



# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MARY LOU EMERSON, DIRECTOR • (801) 538-1921 • www.usaav.utah.gov

## USA AV Council Mission and Duties

The mission of the Utah Substance Abuse Advisory (USA AV) Council is to create and coordinate a comprehensive strategy to eliminate substance abuse 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 combat substance abuse;
- Recommend and coordinate the creation, dissemination, and implementation of a statewide substance abuse policy;
- Facilitate planning for a balanced continuum of substance abuse 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 alcohol and other drug issues;
- Oversee the implementation and evaluation of Utah's Drug Offender 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); and
- Report recommendations annually to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Council, and Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

## 2016 Legislative Priority: Integration of Substance Use and Mental Health Issues on the Council

The USA AV Council will present a proposal to the 2016 Utah Legislature to expand the Council's scope to include mental health issues. In 2015 the Council created a "Behavioral Health Integration Committee" to explore the issue and develop specific recommendations. In response to the Committee's recommendations, the Council voted unanimously to do the following: 1) Expand the scope of the USA AV Council to include both substance use and mental health disorders and related issues; 2) Change the name of the Council to the *Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council*; and 3) Make corresponding amendments to the USA AV statute during the 2016 Legislative Session.

### Why Integrate?

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), "[a]bout a third

of all people experiencing mental illnesses and about half of people living with severe mental illnesses also experience substance abuse. These statistics are mirrored in the substance abuse community, where about a third of all alcohol abusers and more than half of all drug abusers report experiencing a mental illness." Either disorder can develop first.

Historically, however, prevention and treatment strategies have reflected a division between the systems, even though they frequently occur simultaneously and share many risk and protective factors. This has led to a fragmentation of services for individuals suffering from substance use and mental health disorders that may discourage them from seeking care. Integrated services, on the other hand, have been shown to produce better outcomes for those with co-occurring disorders. Because effective service integration will require effective collaboration across disciplines, the USA AV Council provides an ideal mechanism for

bringing both systems together to accomplish this objective. Integration of substance use and mental health services will also result in a number of advantages for both disciplines:

### Advantages of Integration:

Provides a forum for mental health issues, as has been provided through the USA AV Council for substance use issues for the past 25 years

Reduces stigma associated with substance use disorders, as has been accomplished for mental illness

Addresses co-occurring disorders through integrated care, policy, and financing (an evidence-based practice)

Promotes equitable funding for substance use and mental health disorders

Brings new partners to the table to elevate the importance of focusing on both substance use and mental health disorders

Provides a forum for the development of policies, interventions, programs, and evaluation as envisioned under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) for people with both substance use and mental health disorders who are involved in Utah's criminal justice system

## USAAV 2015 Legislative Priorities



In conjunction with its statutory duty to recommend statewide substance abuse policy, the USAAV Council identified two priority bills during the 2015 Legislative Session, both of which passed:

**H.B. 52 – Mental Health Professional Practice Amendments**, by Representative Michael Kennedy. This bill amended provisions for an externship license issued under the Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Clinical Mental Health Counselor Licensing Acts.

**H.B. 348 – Criminal Justice Programs and Amendments**, by Representative Eric Hutchings. This bill enacted changes in conjunction with the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) **Justice Reinvestment Report** released in November of 2014. The report contained 18 policy recommendations for a comprehensive package aimed at reducing recidivism, controlling prison costs, and holding offenders accountable. Included were proposals for increasing community-based treatment for justice-involved persons with substance use and mental health disorders.

The following are important bills supported by the USAAV Council that also passed during the 2015 Legislative Session:

**H.B. 48 – Powdered Alcohol Amendments**, by Representative Steve Eliason. This bill enacted prohibitions for the use, offering for use, purchase, offering to purchase, selling, offering to sell, and furnishing of powdered alcohol for human consumption.

**H.B. 284 – Minor Alcohol or Drug Related Offenses and Driving Privileges**, by Representative Edward Redd. This bill enacted a requirement for a court to order a screening, an assessment, and an educational series or substance use disorder treatment, if appropriate, for a second or subsequent alcohol or drug related violation; and authorized a court to reduce a driver license suspension period for certain drug related offenses committed by minors.

## Utah's Drug Offender Reform Act

Utah's Drug Offender Reform Act (DORA) entered its eleventh year of implementation in FY 2016. During the past decade, an estimated 4,190 participants have received DORA-funded substance use disorder treatment and intensive correctional supervision services.

The goal of DORA is to reduce the incidence of substance use disorders, drug-related crime, and the associated consequences for individuals, families, and communities throughout Utah. The objectives of DORA are to: determine an individual's specific risk and substance use disorder treatment needs as early as possible in the

judicial process; expand substance use disorder treatment resources for individuals under corrections supervision in the community; provide more intensive supervision by the Utah Department of Corrections; and integrate substance use disorder treatment and correctional supervision in a collaborative approach to managing individuals on probation and parole.

### DORA Assessment and Quality Improvement Process

Beginning on July 1, 2015, DORA treatment and supervision providers statewide began an intensive assessment and quality improvement process involving administration of the "Correctional Program Checklist" or CPC. The CPC is a process that determines how current interventions

are being operationalized and whether or not they adhere to evidence-based practices. The CPC has been utilized with other justice programs in Utah and has been found to be very helpful in identifying program strengths and weaknesses, as well as promoting evidence-based practices. The CPC process answers three basic questions: *Where is the program now? Where does the program need to go? How can the program improve?*

The CPC process is co-funded by the DORA partner agencies: Department of Corrections, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. The process is scheduled to be completed by December 2016.



## Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign

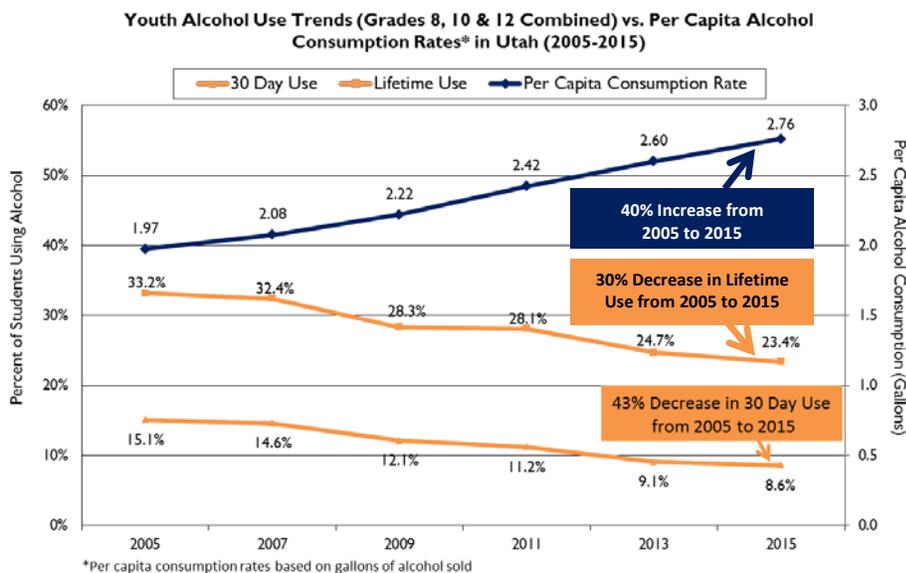
During 2015, the USAAV Council maintained its oversight of Utah's ParentsEmpowered Underage

Drinking Prevention Media Campaign, funded by the Utah Legislature through the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The campaign entered its tenth year on July 1, with new TV, radio, print and social media components. The USAAV Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup meets regularly to guide the development of campaign materials.

With its strong foundation of research showing **parental disapproval is the #1 reason youth choose not to drink**, ParentsEmpowered focuses on 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, including **BONDING** with children

through daily, positive communication and interaction; setting clear **BOUNDARIES** and limitations, including rules about underage drinking; and **MONITORING** children's activities by asking direct questions and ensuring their environment is alcohol-free.

ParentsEmpowered serves as the hub for Utah's comprehensive effort to prevent and reduce underage drinking, and it's working! As illustrated in the figure on the right, data from the Utah Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Survey and the Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control show that while the per capita alcohol consumption rate in Utah increased from 2005-2015, youth alcohol use *declined steadily* for both lifetime and 30-day use during the same timeframe.



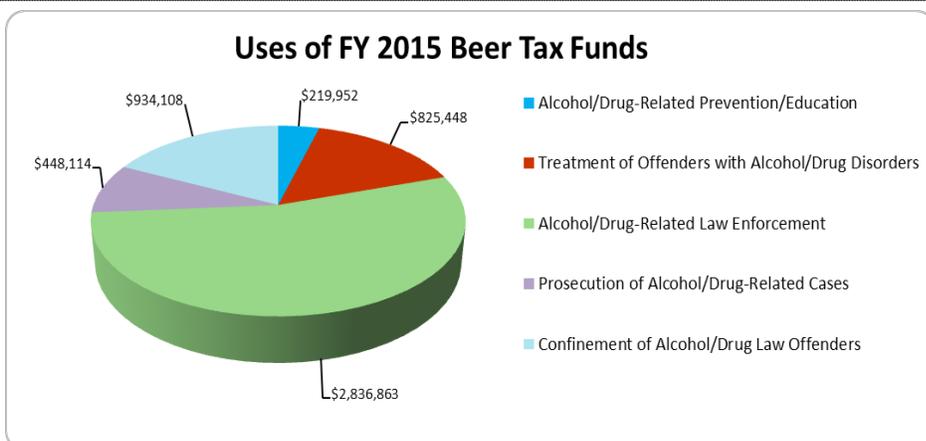
Source: Youth Alcohol Use - Utah Student Health and Risk Prevention Survey (SHARP)  
Per Capita Consumption -Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Annual Summary of Operation (DABC Products Wine, Spirits, Heavy Beer & Flavored Malt Beverages)

## FY 2015 Beer Tax Funds

The USAAV Council monitors the use of beer tax monies appropriated annually to Utah's municipalities and counties for alcohol-related activities.

The figure on the right shows how the FY 2015 appropriation of \$5,386,400 was utilized.

*Note: The amounts expended do not add up to the total appropriation due to unexpended funds carried over to FY 2015 and Tax Commission distribution fees.*



## 2015 USAAV Governor's Awards

The USAAV Council annually honors those who have made outstanding contributions to Utah's efforts to eliminate substance abuse and its consequences.

**Mary Jo McMillen**, Executive Director for the Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA), received the 2015 USAAV Governor's Award in recognition of her vision, leadership, and passionate advocacy on behalf of individuals in recovery from substance use disorders and their families, resulting in reduced stigma and many lives saved.

**David Felt**, recently retired Treatment Programs Administrator for the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, received the 2015 USAAV Governor's Award in recognition of his leadership, exceptional public service, and tireless advocacy for provider partnerships and evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and recovery services that are responsive to the needs of individuals and families throughout Utah.



From left to right: USAAV Vice Chair Colonel (Ret.) Merrill Carter, Shawn McMillen, **Mary Jo McMillen**, **David Felt**, Lynda Felt, USAAV Chair Camille Anthony

## Utah Substance Abuse Advisory Council Members

**S. Camille Anthony, CHAIR**  
*Citizen Representative*

**Col. (Ret.) Merrill R. Carter**  
**VICE CHAIR**  
*Utah National Guard*

**Dan Becker**  
*State Court Administrator*

**Pat Bird**  
*Expertise in Prevention Issues*

**Heather Borski**  
*Utah Department of Health*

**Paul Boyden**  
*Chair, DUI Committee*

**Dr. Karen Buchi**  
*Chair, Drug Endangered Children Committee*

**Susan Burke**  
*Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services*

**Craig Burr**  
*Utah Department of Corrections*

**Santiago Cortez**  
*Chair, Treatment Committee*

**Austin Cox**  
*Governor's Designee*

**Commissioner Bill Cox**  
*Utah Association of Counties*

**Parker Douglas**  
*Utah Attorney General's Office*

**Jesse Gallegos**  
*Expert in Criminal Justice Issues*

**Ron Gordon**  
*Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

**Brent Kelsey**  
*Chair, Recovery Residences Committee*

**Judge Michael Kwan**  
*Expertise in Judicial Issues*

**Verne Larsen**  
*Utah State Office of Education*

**Dr. Joel Millard**  
*Expertise in Treatment Issues*

**Richard Nance**  
*Chair, DORA Oversight Committee*

**Jennifer Oxborrow**  
*Utah Domestic Violence Coalition*

**Craig PoVey**  
*Chair, Prevention Committee/UPAC*

**Representative Paul Ray**  
*Utah House of Representatives*

**Scott Reed**  
*Chair, Justice Committee*

**Mayor JoAnn Seghini**  
*Utah League of Cities and Towns*

**Shirlee Silversmith**  
*Utah Division of Indian Affairs*

**Commissioner Keith Squires**  
*Utah Department of Public Safety*

**Senator Jerry Stevenson**  
*Utah State Senate*

**Doug Thomas**  
*Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health*

### **USA AV Committees and Workgroups**

**DORA Oversight Committee**  
*Richard Nance, Chair*  
*Carrie Cochran, Vice Chair*

**Drug Endangered Children Committee**  
*Dr. Karen Buchi, Co-Chair*  
*Ann Williamson, Co-Chair*

**DUI Committee**  
*Paul Boyden, Chair*  
*Kim Gibb, Vice Chair*

**Justice Committee**  
*Scott Reed, Chair*

**Prevention Committee/UPAC**  
*Craig PoVey, Chair*  
*Verne Larsen, Vice Chair*

**Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup**  
*Doug Murakami, Chair*

**Recovery Residences Committee**  
*Brent Kelsey, Chair*

**Treatment Committee**  
*Santiago Cortez, Chair*  
*Dr. Joel Millard, Vice Chair*

**Behavioral Healthcare Workforce Workgroup**  
*Santiago Cortez, Chair*

### **USA AV Staff**

Mary Lou Emerson, Director  
Krystal Hazlett, Beer Tax Manager  
Monica Taylor, Administrative Assistant

\*\*\*\*\*

Utah Substance Abuse Advisory  
(USA AV) Council  
Utah State Capitol Complex  
Senate Office Building, Suite 330  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
801-538-1921  
<http://www.usaav.utah.gov>

