

ANNUAL REPORT

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USA AV+ Council Mission and Duties

The mission of the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory (USA AV+) Council is to create and coordinate a comprehensive strategy to eliminate substance use and mental health disorders throughout Utah.

The Council's statutory duties (§63M-7-301 through 306) are to:

- Provide leadership and generate unity for Utah's ongoing efforts to reduce and eliminate the impact of substance use and mental health disorders in Utah through a comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and justice strategy;
- Recommend and coordinate the creation, dissemination, and implementation of statewide policies to address substance use and mental health disorders;
- Facilitate planning for a balanced continuum of substance use and mental health disorder prevention, treatment, and justice services;
- Promote collaboration and mutually beneficial public and private partnerships;
- Analyze and provide an objective assessment of all proposed legislation concerning substance use, mental health, and related issues;
- Oversee the implementation and evaluation of Utah's Drug-related Offenses Reform Act (DORA);
- Monitor the use of beer tax funds annually distributed to municipalities and counties for purposes of alcohol- and substance abuse-related law enforcement, prevention, treatment, detection, prosecution, and control to ensure compliance with the statute (§32B-2-404 and 405);
- Oversee Utah's Underage Drinking Prevention Media Campaign, ParentsEmpowered.org (§32B-2-306);
- Oversee coordination for the funding, implementation, and evaluation of suicide prevention efforts described in Section 62A-15-1101; and
- Report recommendations annually to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Council, and Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

USA AV+ 2019 Legislative Priorities



The 2019 Utah Legislature passed the following USA AV+ subject related bills:

H.B. 104 – Private Counselors Amendments, by Rep. Christine Watkins. This bill modifies the authority of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health to establish requirements and procedures for certification of a practitioner, provider, or facility that provides mental health treatment to certain individuals.

H.B. 181 – Controlled Substance Abuse Amendments, by Rep. Steve Eliason. This bill requires a prescriber to discuss the risks of using an opiate with a patient or the patient's guardian (if patient is under 18 and not an emancipated minor) before issuing an initial opiate prescription (patients who have never been issued a prescription for an opiate and those who are being issued a prescription more than one year following the date on which an opiate was previously prescribed or administered to the patient); and provides exceptions for patients in

active treatment for cancer or receiving hospice care; and patients being prescribed medication for treatment of the patient's substance abuse or opiate dependence.

S.B. 96 – Medicaid Expansion Adjustments, by Sen. Allen Christensen. This bill makes changes to eligibility for and administration of the state Medicaid program; directs the Department of Health to continue to seek approval from the federal government to implement a Medicaid expansion; directs the Department of Health to seek approval from the federal government to expand eligibility for the Medicaid program to individuals whose income is below 100% of the federal poverty level in a manner that: incorporates a per capita cap on federal reimbursement; limits presumptive eligibility; gives enrollees continuous eligibility for a period of up to 12 months; allows Medicaid funds to be used for housing supports for certain enrollees; and permits the state to limit enrollment; if the federal government does not approve an expansion in the manner requested by the department, directs the department to expand eligibility for the Medicaid program to individuals whose income is below 138% of the federal poverty level, with certain cost controls.



Utah's Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign

ParentsEmpowered.org is a media and education campaign funded by the Utah Legislature and designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking in Utah by providing parents and guardians with information about the harmful effects of alcohol on the developing teen brain, along with proven skills for preventing underage alcohol use.

This award-winning campaign is in its fifteenth year on July 1st. The USAAV+ Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup meets regularly to guide development of campaign materials and oversee local prevention coalition mini-grants.

With its strong foundation of research showing **parental disapproval is the #1 reason youth choose not to drink**, Parents Empowered focuses on educating parents and other influential adults about the harmful effects of alcohol on the developing teen brain, along with proven skills for preventing underage alcohol use, including **BONDING** with children through daily, positive interaction; setting clear **BOUNDARIES** and limitations, including rules about underage drinking; and **MONITORING** kids' activities by

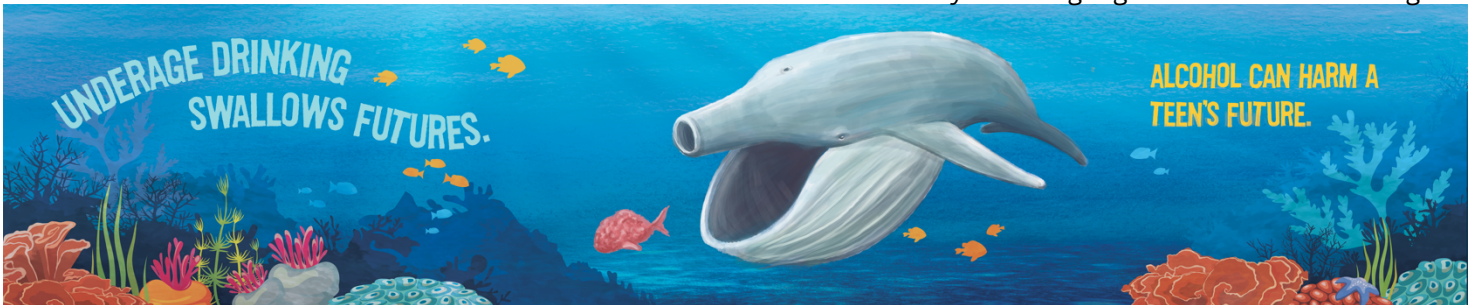
asking direct questions and ensuring their environment is alcohol-free.

The Parents Empowered campaign has seen a lot of success in its mini-grant program in engaging communities and allowing local leaders to determine needs specific to their targeted population.



Media Campaigns focusing on Bonding

Community Pool Signage from Mini-Grant Program

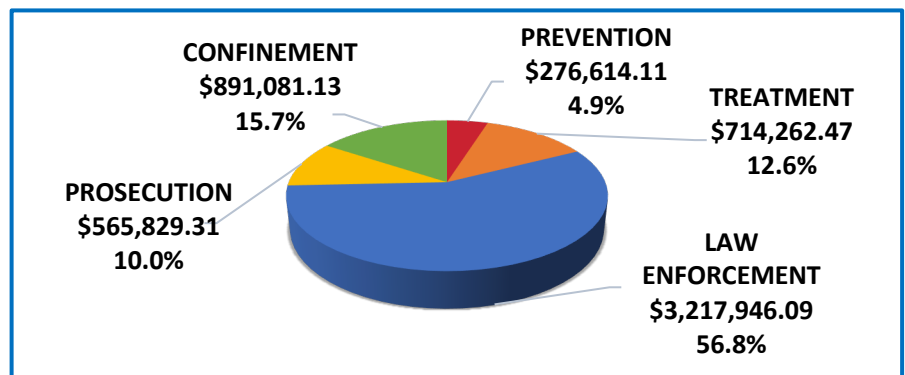


FY 2019 Beer Tax Funds

The USAAV+ Council monitors the use of beer tax monies distributed annually by the Utah State Tax Commission to

Utah's municipalities and counties from the **Alcoholic Beverage and Substance Abuse Enforcement and Treatment Restricted Account** for alcohol- and drug-related activities (§32B-4-4, Utah Code).

The Legislature appropriated \$5,854,419.95 for fiscal year 2019. The figure on the right shows how beer tax funds were utilized during FY 2019.



Note: The amounts expended may not add up to the FY 2018 appropriation due to Tax Commission distribution fees, as well as inclusion of funds carried over from the previous fiscal year(s) and/or unexpended FY 2019 funds carried over to FY 2020.

2019 USAAV+ Governor's Awards

The USAAV+ Council annually honors those who have made outstanding contributions to Utah's efforts to eliminate substance use and mental health disorders and their adverse consequences. In 2019, the Council recognized four individuals whose leadership, diligence, and compassionate work in a challenging field to serve those within our most vulnerable populations.

Representative Jim Dunnigan, R-Taylorsville, was elected to the Utah House of Representatives in 2002. Rep. Dunnigan has quickly become an advocate for people who are afflicted with behavioral health problems such as mental illness or substance use disorders. He also volunteers in the Salt Lake County Oxbow Jail and works with jail inmates who have behavioral health problems. During the 2016 Legislative Session, Rep. Dunnigan took the leadership role in sponsoring the Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM) waiver for the chronically homeless, Drug Court/MH Court participants, and clients who had substantially completed a substance use disorder treatment program while incarcerated. In the 2019 Legislative Session, he was the house sponsor for S.B. 96, which expanded health care coverage for up to an additional 90,000 Utahns through Utah's version of Medicaid Expansion.



The **Third District Juvenile Mental Health (C.A.R.E.) Court** received the 2019 USAAV+ Governor's Award. This award has been a critical source of support and assistance to youth who experience unique challenges due to their mental health needs. Youth engaged in C.A.R.E. Court receive help from deeply engaged and committed advocates who understand that mental health and delinquency are interrelated. Under the leadership of the Honorable Elizabeth Knight, the C.A.R.E. Court Team engages high risk youth with mental health needs in a different manner than mainstream courts in order to reduce vulnerable youth from being funneled more deeply into the system, further

being isolated from critical services needed to stabilize. The Team's commitment to engage this population with compassion and to prioritize treatment over punishment increases the youth's likelihood of successfully exiting the juvenile justice system.

Darlene Schultz, has shared her family story of losing her 22-year-old son Adam due to an accidental heroin overdose after 150 days in recovery with media, community forums, Utah Legislature and leaders of Congress in Washington, DC. She has also promoted the use of Naloxone through educating family members and others. As first a participant, Darlene soon began co-facilitating CRAFT Family Support meetings and has since developed training for facilitators and led trainings in Utah, New Jersey, Texas, and Indiana.



Robin Hatch, has been a prevention coordinator at Northeastern Counseling Center for nearly 23 years and is a prevention CHAMPION. She is continuously working to improve collaboration and communication across sectors and reduce problem behaviors in her community. One of the most notable contributions Robin has made is around firearm safety in an effort to reduce suicide deaths. She formed numerous partnerships with firearm owners and firearm retailers to distribute gunlocks, gun socks, and educational materials. Additionally, Robin has collaborated with the farming and agriculture community to reduce social isolation and stigma around help seeking and to promote firearm safety.



2019 Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory (USAAV+) Council Members

Commissioner Jess Anderson

Utah Department of Public Safety

Owen Ashton

*Chair, Utah Behavioral Health
Planning and Advisory Committee*

Pat Bird

Representative of Prevention Professionals

Judge James Blanch

District Court Drug Court Judge

Heather Borski

Utah Department of Health

Dr. Karen Buchi and Ann Williamson

Co-Chairs, Drug Endangered Children Committee

Daniel Burton

Utah Attorney General's Office

Dennis Cecchini

*Resident Personally Affected by a Substance Use
or Mental Health Disorder*

Kim Cordova

Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Santiago Cortez

Chair, Treatment Committee

Commissioner Bill Cox

Elected County Official

Dr. Michael Crookston

Representative of Treatment Professionals

Patrick Fleming, CHAIR

Citizen Representative

Dr. Mark Foote

Representative of Physical Health Care Field

Mike Haddon

Utah Department of Corrections

Colonel Gary Harter

Military Service Member/Veteran

Brent Kelsey

Chair, Recovery Residences Committee

Deborah Kreeck-Mendez

Criminal Defense Attorney

Rhett Larsen

Utah State Board of Education

Mayor Howard Madsen

Utah League of Cities and Towns

Judge Mary Manley

Juvenile Court Drug Court Judge

Mary Jo McMillen

*Statewide Advocacy Organization for Recovery
from Substance Use Disorders*

Diane Moore

Utah Division of Child and Family Services

Kimberly Myers

Chair, Statewide Suicide Prevention Coalition

Richard Nance

Chair, DORA Oversight Committee

Margaret Olson

Statewide Association of Prosecutors

Brett Peterson

Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services

Denise Porter

Utah Board of Pardons and Parole

Scott Reed, VICE CHAIR

Chair, Justice Committee

Chief Tom Ross

Representative of Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Catherine Dupont

Administrative Office of the Courts

Shirlee Silversmith

Utah Division of Indian Affairs

Doug Thomas

Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Rob Timmerman

Chair, Utah Prevention Advisory Committee

Judge Vernice Trease

District Court Mental Health Court Judge

Nubia Peña

Office of Multicultural Affairs

Carlene Walker

Chair, DUI Committee

Rob Wesemann

*Statewide Advocacy Organization for Recovery
from Mental Illness*

Christina Zidow

Representative of Youth Services Providers

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Diana Bartley, Administrative Assistant