

02/06/2025

RE : Comprehensive Pain Management Institute, LLC (CPMI)

Leon Margolin M.D. PhD,
5245 E Main ST. Columbus, Ohio 43213

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my strong support for Dr. Leon Margolin's clinical study "MISGUIDED MEDICAL INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: A CHART REVIEW AND NARX SCORE ANALYSIS"

I am a licensed psychologist, who has certification in Addiction Medicine and has taken training in pain management counseling and evaluation. I had been a clinical director of a recovery program for Fairfield County, Ohio (please find my resume enclosed).

I have evaluated and followed up hundreds of Dr. Leon Margolin's patients, however, I am not (and never was) an employee, colleague, or social friend of Dr. Margolin; I have never received any payment or remuneration for my expert reviews of Dr. Margolin and his research .

As a board-certified clinical psychologist, who has certification in addiction medicine with over 30 years of practice in OH, I have seen firsthand the value of Dr. Margolin's research and the CPMI services in enhancing patient safety, documenting organic pathology, ensuring proper opioid prescribing, and improving outcomes .

I think it is important to evaluate this study in the context of the opioid crisis in Ohio. The study helps to improve opioid medication use and monitoring and enhances public safety.

The study used clearly and well structured methods, sharp analysis of the complex issues, well rounded literature review and relevance clearly related to the main focus: improving public safety and access to care. The introduction and discussion may seem voluminous, however, they cover all the necessary points, ideas and references that can help readers with different backgrounds to understand the issues and ways to correct them. In fact, a shorter version of the study may fail to communicate the necessary medico legal points and references. This is a very significant, original study with a very substantial contribution to the field and a potential to save hundreds of lives in Ohio and thousands of lives nationwide.

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I would like to emphasize the methods and the study design. Dr. Margolin performed a retrospective chart review on 142 charts of patients who were denied access to care for the screening and brief intervention and other pain management services.

SBIRT helps to diagnose alcohol and drug use and aberrant drug seeking behavior, therefore blocking access to these services is dangerous and can be responsible for hundreds of opioid deaths in Ohio.

SBIRT is a critical component of responsible opioid prescribing. By screening patients for risk factors such as substance misuse, intervening early, and referring the patients for additional evaluation support, when necessary, SBIRT helps diagnose aberrant drug seeking behavior and save lives. SBIRT reduces healthcare costs, decreases substance misuse, and lessens the likelihood of overdose. This tool is particularly vital in high-risk populations regardless of documented prior history of addiction, alcohol or drug use, who are often at a greater risk of adverse outcomes from opioid treatment (like the patients in Dr. Margolin's practice).

These services are supported by the evidence-based data published by NIH, SAMSHA, NIDA, Pew Institute and other agencies. In addition, these services and programs are cost effective and save limited Medicare and Medicaid resources.

The U.S. government, specifically the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), actively supports the use of SBIRT by providing funding for states as a mandatory, standard of care proactive approach to substance misuse prevention that saves lives. This study therefore is novel, relevant and significant nationwide.

To stratify the overdose risk scrutiny of the patients, Dr. Margolin correctly use the NARX score. NarxCare scores range from 000 to 999, with higher scores indicating riskier drug use patterns (above 300, the risk is much higher). This score was validated at the state and national level and was provided as part of the PMD OARRS report. Therefore it is a fully objective parameter that increases the quality of the study.

(For more information of OARRS and the NARX score, please see Ohio Bd of Pharmacy, Ohio Automated RX Reporting System PDMP Aware User Support Manual, p.60 (<https://www.ohiopmp.gov/Documents/OARRS%20User%20Manual.pdf>).

The high-risk patients need more frequent SBIRT services due to the heightened risk of over-prescription, overdose, and/or diversion, therefore denial of such services exposes the patients to a substantial risk.

Utilization of the opioids medications and SBIRT and pain management services is heavily regulated in the state of Ohio by the state laws and regulations (HB 93 law, PMC category three licenses etc), Board of Medicine, Board of Pharmacy and

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federal guidelines and laws. Dr. Margolin did an incredible job by reviewing and analyzing all the complex factors involved in this issue that has the potential to save hundreds of lives in Ohio and thousands of lives in Ohio. I found the article concise and to the point considering the novelty and the complexity of the methods and the analysis, in fact, I am not aware of a comparable clinical study in the field of public health.

Dr. Margolin operates a private office without any grants and outside funding, he went above and beyond to conduct this study using his personal financial resources. This retrospective study can be a basis for a large prospective study in the future.

Dr. Margolin and his program enhance our ability to safely manage high risk patients needing opioids medications, ultimately improving patient safety and reducing opioids mortality. This is supported by my clinical experience, independent studies and studies and publication by Dr. Margolin and his team. I fully endorse Dr. Margolin's study based on my own clinical experience in the field of addiction and pain medicine in Ohio.

Dr. Margolin's program has diagnosed and referred to addiction medicine evaluation more than 3000 patients since 2011 saving several hundred lives and a very significant health care costs. In fact, Dr. Margolin was awarded the Ohio Top Doctor award for 2025 specifically for his excellence in the pain management program and the use of the SBIRT.

I offer this letter of support freely and without compensation, drawing upon my background and 30 years of experience of addiction and pain medicine in the state of Ohio. I laud Dr. Margolin's commitment to research and public advocacy. Dr. Margolin used his own personal funds for research and free patient and public educational videos.

I am confident that Dr. Margolin's approach and research will enhance public safety, opioids medication use and patient care and set a high standard for effective patient screening, safe, responsible opioid prescribing, reducing opioids mortality and saving limited healthcare resources.

Warm regards,

William Vasilakis, Psy.D.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hocking Valley Community Hospital

Logan Ohio

Work with geriatric population, counsel veterans and perform Gastric Bypass Current
evaluation, pain management evaluations.

Apex Counseling

Ph: 614-751-1090

General counseling, psychological testing, forensic evaluations and custody Current
evaluations, Pain management (Spinal Stimulator Evaluations), Work with LHI
(Logistics Health Institution) evaluating candidates for military service.

Integrity Psychological Counseling, Inc

2005-2012

42 Hill Road South Pickerington, Oh 43137

Private Practice specializing in forensic evaluation, dual diagnosis,
addictions, counseling, competency evaluations, psychological evaluations,
Impaneled with Tricare for referrals with current service personal and veterans
PTSD diagnosis and counseling with veterans of WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm
Legal work for Fairfield County Court System.
Bariatric & Gastric Bypass Evaluation, Spinal Stimulator Exams

Senior Life Consultants

2006-2011

6465 Reflections Drive, Suite 110
Dublin, OH 43017

Nursing Home evaluations, counseling geriatric population, consultation with physicians
competency evaluations

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

2006 - 2007

640 Island Road Circleville OH 43113

Clinical Experience: Psychology Supervisor.

Responsible for program development, scheduling,
supervision of staff and caseloads, overall clinical management of institution,
responsible for QI implementation and testing, and supervision of units.

River Valley Counseling

2001 - 2005

131 N. Ewing Street, Lancaster, OH 43130

Clinical Experience: Adult and adolescent individual and family psychotherapy,
specialize in dual diagnoses; bariatric evaluations, spinal stimulator evaluations
and evaluations for rehab, assessments for work injuries. BWC evaluations

Fairfield Medical Center

2001 -2012

401 North Ewing Street, Lancaster, OH 43130
Affiliate Staff Psychologist: Consultations, evaluations, therapy and triage of patients admitted to the Behavioral Health Unit.

Drug & Alcohol Recovery Center of Fairfield County 2000 -2001
1856 Cedar Hill Road, Lancaster, 01143130
Clinical Experience: Clinical Director: Responsible for program development, supervision of staff caseloads, crisis work, responsible for Q.I. implementation, and overall clinical management of agency.

Maryville Academy City of Youth 1996 - 1999
1150 North River Road, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

Clinical Experience: Caseload involved assignment to two diagnostic group homes with youth and adolescents ages 7 years to 18 years. Tasks included psychological testing, individual therapy, develop group therapy for both group homes, court appearances on behalf of the youth, and staff training, and recommended alternate and additional placement and crisis intervention.
Doctoral Internship Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996

Alexian Brothers Medical Center-Nichoff Mental Health Unit
995 Beisner Road, Elk Grove, Illinois 60007
Supervisor John Noto, PH.D.
Clinical Experience: Psychological testing, psychological reports, individual assessments, diagnosis, in-patient admissions, case management, supervision of practicum students, led groups for substance abuse and dual-diagnosis.

Samaritan House-Outpatient Adolescent Addictions 1994 - 1994
999A Leichestor Road, Elk Grove, Illinois 60007
Supervisor: John Noto, Ph.D.
Clinical experience: Led adolescent addiction therapy groups, parent education groups, psychological testing, led multi-family educational groups, drug screens.

Alexian Brothers Medical Center-Addictions Treatment Center. 1993 - 1993
800 Beisterfield Road, Elk Grove, Illinois 60007
Supervisor Joan Stiech, RN CSADC
Clinical Experience: Coed psychotherapy groups, individual therapy, drug screens, intake und admissions, lecturer in addiction lectures series.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

CHICAGO SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY 2009- 2009
Degree Conferred: Certificate of Forensic Psychology

ADLER SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

65 East Wacker, Chicago, Illinois 60601

Degree Conferred: Doctor of Psychology, (Psy.D.) Clinical Psychology

1991 - 1996

Certification : Substance Abuse Counseling

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

5500 North Louis, Chicago, Illinois 60625

Degree Conferred: M.A. Community & Family Counseling

Sep. 1984 to Oct. 1986

Degree Conferred: M.A. History

Jan. 1981 to Dec. 1983

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

5500 North Louis, Chicago, Illinois 60625

Degree Conferred: B.A. Psychology.

Sep. 1977 to Jun. 1980

HARPER COLLEGE

1200 W. Algonquin Rd., Palatine, Illinois, 60067

Degree Conferred: A.A. Liberal Arts

Jan. 1975 to Aug. 1977

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

State of Ohio #5481

Certificate: Forensic Psychology

Certificate Substance Abuse Counseling

(Alder School of Professional Psychology)

Apr. 1994 to Dec. 1994

PRESENTATIONS

-Psychological Needs of the Substance Dependent Patient

-Pain Management Team, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, OH

-Identifying Drug Abusers and Pain Management Technique in Patients

-With a History of Drug Abuse, Pain Management Physicians, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, OH

-Peer Pressure and Anger Management; Thomas Ewing Junior High School, Lancaster, Ohio

-"Catch Me If You Can—Obsessive Compulsive Disorder", and

-"Stress and Anxiety Disorder in the Adult Population" 12th Annual

-Early Childhood Conference, Ohio University, Lancaster Campus,

Sponsored By the Children's Committee,

a subcommittee of Fairfield County Family,

Adult and Children First Counsel

-"Competency Evaluation: presented to the Ohio State Bar Association,

Lancaster, OH

-"Childhood Depression", interview for Medical Minute presented by WLOH

Radio, Lancaster, OH

-"Signs and Symptoms of Childhood Depression: written for Lancaster

Eagle Gazette through Fairfield Medical Center.

-Interview, Fairfield Focus, WLOH Radio, Lancaster, OH

-"Out of the Box" Workshop, presented with Dr. Miller and Dr. Wing

Ohio University Inn, Athens, OH

- "Emotional and Psychological Health: How to Support Employees",
Women's Division, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, Presented at
Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, OH.

Book Written under Pseudonym T.L. Shull: Do They Have a Pill for That?
Publisher I Universe Press, March 2019.