

Title: Portneuf's William Hazle, M.D. Wins Top State Honor

(Pocatello, ID) The Idaho Hospital Association (IHA) has chosen William Hazle, M.D. to receive the 2008 Excellence in Medicine Award. Dr. Hazle is a psychiatrist with Portneuf Medical Center's (PMC) Behavioral Health unit.

The Excellence in Medicine Award recognizes a physician who exemplifies the medical profession's highest values: commitment to service, community involvement, clinical excellence, altruism and leadership in the medical profession. IHA will honor Dr. Hazle with the award at the 75th annual convention in Coeur' D'Alene in October.

The winning nomination came from Charlie Aasand, the director of Portneuf's Behavioral Health Unit. IHA recognized Dr. Hazle for a multitude of accomplishments.

Dr. Hazle began his outpatient practice with Portneuf in June of 2002, and was soon full with requests from community physicians and individual patients. **During the first year of the program Dr. Hazle took two weekends off.**

Over the last year and a half, Dr. Hazle has been devoted to developing and expanding the Telehealth Network for The Hospital Cooperative. In February, 2007, Dr. Hazle suffered a severe heart attack and was unable to practice for over 3 months. Yet, he came back and continued to see patients via the Network. **On March 3, Dr. Hazle saw his 100th patient via the telehealth network.** Many of these clients would not be able to access a psychiatrist or access quality mental health services, were it not for the presence of the Cooperative Telehealth Network and Dr. Hazle.

"Dr. Hazle took the initiative to be the program and medical director for the Cooperative Telehealth Network. (He) has been a joy to work with at all levels," said Jon Smith, The Hospital Cooperative Executive Director.

Dr. Hazle is a dedicated community servant and serves on the Board of Directors for the Regional Substance Abuse Authority and as a member of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. Portneuf's annual, free Mental Health Conference, celebrating its fifth year in May, 2008, also came about as a result of Dr. Hazle's efforts.

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He started the Medicine and Compassion project at Portneuf in the spring of 2005. The program was created to provide education and opportunity to discuss the practice and delivery of medicine with compassion in a “Western” healthcare setting, using “Eastern” philosophy. This project continues today through members of Behavioral Health Services and the Portneuf Patient Advocate.

Dr. Hazle has always created a leadership presence at Portneuf Medical Center. Whether that be with the staff of Behavioral Health Services, PMC Administration or the Medical Staff of PMC. He was an active member of the Medical Staff Executive Committee, reaching the position of Vice-Chief of Staff in 2006. He was to be Chief of Staff in 2007, but his medical accident disrupted that opportunity.

“Dr. Hazle continues to be a highly respected physician, whose opinion and vision is welcomed and sought out by the clinical and administrative members of Portneuf Medical Center,” said Charlie Aasand, Director of Portneuf’s Behavioral Health Unit. “We are extremely fortunate to have such a high-caliber physician in our community.”

Digital photo available



William Hazle, M.D.

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