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Spangler Named Executive Director of WV Board of Medicine; Knittle Retires After 11 Years in Role

Charleston, WV – Mark A. Spangler, M.A., L.P.C., of Lewisburg has been named executive director of the West Virginia Board of Medicine, Board President Ahmed D. Faheem, M.D., announced today.

Spangler, executive director, chief executive officer and treasurer at Davis-Stuart, Inc., in Lewisburg since 1999, will begin his new duties on Jan. 23, 2017.

“I’m very excited by this new opportunity with the Board of Medicine,” Spangler said. “My goal is to continue the tradition of progress and advocacy on behalf of the citizens of our state and the physicians, podiatrists and physician assistants who serve them.”

Spangler succeeds Robert C. Knittle, who is retiring Dec. 31 after 11 years as executive director of the Board of Medicine.

“I developed a close working relationship with Bob during my tenure on the board, particularly as president, and we will miss his dedicated service to the board’s mission,” Faheem said. “At the same time, we are fortunate to bring Mark Spangler’s extensive experience and rich history of achievement on board to continue our work.”

Davis-Stuart, with five locations in West Virginia, provides therapeutic residential care in a supervised setting for youth ages 12 to 19, with a goal of reunifying them with their families.

Spangler supervised the organization’s 100 employees and 68 residents. He formulated and implemented long-range financial development for the 96-year-old facility by utilizing state and federal reimbursements while seeking public and private support, administering a \$5.5 million annual operating budget. Davis-Stuart works cooperatively with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and other state and federal agencies.

Spangler is a licensed professional counselor and social worker. He is a former president of the West Virginia Child Care Association and West Virginia Alliance for Children, and is a certified trainer in Family Centered Practice. A former volunteer leader in local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, he is an active member in Rotary International.

Spangler received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from Bluefield State College and his Master of Arts degree in Counseling from West Virginia Graduate College.

Knittle, during his tenure at the Board of Medicine, has been known as a strong advocate for protecting the public, while modernizing systems and processes which regulate the practice of physicians, podiatrists and PAs in West Virginia.

"I'm closing this chapter of my life with some mixed emotions, of course. I'm proud of the work we've accomplished," Knittle said. "At the same time, I'm confident that the board's future, and the future of physician practice in our state, will be in exceptionally capable hands."

Under Knittle's stewardship, the board initiated legislative changes to the West Virginia Medical Practice Act in 2007 to assist in establishing the West Virginia Medical Professionals Health Program, which allows physicians, podiatrists and PAs to pursue structured treatment and recovery for alcohol abuse, chemical dependency or major mental illness in a monitored environment. The highly successful program has gained national attention.

At the Legislature, Knittle shepherded updates to the state's Medical Practice Act and the board's rules to incorporate rapid changes in the health care industry. In 2014, Knittle led the Board of Medicine's advocacy for the enactment of the West Virginia Physician Assistants Practice Act, which overhauled and modernized the licensure and regulation of physician assistants in the state.

Knittle also represented the board through memberships and affiliations with national professional associations, including the Federation of State Medical Boards and Administrators in Medicine. Knittle championed West Virginia's role in becoming the fifth state in the nation to enact the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which enhances license portability among member states for physicians.

The West Virginia Board of Medicine is the sole authority for the issuance of licenses to practice medicine and surgery, to practice podiatry, and to practice as a physician assistant for a medical doctor (M.D.) in the state of West Virginia, and is the regulatory and disciplinary body for medical doctors, podiatrists and their physician assistants.