

# Valley View Health Center welcomes a new Doctor

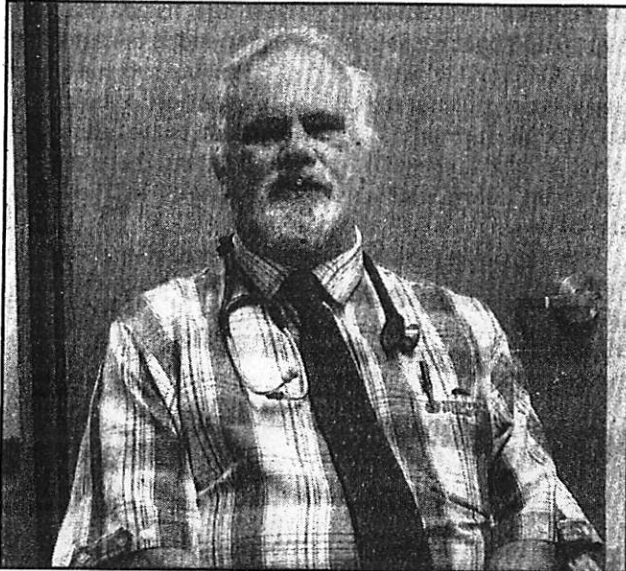


Photo by Jeff Clemens

Valley View Clinics newest addition Dr. William Dienst

**BY JEFF CLEMENS**

The Raymond Valley View Clinic has welcomed a new doctor by the name of Dr. William Dienst M.D. who is eager to meet local residents and provide for them as a primary care physician.

Dr. Dienst grew up in a Air Force family and lived all over the country and even spent some time in Germany before finally making a semi-permanent stop in Washington at the age of 14. He is a 1986 MD graduate of the University of Washington and performed his residency at Tacoma Family Medicine

at Tacoma Community Hospital from 1986-1989.

Dr. Dienst has signed a two year contract with Valley View and says after that time he will see how he feels as he is soon turning 60 and is hoping to retire within the next 5 years or so. "At some point I will retire," he said. "The hope is this will be my last job before I finally retire."

He continued, "almost all my experience has been in rural communities. That is my skill set and a rural family doctor is a lot different than an urban one and that's also true for the emergency room. It's just a very dif-

ferent skill set to practice in small communities where you don't have specialists [readily available] at your beck and call."

Dienst is avid in sports medicine and has been at the high school wrestling championships in Washington state every year since 1995 consecutively. "I hope that I'll be able to build a relationship with the wrestling programs at the local high schools," he said. "Which I guess is Raymond, South Bend, and Willapa Valley. And Okanogan County is the same, it's also the B-Schools, the small schools. So I know all the small schools in Eastern Washington where I'm coming from."

Willapa Harbor has a large hispanic population and Dr. Dienst is able to speak spanish and is posed to work the spanish speaking population. "I am seeing a lot of the hispanic patients here," he said. "And I'm conducting interviews in spanish and I get a little help from our bilingual staff when I need to fill in details I didn't quite get. I really enjoy working with the hispanic population and always have."

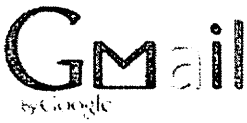
Dr. Dienst has done a lot of international travel and has written two books about health care for Syrian refu-

gees in Greece, and about the siege of the Gaza Strip' and his work with Palestinian people in Gaza in the West Bank where he has been a

number of times.

Staff from the Raymond Valley View Clinic will be at the Pacific County Fair on August 24 from 5:00 p.m. to

7:00 p.m. including Dr. Dienst. He will be available for a meet and greet and this will give the community a chance to meet the newest addition



Nicole Li <nicole@lilawseattle.com>

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## News Release: Okanogan County physician suspended

1 message

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WA Department of Health <waDOH@public.govdelivery.com>  
Reply-To: waDOH@public.govdelivery.com  
To: nicole@lilawseattle.com

Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 4:06 PM

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## News Release

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For immediate release: August 22, 2018 (18-119)

Contact: [Sharon Moysiuk](#), Strategic Communications Office, 360-549-6471

### **Okanogan County physician suspended; charges say he is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety**

**OLYMPIA** -- The Washington Medical Commission has immediately suspended the medical license of physician William L. Dienst, Jr., (MD00025927) pending further proceedings.

Charges state that Dr. Dienst did not comply with recommendations made by a monitoring program for an evaluation. Allegations also say the monitoring program is unable to endorse Dr. Dienst as safe to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

Dr. Dienst has a residence in Okanogan County and has recently believed to have been practicing in Pacific County. He cannot practice as a physician in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the charges and request a hearing.

The legal documents on this case are available online by clicking [Provider Credential Search](#) on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can also be requested by calling 360-236-4700. Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call this number and report their complaint.

The Medical Commission promotes patient safety and enhances the integrity of the profession through licensing, rule-making, discipline, and education. Learn more about the Commission: [doh.wa.gov/medical](http://doh.wa.gov/medical) and follow the Medical Commission on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

# Millapa Harbor Herald

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## DOCTOR

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license none of the claims against him were on there and I am really limited on what I can say or comment on."

However, Dienst had prior issues with substance abuse as far back as 2011 when he was caught smoking marijuana inside a hospital while on duty and was terminated from his most recent position in Okanogan after a failed urinalysis test some time prior to August 21, 2017 when he self-reported his termination to the licensing commission. Information all of which is readily available via the DOH credential

search page.

While marijuana is legal for recreational use in Washington many employers still deem it as a reason for termination if consumed while working or reason for disqualification from being hired during the hiring process.

Anyone wishing to check the status or history of a medical worker in the state of Washington can go to <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProviderCredentialSearch> and put in the workers first and last name to perform a check.

No further details were

available at the time of reporting.

## New Valley View doctor's license suspended by state

BY JEFF CLEMENS

Valley View Clinics newest addition Doctor William Dienst's medical license has been suspended by the Washington State Department of Health with a number of charges stated as the reason.

The **Herald** published an article on August 22 regarding Valley View welcoming a new doctor to the area. Raymond Valley View Clinic Manager Sharon Smith reached out and requested the **Herald** to withhold the article as Dr. Dienst would be out some time with a "family emergency," but the newspaper had already gone to press.

A concerned local resident contacted the **Herald** after reading the article to inform the newspaper of the allegations against Dr. Dienst. This same day, August 22, the Department of Health issued a press release regarding Dr. Dienst with the title, "Okanogan County physician suspended; charges say he is unable

to practice with reasonable skill and safety."

Subsequent information through the DOH database yielded approximately five malpractice claims against Dr. Dienst of which one patient ultimately passed away with his care being stated as a contributing factor.

The DOH performed a lengthy and extensive investigation into the claims against Dr. Dienst and after careful examination by the licensing commission they made the decision to suspend his license after determining he did not perform his job to standard of care in the five charges.

Dr. Dienst has also been accused of substance abuse while working and failed to comply with monitoring requirements nor is the monitoring program able to endorse him as safe to practice with reasonable skill and safety. He has 20 days to appeal the charges and request a hearing.

The charges against Dr.

Dienst stem from his prior position as an emergency room doctor in Okanogan County with the charges coming from multiple dates in 2017 in case numbers 2017-10931 and 2017-6893.

Valley View director Steve Clark had this to say about the situation with Dr. Dienst, "Dr. Dienst is an experienced doctor, a good doctor, and we felt he was doing great things at Valley View. Our hope is he will be able to work things out with the state and return to our Valley View Clinic."

Local residents have been concerned whether Valley View thoroughly performed a background check on Dr. Dienst and whether they were aware of the claims against him as he has been with the clinic for a very short time. When asked if Valley View was aware of the claims against Dr. Dienst, Clark said, "We used due diligence and when we checked his

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# Letters To The Editor

## Allegations Undermines The Presumption Of Innocence

To the editor:

With dismay, I read Jeff Clemen's article about Bill Dienst, MD.

First, none of the allegations published about Dr. Dienst have been proven. Indeed, as will be shown in formal hearing, they are mostly false. Publishing such allegations undermines the presumption of innocence.

Summary (also called "ex parte") actions are an exercise of the state's emergency powers. On its face, this action against Dr. Dienst is an abuse of that power, given that the cases the experts are currently arguing about took place over 1-3 years ago. Formal hearing is the place where the experts' opinions are presented to the Commission. Mr. Clemen's article (and the state's action) is based solely on the opinion of a state-selected (and state-paid) expert.

There is another vital angle that this unfortunate news article neglected.

Unfortunately, part of the system instituted by the Department of Health is the Washington Physician Health Program (WPHP), whose financing depends upon finding "problems" in physician practices and requiring entry into expensive, years-long "programs" of its own selection. Some physicians comply with unnecessary monitoring or treatment, going deeply into debt, derailing careers and straining families, in hopes of keeping their medical license. Others resolve the Kafka-esque nightmare by leaving the profession.

This broken system is not unique to Washington State. A quick Google search for "physician health program" will bring up robust criticism from Medscape. Adding "physician suicide" sharpens the picture.

It is time to revise the current system that hounds good doctors out of practice. It is not just a matter of justice for these physicians and the patients who depend on them: it is a matter of public health.

Sincerely,  
**Nicole Li**  
**The Li Law Firm**  
[www.lilawseattle.com](http://www.lilawseattle.com)