



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

BALTIMORE, May 20, 2021 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, together with the Maryland Physician Health Program (MPHP), is observing Mental Health Awareness Month to bring awareness to mental health conditions and to help move away from the associated stigma. Mental health is just as important as physical health. As Maryland’s advocate and resource for physicians, patients, and the public health of Maryland, MedChi is proud to help raise awareness of an issue that impacts so many of our members and their patients.

MedChi’s foundation, the Center for a Healthy Maryland, operates MPHP which is available to practitioners licensed by the Maryland Board of Physicians, regardless of their affiliation with MedChi, that are experiencing problems. Practitioners can voluntarily contact the program by calling 410-962-5580 or 800-992-7010 where they will have support, and advocacy from trained professionals who can be trusted as part of a safe, confidential process in addressing various issues. Concerned colleagues or family members may also contact the program.

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, around 450 million people worldwide currently live with a mental illness, yet nearly two thirds of people with a known mental illness never seek treatment.

MedChi President, Dr. Shannon Pryor, shares “Getting help early is a key to addressing mental illness and represents an important step towards preventing further decline and the development of additional problems. Anyone who is experiencing signs or symptoms of mental illness should reach out to their physician as soon as possible.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.

About Maryland Physician Health Program

The Maryland Physician Health Program assists physicians and physician assistants in a confidential, private setting to address issues that may potentially impact their ability to practice medicine. The Program assesses and refers participants to clinically appropriate treatment, helps the participant develop a rehabilitation plan, provides case management to facilitate progress with the plan, and provides advocacy on behalf of the client when needed. The program also provides education and outreach to the medical community

regarding physician impairment and available services. For more information, please visit <http://healthymaryland.org/physician-health/physician-health-program/>.