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## TURNING POINT MEDICAL DIRECTOR CERTIFIED BY NEW ADDICTION MEDICINE BOARD

### *Dr. Peter Finelli Among First in U.S. to Receive Recognition*

VERONA, NJ – Dr. Peter K. Finelli, D.O., FASAM, is among the first physicians in the United States certified by the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM), a new independent medical specialty board. The ABAM has begun to certify addiction medicine physicians from several specialties, including Dr. Finelli's: Family Practice. Previously, only psychiatrists could receive addiction-related board certification.

ABAM sets standards for physician education, assesses physicians' knowledge, and requires and tracks life-long continuing education. "We want addiction prevention, screening, intervention and treatment to become routine aspects of medical care, available virtually any place health care is provided," said Kevin B. Kunz, MD, President of the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Although one in five Americans entering the health care system has a substance abuse problem, there has never been a medical specialty, drawn from all areas of medicine, dedicated to treating addiction.

"We know we can rely on Dr. Finelli's skills and experience to treat our alcoholic and drug dependent clients, including the common medical and psychiatric conditions related to substance abuse," said Dr. Manuel Guantez, Executive Director of Turning Point.

Studies show that fewer than one in five physicians consider themselves adequately prepared to diagnose alcoholism or other drug use disorders. Physician training is sorely lacking. Separate courses in Addiction Medicine are rarely taught in medical school, and there are no Addiction Medicine residencies among the 8,200 ACGME-accredited residency programs in the nation's hospitals.

Dr. Finelli has a wide ranging background in Family Practice and several certifications, including the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He has served on a number of hospital boards, committees and in advisory roles in northern New Jersey and has extensive teaching experience. Dr. Finelli has been Turning Point's Medical Director since 2003.

For more information about Turning Point and its services, go to [www.tpnj.org](http://www.tpnj.org) or call 973-239-9400.

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