FSPHP Insights

July 3, 2025





Important Information on Physician Health Programs—A Message from Dr. Michael Baron

We are pleased to share with you an important letter from Dr. Michael Baron, President FSPHP, highlighting the critical role of Physician Health Programs (PHPs) in supporting physician well-being and patient safety.

As California considers AB 408—a bill to establish a state Physician Health and Wellness Program—this is a pivotal moment for our community and the broader conversation about physician health. The proposed California program is designed in line with national best practices and incorporates robust confidentiality protections that are essential for effective physician support.

Key Confidentiality Protections: The "Triad of Confidentiality" The legislation proposes a model that includes three core confidentiality protections, known as the "Triad of Confidentiality":

- Regulatory Protection: Physicians can access the program through confidential referrals, without automatic involvement of the state medical board, and in some cases in lieu of a board report.
- Record Protection: Program records are protected from legal discovery and are not accessible to the board except under specific circumstances, ensuring participant privacy.
- Application Protection: Physicians who comply with the program may not be required to disclose protected health information on licensure, credentialing, insurance, or certification applications.

Additionally, the bill provides immunity protections for those who refer physicians in good faith, further encouraging early intervention and support.

How You Can Help Spread Awareness

We encourage all members of our community—healthcare professionals, leaders, policymakers, and the public—to read this letter and use its content to inform conversations, educational efforts, and outreach within your networks. Sharing accurate information about PHPs, especially regarding confidentiality and advocacy, helps foster a culture where

physicians can seek help without fear and where patient safety is prioritized.

Please feel free to adapt and share these key points through your own communication channels, including newsletters, social media, presentations, and community meetings. Your engagement is vital to dispelling misconceptions and promoting the unique value PHPs bring to our healthcare system.

Thank you for your commitment to physician health and the well-being of our entire community.

Read Dr. Baron's letter to California Senator Read California Bill AB-408



Just a Reminder - Free Access to the FSPHP & FSMB Webinar Recording!

Protecting Health, Privacy & Patient Safety: The Role of Physician Health Programs and State Medical Boards Presented by the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP) & the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) on Friday, March 14, 2025

We're reminding you that the recording of this important webinar is available **for free**!

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

↑ Watch Now: Access the Recording & Details

Speakers Include:

- Mary A. Azzarito, Esq.
- · Courtney Barrows McKeown, MD
- Arthur Hengerer, MD
- Katie L. Templeton, JD

In today's evolving healthcare landscape, it's more important than ever to support physicians in prioritizing their health. This webinar explores how Physician Health Programs (PHPs) and State Medical Boards can work together to create a regulatory environment that encourages early intervention, reduces stigma, and promotes both physician well-being and patient safety.

Key topics include:

- The importance of "safe haven" provisions in medical regulation
- The role of PHPs in addressing mental health, substance use, and burnout
- How confidentiality and public safety can be balanced effectively

With physician burnout and mental health challenges on the rise, this conversation is both timely and essential. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how regulatory systems can evolve to better support the healthcare workforce.



The recording is username and password protected, so you will need to Sign-Up for an FSMB account if you don't have one already.



Access Substance Use Disorder (SUD) PHP Policies in the FSPHP PHP Policy Library

The **FSPHP PHP Policy Library** is a valuable resource created by and for FSPHP members. It features a growing collection of policies voluntarily submitted by member organizations to support knowledge sharing and best practices across the field.

We invite you to explore the latest **Substance Use Disorder** (SUD)-related PHP policies now available in the library, including:

- Oklahoma's Biological Testing Update
- Vermont's Cannabis Policy
- Washington's Toxicology Addendum
- And many more

These resources are designed to support your work and advance the FSPHP mission of promoting physician health and patient safety.

Have policies to share?

We encourage you to contribute! Submissions are reviewed prior to posting and help strengthen our collective knowledge. Please email your SUD-related policies to ssavage@fsphp.org for inclusion in the library.



*The FSPHP PHP Policy Library is an exclusive member benefit for the following member types only: State Voting, Associate, International & Honorary.



Linda Bresnahan, MS

FSPHP to Present at NABP Pharmacy Professional Recovery Program Forum

Linda Bresnahan, MS, Executive Director of the Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP), will present a featured session at the upcoming National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) Pharmacy Professional Recovery Program Forum on July 15–16, 2025, at the NABP Headquarters in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Dr. Edwin Kim, FSPHP President-Elect, will be in attendance.

Linda's session, titled: "Federation of State Physician Health Programs (FSPHP) and National Organization of Alternative **Programs (NOAP) Overview**", will provide attendees with:

- An overview of FSPHP's mission and collaborative efforts with NOAP
- Strategies for advocating alternatives to discipline



Edwin Kim, MD

 Insights into building a unified, supportive approach to recovery and return-to-practice for pharmacy professionals

This forum brings together recovery program leaders from across the country to share challenges, solutions, and best practices in supporting pharmacy professionals on their recovery journeys.

We look forward to this important conversation and the opportunity to strengthen our collective impact.

COMING UP!

Program Planning CommitteeWednesday, July 9 at 3pm Eastern

Task Force to Support Safe Haven Friday, July 18 at 12:30pm Eastern

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	Program Planning Committee	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	Task Force to Support Safe Hav	19
20	21	Public Policy Committee Meetin	Research Committee Meeting	Evaluation and Treatment Accre	25	26
27	Publications Committee Meeting	29	Eunding Development Committee	31		

Riverside County Medical Association 37th Annual Conference
on Physicians' Well-Being

Friday, July 18 at 8:00am - 12:30pm Pacific Featuring FSPHP President-Elect, Dr. Edwin Kim

Read Past Issues of INSIGHTS!

OPEN FORUM LEADERSHIP SERIES

August 27, 2025 at 12-1pm Eastern Time November 19, 2025 at 12-1pm Eastern Time

REGIONAL MEMBER MEETINGS

Northeast Region - Thursday, October 9, 2025 Southeast Region - Tuesday, October 14, 2025 Western Region - Tuesday, October 21, 2025 Central Region - Friday, November 14, 2025 All meetings will be held virtually.

Become a Regional Member Meeting Sponsor!

JOIN FSPHP FOR ACCESS TO MEMBER-ONLY CONTENT



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