any physical or mental condition rendering such person unable to meet the standards of their profession.

The Board has established this Committee, overseen by Wellness Program Director, **DR. MICHAEL C. GARVER, D.M.D.**, to provide guidance to licensees encountering and/or battling issues of addiction to navigate, rehabilitate, and transition them into recovering licensees. Dr. Garver is the only person who will know the identity of the licensees referred or seeking admission to the Wellness Program.

The program has developed Board approved policies and procedures regarding every aspect of assisting the recovering licensee and their family. These procedures cover everything from reporting, getting a thorough evaluation of the individual's case with specialists, seeking appropriate treatment referrals, and providing the licensee assistance in preparing for a Board hearing (only if necessary).

**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 can 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.

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 (5) years. While this may seem lengthy, 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!

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact

**DR. MICHAEL C. GARVER** directly by

**PHONE: 251-605-2883**

**-OR-**

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