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**NC Office of the State Auditor Issues Positive Report from Re-Audit  
of the North Carolina Physicians Health Program**  
*No new findings. Program told to “continue with your current policies and procedures.”*

Raleigh, NC, March 5, 2019 – The NC Office of the State Auditor (NCOSA) has completed their follow-up audit of the North Carolina Physicians Health Program (NCPHP). This 9-month process culminated in a finding that NCPHP took “appropriate corrective action to address recommendations” made in the original 2014 NCPHP Performance Audit.

The 2014 Audit reviewed 110 cases over a 10-year period. There were no findings of abuse and sufficient evidence was found to support all assessment or treatment recommendations made by NCPHP, but some process recommendations were made. These included the following improvements: increased oversight by the NC Medical Board and NC Medical Society; ensuring participants have access to additional independent and objective due process procedures; protecting against potential conflicts of interest between NCPHP and treatment centers; and operationalizing the selection and monitoring of assessment and treatment centers recommended by NCPHP.

First under the direction of Dr. Warren Pendergast, Medical Director Emeritus of NCPHP, followed by the current CEO, Joseph Jordan, PhD, the NCPHP staff worked tirelessly putting additional policies and procedures in place, ensuring that NCPHP was doing its best to protect the rights of providers while safeguarding the people of NC.

*“We are extremely pleased with this outcome and look at this as validation of our hard work to make a great program even better,”* Jordan said. *“It seems clear that we have succeeded in doing so.”*

This Follow-up Performance Audit by the NC Office of the State Auditor reviewed 20 percent of NCPHP cases from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017. The team of state auditors concluded that each case file reviewed contained “sufficient, appropriate evidence” that due process procedures were followed. In addition, auditors reviewed cases in which participants disputed NCPHP recommendations and found that each case file “contained sufficient, appropriate evidence that supports that independent and objective due process procedures have been implemented.”

When asked about these results, Robert W. Seligson, Executive Vice President and CEO of the NC Medical Society stated: *“This very positive report is proof of the incredible work that the NCPHP staff puts into ensuring this program operates with the highest integrity, and improves the safety of the health system.”* CEO R. David Henderson of the North Carolina Medical Board said, *“The latest report from the Office of the State Auditor confirms what NCMB has verified through reports and reviewing the work done by NCPHP over the last five years. NCMB concurs in the conclusion that NCPHP has implemented comprehensive protocols to ensure that participants are treated fairly.”*

For the entire report, go to <https://www.ncauditor.net/EPSSWeb/Reports/Performance/PER-2018-8141.pdf>.

**About NCPHP**

Since 1988, the North Carolina Physicians Health Program has been dedicated to helping medical professionals experience a lifetime of positive change and return to health. NCPHP assists with recovery from substance use disorders and other conditions such as depression, anxiety, or job-related 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 2018, NCPHP provided direct assistance to more than 4,200 medical professionals and indirect assistance to thousands more through educational and advisory programs.

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