

September 28, 2017

SD Board of Psychologist Examiners
Carol Tellinghuisen, Executive Secretary
810 N. Main St. Suite 298
Spearfish, SD 57783

Dear Board of Psychologist Examiners,

We would like to introduce our business to you. The SD Health Professionals Assistance Program (HPAP) is operated by Midwest Health Management Services LLC, a small but innovative company dedicated to assisting professionals address substance abuse and mental health issues. While healthcare professionals and psychologists may differ in their work and training, they share many of the same stress-related concerns due to high pressure responsibilities and expectations of their professions. In accordance with state statute, The Board of Psychology is eligible to participate in HPAP. HPAP has been authorized to operate under state statute in South Dakota since 1996, and below we review some of HPAP's advantages and demonstrated successes.

The South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program and Midwest Health Management Services, LLC is dedicated to enhancing public safety and support for regulated professionals. We work to facilitate the early intervention, treatment, continued care, and monitor the safe return to practice for regulated professionals who may be unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety if their mental health or substance use illness symptoms are not adequately addressed and managed. The scope of HPAP is defined by statute, SDCL 36-2A.

What are the advantages of HPAP and MWHMS?

- HPAP and MWHMS acknowledge a primary concern for public safety. We believe a vibrant assistance program will enhance public safety by reducing risk associated with potentially impairing health conditions, and early intervention and referrals may over time, decrease licensing board discipline.
- HPAP and MWHMS promote early intervention, which increases the likelihood of successful treatment and decreases the likelihood of clinical skills being compromised.
- HPAP and MWHMS assist professionals in obtaining appropriate level of care and treatment through ongoing support and case management.
- Monitoring process is delivered in a professional manner with compassion and dignity.
- We provide statewide monitoring, and can continue monitoring for out of state travel.

How to reach a 78% recovery rate: For those who receive treatment without continued monitoring, research indicates only 24%, have maintained sobriety after one year, ongoing monitoring provides greater illness management and improved outcomes. Dupont study of Physician Health Program's (PHP) revealed that 78% of the physicians enrolled in PHP's did not have a single positive test for any drug or alcohol use for over 5 years of testing. Of the 22% who did have at least one positive test, the relapse was quickly identified and 65% did not have a second positive test. MWHMS model of monitored recovery support is based on PHP best practices. Strengths of this model include:

- Early intervention
- Appropriate level of care
- Support in adhering to treatment goals
- Accountability and Leverage

Intervention and monitoring can save a career, a reputation, or even a life.

Overview of Services

HPAP and MWHMS encourage self-referrals, referrals from families or peers, or referrals from medical or treatment agencies. If you call HPAP/MWHMS about a colleague, your contact will be held in the strictest confidence. We can serve as a resource to help determine appropriate next steps.

HPAP and MWHMS is a statewide program, is confidential, and professionally staffed. Services include general outreach, crisis intervention, risk evaluation, treatment monitoring, and support for providers who need our assistance. HPAP and MWHMS develops individualized, comprehensive Participation Agreements which include input from the participant, our on-staff Physician and Evaluation Committee, and with a release of information and when appropriate, input from family, treatment providers, employers and licensing boards. These agreements support adherence to the prescribed treatment plan, and provide opportunity to document sustained recovery.

Participation Types:

- **Voluntary**- may be a true voluntary admission, or may be mandated by the employer as a condition of continued employment.
- **Board Mandated**- all participants who have been formally referred by their respective licensing board. This includes those who may have formal or informal discipline.
- **Rule out Risk (may be voluntary or board mandated)** - Diagnostic monitoring track. Can be utilized when there are concerns related to substance use, or mental health issues but no confirmed diagnosis. This track is of great benefit to the licensed participants, employers and licensing boards as it provides a longitudinal opportunity to document absence of mental health or substance disorder symptoms, provide worksite monitor documentation to assure safe continued practice, and provides opportunity to refer to treatment services if additional needs are identified. This track is also used by professionals who have previously surrendered their licenses and were seeking to document recovery efforts.

We look forward to meeting with you to provide further information about our services. Please contact us at the address or phone number below.

Midwest Health Management Services, LLC
South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program
Tel: (605) 274-4711 Fax: (605) 275-4715
4109 S. Carnegie Circle
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106

Respectfully Yours,

Amanda McKnelly, MS, LAC
Program Director

Maria Piacentino, MA, LPC-MH, LAC, QMHP
Executive Director