

# UTAH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kimball Gardner and Ginger Phillips, Council Co-Chairpersons

195 North 1950 West, Attention DSAMH, L. Huff • Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
(801) 538-4519

## UBHPAC Members

Brandee Casias  
*Salt Lake Police Crisis  
Intervention Team*

Michelle Vance  
*Youth Consumer*

Lori Cerar  
*Allies with Families*

Valerie Fritz  
*House of Hope*

Jamie Justice  
*NAMI Utah*

Julie Hardle  
*Optum Health*

Lynda Krause  
*Family Advocate*

Jenifer Lloyd  
*Association for Utah  
Community Health*

*Disability Law Center*

Mary Jo McMillen  
*USARA*

Kimball Gardner  
*NAMI Utah*

Ginger Phillips  
*Peer Advocate*

Carol Ruddell  
*Utah Department of  
Health*

Sam Vincent  
*4<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic*

February 3, 2015

Dear Utah State Legislators,

The Utah Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council (UBHPAC) is statutorily responsible for reviewing plans for the use of block grant funds, advising the state authority (DSAMH) on block grant plans and revisions, serving as an advocate for individuals impacted by mental illness and substance use disorder and monitoring and evaluating the adequacy of services in Utah. A primary goal of the Planning Council is to support and assist people to become healthier and more productive Utahns.

The Planning Council adds its voice to the ever growing swell of support for Gov. Herbert's Healthy Utah Plan. After carefully analyzing options proposed by the Health System Reform Task Force the Planning Council unanimously voted to support the Healthy Utah Plan. The Plan represents a meaningful opportunity to more fully address behavioral health challenges in our state. When individuals and families are healthy...physically, mentally and emotionally...they are more productive; this increased state of health contributes to improved employment and a broader economic base.

The Planning Council also unanimously voted to support the following budget recommendations in order of priority:

1. Medicaid match fund for local authorities (\$6,400,000). This budget recommendation supports ongoing delivery of mental health services for over 45,000 Utahns.
2. Restore Medicaid funding loss due to a change in allocation methods (Utah State Hospital Costs Settlement, \$1,200,000). Without the above investment a 30 bed unit at USH would close reducing the total capacity of the hospital from 152 to 122.
3. Mental health early intervention (\$1,500,000). This budget recommendation provides for continuation of services previously funded with one time revenue. Individuals benefiting from early intervention services increased to 5761 last year from 3892 the previous year.

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We know that treatment is effective, recovery is possible and that there is hope! Please help us send this message of hope for full and productive lives for all Utahns by supporting the Healthy Utah Plan and the Governor's budget recommendations highlighted above.

We are very grateful for your service. Please let us know if we can provide additional information as you and your colleagues study the important issues that face citizens in the state of Utah. You may contact the Planning Council co-chairs, Kimball Gardner (801-869-2877) and Ginger Phillips (801-503-8920). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

*The Utah Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council*

cc: Gary R. Herbert, Governor, State of Utah  
Spencer J. Cox, Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah  
Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Utah Department of Health