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For Immediate Release

NCBOP establishes fund to help pharmacy personnel access substance use treatment

April 2018, Chapel Hill, NC: The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy (NCBOP or Board) has established a \$1.1 million fund that will award grants to pharmacists and pharmacy personnel who might otherwise not be able to afford substance use assessments and/or treatment.

“The Board hopes that this program will encourage pharmacy professionals with a substance use issue reach out for care sooner knowing that there is financial help available if they need it,” said Gene Minton, a Littleton pharmacist who serves as NCBOP’s current President.

NCBOP has released money from its financial reserves to establish the *L. Stanley Haywood Recovery Fund* in honor of Stan Haywood, an Asheboro pharmacist and longtime Board Member who championed the idea of assisting pharmacy professionals with substance use problems. The Board has directed \$1 million to establish an endowment for the fund and will make \$100,000 immediately available for grants to individuals who need substance use assessment or treatment. NCBOP expects the fund to begin awarding treatment grants in May. The Board plans to amend its annual license renewal and registration processes to allow pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to contribute to the grant fund.

Grants will be awarded to licensed pharmacists, registered pharmacy technicians and pharmacy students, based upon financial need and other criteria. The fund will award qualifying pharmacists and pharmacy personnel up to \$2,500 for comprehensive substance use assessment, up to \$2,500 for outpatient substance use treatment and up to \$5,000 for outpatient treatment. Grants will be paid directly to assessment and treatment facilities. Any unused grant money will be returned to the recovery fund.

The creation of the treatment fund follows the NCBOP’s 2016 agreement to work with the NC Physicians Health Program (NCPHP) to provide assessment and treatment services for pharmacy personnel with substance use disorders. NCPHP is an independent nonprofit organization that also provides assessment and monitoring to physicians, physician assistants and certain other medical professionals. Pharmacy professionals and students must be participants with NCPHP to receive grant support.

An estimated 10 to 12 percent of pharmacy professionals will develop substance use problems at some point in their careers, said Joe Jordan, NCPHP’s chief executive officer. Often, individuals who are referred to NCPHP are unemployed or underemployed, with limited resources for assessment and treatment. Jordan estimates that comprehensive substance use assessments can run from \$1,000 to \$3,500. Inpatient treatment may cost between \$12,000 and \$38,000, depending on the severity of the substance use disorder and the amount of treatment required. Outpatient treatment

typically costs around \$100 per visit and individuals often need months of weekly treatment. NCBOP expects the recovery fund to help many more pharmacy professionals get the help they need.

“The Haywood Recovery Fund is a game changer for pharmacists, and especially [lower paid] pharmacy technicians, who will now be much more able to access the services they need to recover,” Jordan said.

About NCBOP

The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy's mission is to protect the public health, safety and welfare in pharmaceutical matters. The Board sets standards for academic and practical experience programs prior to licensure, issues permits to operate pharmacies and DME facilities, and annually renews licenses, permits and registrations. For more information visit www.ncbop.org