

North Carolina Physicians Health Program
220 Horizon Drive
Suite 201
Raleigh, NC 27615-4928
NCPHP.org



News Release

For Immediate Release

North Carolina Physicians Health Program names new Medical Director

RALEIGH, N.C., December 14, 2016 – The North Carolina Physicians Health Program (NCPHP) has named Clark Gaither, MD, FAAFP, as Medical Director, effective January 1, 2017.

Dr. Gaither has extensive personal and clinical experience within NCPHP and in the areas of addiction and recovery. He has served as a volunteer for the organization for many years, as a member of the Compliance Committee (Two consecutive three-year terms), as a member of the Board of Directors for five years (2002-2007), and as the Board Chair for two consecutive years (2004 and 2005).

Since 2000, Dr. Gaither has served as a physician monitor for NCPHP participants. He has also presented on behalf of NCPHP to groups at hospitals, physician practices, and medical schools throughout the state. In addition to practicing as a family physician for 27 years, he has gained an additional area of expertise - Job Related Burnout and Restoring Balance and Wellness to one's professional life— a valuable asset to the depth and breadth of services NCPHP provides.

On December 7, 2016, Dr. Gaither was presented with *The Order of the Long Leaf Pine* award which is among the most prestigious awards granted by the Governor of North Carolina. "It is awarded to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina." Dr. Gaither earned the award for his work with The W.A.T.C.H. (Wayne Action Teams for Community Health) Free Mobile Clinics which he started on August 1, 2000. The program serves the uninsured citizens of Wayne County and provides free office visits, prescriptions and lab work. Since its inception, W.A.T.C.H. has cared for over 13,000 patients through more than 131,000 office visits and has provided over \$19 million in free prescriptions and more than \$8 million in lab work.

Dr. Joseph Jordan, NCPHP CEO, had this to say about Dr. Gaither's appointment as Medical Director of NCPHP, "We are excited and honored that Dr. Gaither would join the NCPHP team. He brings a wealth of experience working with physician health issues and his expertise in burnout, wellness, and recovery are a perfect fit for NCPHP moving forward"

About NCPHP

Since 1988, the North Carolina Physicians Health Program has been dedicated to helping medical professionals experience a lifetime of change and return to health. NCPHP assists with recovery from substance use disorders substance use disorders and other conditions such as depression, anxiety, or burnout that could impair a provider's ability to safely provide care and services to their patients.

NCPHP originated as a physicians health committee of the North Carolina Medical Society. Established as a formal program in 1988, NCPHP provides assistance and advocacy for licensees of the North Carolina Medical Board, the North Carolina Board of Veterinary Medicine, and the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy. From 1988 through 2015, NCPHP provided direct assistance to more than 3,600 medical professionals and indirect assistance to thousands more through educational and advisory programs.