

# Annual Report: Pharmacists' Education and Advocacy Council | 2009-2010

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PEAC annual report: July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010  
Submitted by Tony Tommasello, Pharmacist, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

- New BOP contract:
  - The Pharmacists' Education and Advocacy Council (PEAC) provides services to the State of Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the Board) under the provisions of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Standard Service Contract (DHMH form 3883 & 3982). Although the terms of the contract have varied over time, the Board has provided continuous support for a portion of the PEAC operations budget for over twenty years. This contract was renewed on May 24, 2010 for a period of 2 years from April 21, 2010 to April 20, 2012. The contract provides limited financial support for PEAC to offer a therapeutic alternative for substance abusing or impaired pharmacists. PEAC's therapeutic alternative helps pharmacists address the immediate needs associated with substance abuse/impairment while appropriately keeping them indirectly under the Board's supervision through an anonymous and confidential process without the stigma or restriction of disciplinary action. The contract also funds PEAC as the "Pharmacists Rehabilitation Committee" defined in HO 12-317.
  
- Treatment Contract extension – 5 year
  - In order to ensure comprehensive therapeutic oversight, PEAC extended the term of monitoring under the "Treatment Contract" from 3 to 5 years. This modification was implemented to incorporate new clinical research findings that correlate reduced relapse rates associated with the extended monitoring period. It is likely that some elements of monitoring will ease throughout the 5 year period as the client's recovery commitment matures and s/he demonstrates secure abstinence. By retaining the authority under the contract to conduct random urine tests at any time throughout the 5 year period PEAC ensures that clients can be brought back into more closely supervised monitoring and potentially re-entry into treatment if the need is identified.
  
- Budget
  - The Board's funding of PEAC, although not adequate to address annual expenses, reimburses a portion of incurrent operational costs. Monthly expenditures are submitted for review to Ms. Pat Gaither by the PEAC Treasurer, Mr. Gil Cohen, prior to disbursement of state funds to PEAC. The budget accounting is available through Ms. Gaither's office.
  
- Case summaries
  - From July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 PEAC provided services for 24 pharmacists, technicians and students in a therapeutic process with a treatment contract (see table

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below). The number of clients in a given calendar month ranged from 22 to 12. The number rises as new cases are engaged, and falls as cases either complete treatment and exit our monitoring system or are brought into the Board's disciplinary procedure under a consent order after being convicted of a violation of the Maryland Pharmacy Practice Act. In some of these latter instances PEAC continues to offer monitoring and support outside of, and separate from what the Board provides for pharmacists and technicians. PEAC submits a monthly tally of cases to Mr. Steve Kriendler in the Board's compliance office. These figures are presented to the Board at the Board's monthly public meeting.

- At the request of the Board PEAC added a new element titled "unique clients" to the monthly report. This item recognizes that while our monthly total client count fluctuates the report should capture the number of pharmacists, technicians and students brought into the system over the course of the year. The table below summarizes PEAC's client service activities from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

	Jun-09	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan-10	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jn
total clients	21	20	21	22	22	20	17	16	15	14	13	13	12
pharmacists	13	12	13	14	14	13	11	10	9	8	8	8	8
technicians	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
students	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
# drug tests	54	52	56	57	58	54	52	56	52	52	52	56	54
# positive	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
# clients positive	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
# discharged		2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	1
cases referred to BOP		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
new cases		1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
unique clients	21	22	23	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
pharmacists													
technicians													
students													
consent order cases followed	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3

- Monitor meetings
  - PEAC holds meetings of its monitors along with others who are involved in the functions of PEAC and the implementation of our initiatives, for example planning and executing the annual PEAC seminar. Monitor meetings were held on March 21, 2009, August 24, 2009, February 27, 2010, and May 6, 2010. Monitors are provided a meager stipend for client services. Others provide volunteer, uncompensated time to implement PEAC activities.
  
- CE program
  - PEAC offered a 6.5 hour live CE event on September 26, 2009 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD. The program entitled Ethical Perspectives in Addiction Intervention and Pharmacy Practice examined policy and clinical practice related to impaired pharmacists from an ethical perspective.
  
- Board of directors

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- PEAC established a Board of Directors in February 2009. The Board of Directors provides guidance and develops strategy for moving PEAC forward on several fronts. A very important aspect of our strategy is to maintain and improve our relation with both the Board and all elements of the pharmacy profession, particularly the many local and state pharmacy associations. PEAC Board of Directors members are volunteers and the time spent in meetings and in communication and planning activities outside the meetings is uncompensated.
- PEAC Post newsletter first issue May 2010
  - PEAC began publishing a quarterly newsletter The PEAC Post. It is available at the PEAC Website [www.peacmaryland.org](http://www.peacmaryland.org) and is distributed in limited quantity to supporters and at public engagements.
- Fundraising
  - PEAC administrative assistant Patricia Tommasello regularly solicits pharmacy owners and licensees for contributions to the PEAC 501(c)3 (tax exempt) corporation through a mail campaign. Some contributions have been received. Both MPhA and MSHP include, in their dues renewal forms, check-off boxes for voluntary donations to PEAC. These organizations provide support to PEAC via their members through this mechanism.
- Facebook
  - PEAC initiated a Facebook page to encourage communication with a young group of pharmacy members.
- PEAC liaison
  - The Board of Pharmacy voted to establish a liaison to PEAC and appointed Board members Harry Finke and David Chaison to this function.
- PEAC participation in Board of Pharmacy sunset review
  - PEAC Executive Director Tony Tommasello, Ph.D. participated in a sunset review of the Board of Pharmacy with Erin McMullen the Governor's appointed policy analyst collecting background data for this report.

## Appendices:

PEAC monitor and friends list

PEAC Board of Directors list

PEAC Post issues 1 and 2

PEAC website [www.peacmaryland.org](http://www.peacmaryland.org) home page

Annual seminar flyer