

Thanks for your participation as a panelist at the Utah Legislature's Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee town hall meeting in Price on the opioid overdose crisis in Carbon County, Utah on 9/17 starting at 6 p.m. Could you please provide two one page documents on the topics below by Friday, August 31st with information as specific to Carbon County or Utah as you can? (D.E.A. I know that you cannot provide something.) I will assume that your responses can be posted online as meeting materials unless you tell me otherwise.

We would like to begin with a public note of thanks to those that have made the CARE (Carbon Addiction Reduction & Elimination) Coalition possible. First and foremost our community leaders who sit on our community Key-Leader Board. Without their support and matching funds the coalition efforts would not have been possible. Additionally deep thanks goes to those who sit on our Community Board and workgroups, as well as our agency partners that perform the month to month tasks of data assessment, program selection and program implementation. Their work provides solid plans, movement to action and outputs of success. Finally to our State partners. The ongoing support from the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health for providing federal pass-through dollars in matching grant funds and technical assistance to effectively use the Communities That Care model is paramount to our success and sustainability. We would also like to thank the State Intergenerational Poverty Initiative for seed money that supported finalizing our strategic plan.

1. What is your organization doing to address the provider/supply side of opioids? What suggestions does your organization have (if any) to address the supply side of opioids?

The C.A.R.E. Coalition's mantra is "Empowering Youth by Preventing Risk".

A coalition can be defined as: *an alliance for combined action*. The C.A.R.E. (Carbon Addiction Reduction & Elimination) Coalition is just such an alliance. In the past decade, scientists have learned that communities experience risk factors that lead to multiple negative outcomes in a community, school, or family. By pulling together the agencies and citizens with an interest in stopping the negative outcomes, a synergistic effect takes place and community members and families experience a decrease in substance abuse, school drop out, teen pregnancy, suicidal ideation, etc. Our coalition's alliance for combined action will reduce suicide and overdose in Carbon County. To address the questions posed there are two important points to understand about the CARE Coalition:

- 1.) We are not a stand alone organization but rather an alliance of partner sectors and organizations collaborating under a single strategic plan. All actions noted are carried out by one of our partner organizations acting as the "backbone" agency for a specific strategy. For example the supply reduction strategies noted in this section are being implemented and overseen by Castleview Hospital and Four Corners Community Behavioral Health. Other "backbone" agencies will be referenced throughout.
- 2.) We utilize a public health approach to identify the primary risk factors associated with the disease of addiction. According to a study released by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA Columbia) 9 out of 10 Americans who meet the criteria for an addiction started smoking, drinking or using other drugs prior to the age of 18. It is for this reason that we believe our efforts must include strategies to address the supply of these primary "substances of first use" as a necessary link in the chain to addressing addiction as a disease.



Public Health Approach

With this understanding the collaborations within the coalition have allowed for some valuable work to be done regarding the supply of opioids within Carbon County. Specifically we applied for grants made available through the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. The awarded grants have led to the establishment and enhancement of these very important strategies in our community:

- Installing take-back boxes in local pharmacies
- Installing "Use-Only-As-Directed" Campaign Materials
- Collaborating on a Controlled Substance Monitoring System - With technical assistance from the University of Utah Addiction Medicine Program

Recommendations for those involved with reducing the supply of drugs being misused and abused included:

- Educating law enforcement about the nature of addiction, what drives a person to misuse substances
- Helping community members understand the opioid epidemic is not unique to just pain killers. Overall substance abuse is an issue and often opioid misuse begins with abusing other drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Our coalition's plans include utilizing science to guide implementation of efforts that reduce the overall likelihood of drug abuse.