

The State of the Counties and Local Health Departments During COVID-19



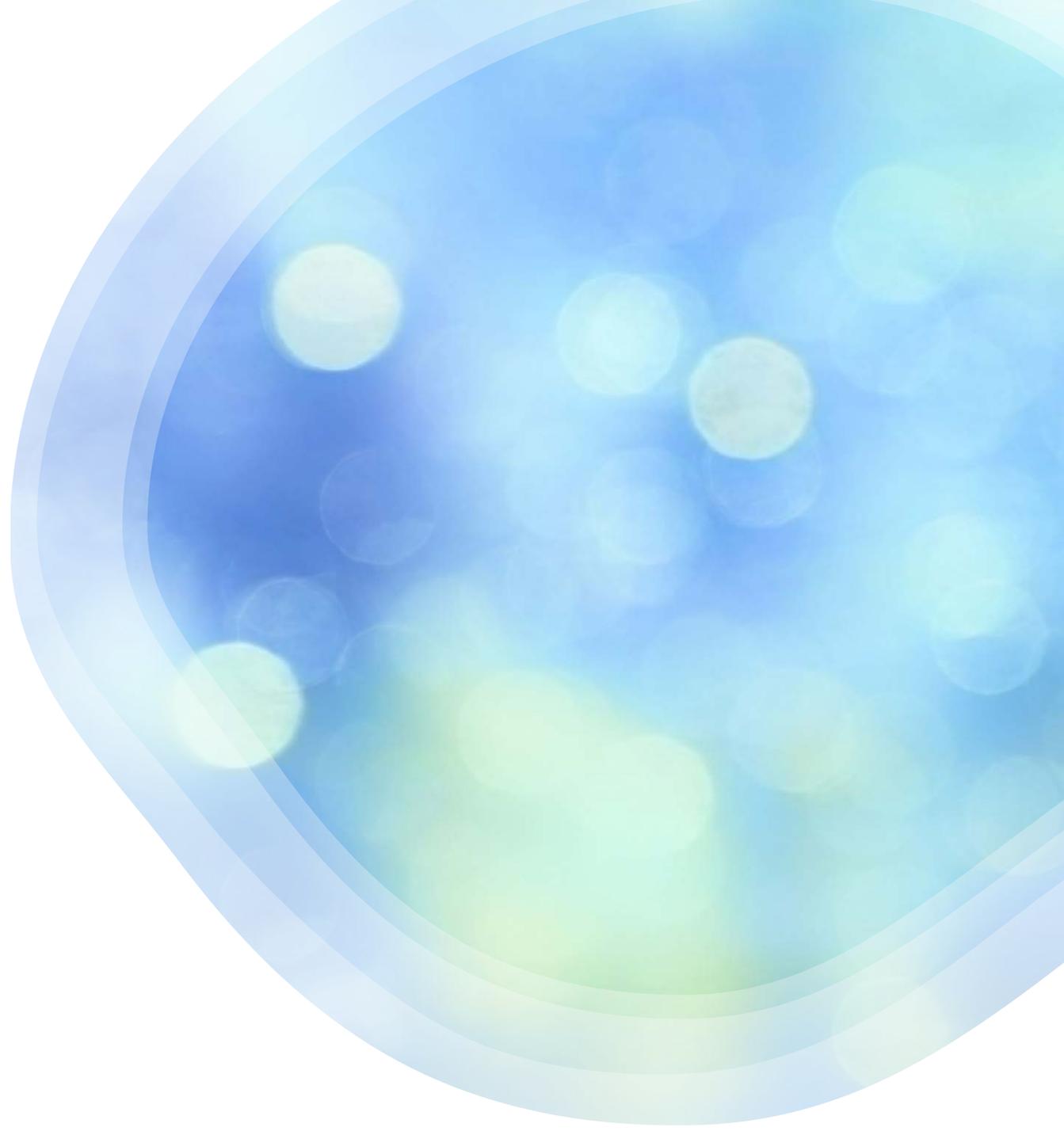
Lincoln Shurtz and Brandy Grace - UAC
Jill Parker - UALHD

Overview

Look back - What Worked

Current - Issues we Face Today

Future - Things to Plan For



Local Health Department Response to COVID-19

Jill Parker, Executive Director

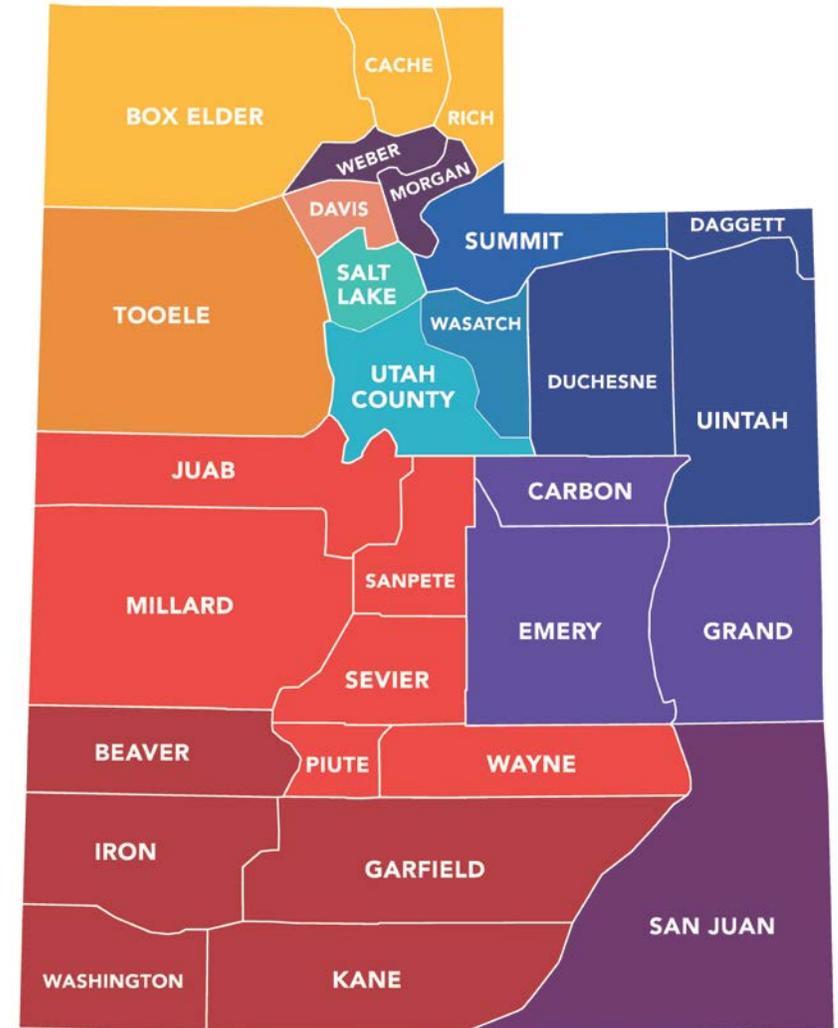
Utah Association of Local Health Departments



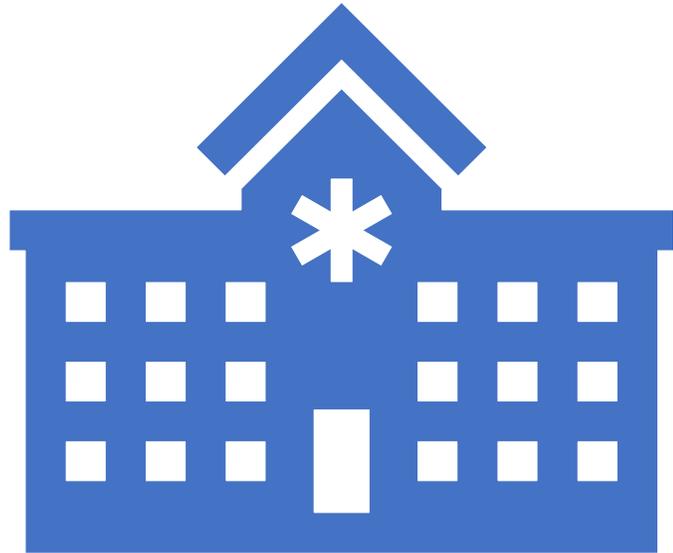
UTAH ASSOCIATION *of*
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Utah Local Health Department Funding Dynamic

- 13 Local Health Departments
 - Some are single county, some multicounty
 - Various Funding Mechanisms
 - Various Funding “efforts”



Local Health Department Emergency Authority



- No additional authority was given to local health departments
- All orders were issued in partnership with the local legislative body of the county and reviewed and approved by the county attorney
- Multi-county jurisdictions worked with a Commissioner from each county

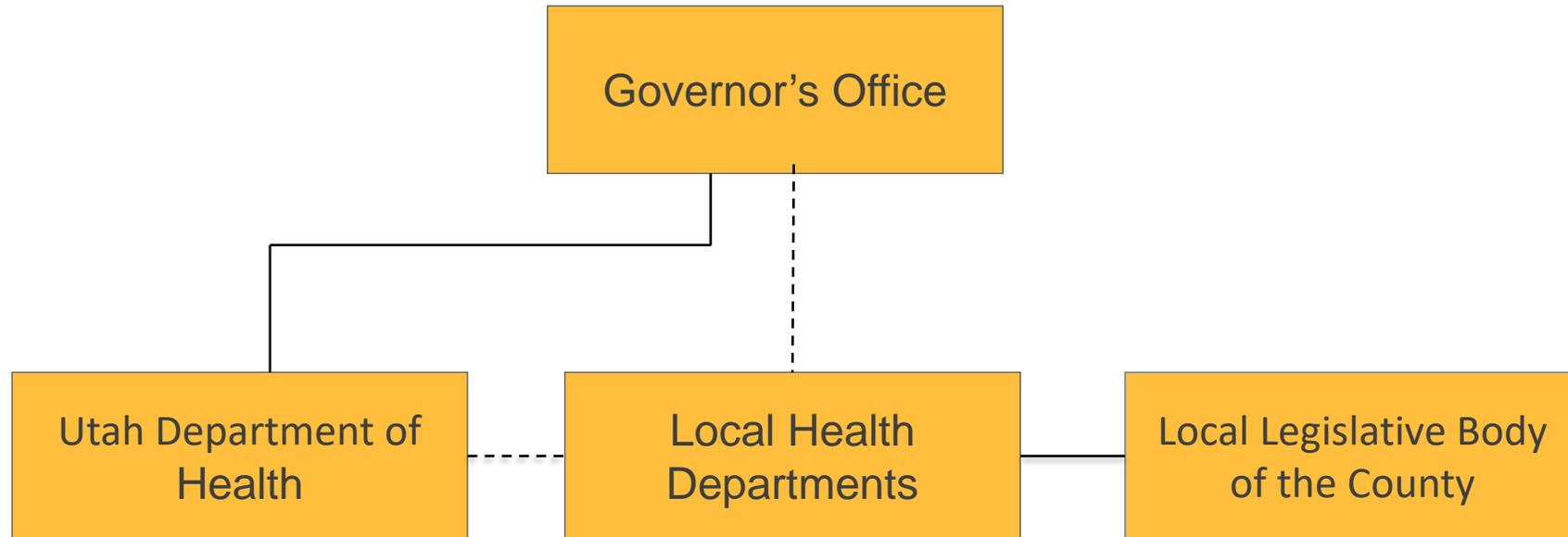
Resources Available to LHD's

Resources	Adequacy of Resources
Existing LHD Budgets and Staff	Insufficient for the length and size of the required response <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing staff were required to return back to other essential public health services• Additional resources were requested through CARES Act dollars
Support from other Local Health Departments	Served as emergency capacity when one or more LHD's surged
Support from Utah Department of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided active monitoring and contact tracing support in a couple of health districts	Became quickly overwhelmed as surge occurred across multiple counties
County Resources	Limited capacity to provide public health support

Role of Local Health Departments

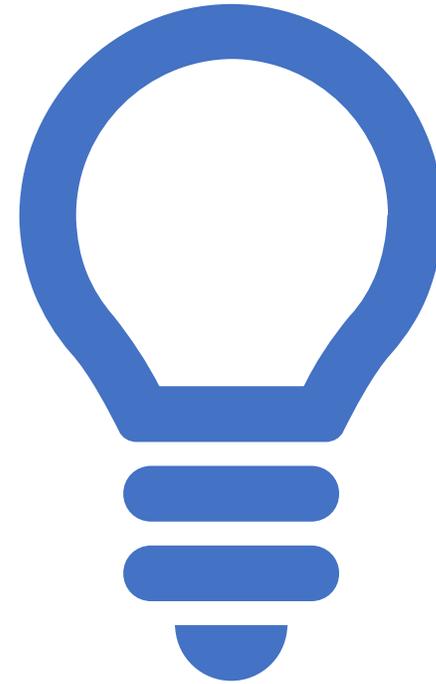
- Investigation of all positive cases
 - Investigations take approximately 1hr/case
 - Contact Tracing from 5 to 30 contacts/case
 - Active Monitoring – 14 days/contact
- Assisting communities in understanding the color-coded guidelines
- Assist businesses in opening safely

Communication Pathways



Lessons Learned

- Ongoing After Action Report
- Dual signatures on orders
- Finding opportunities to communicate and plan for fall 2020
 - K-12
 - USHE



County Response to COVID-19

Lincoln Shurtz & Brandy Grace
Utah Association of Counties



Looking back – Creating a Path Forward

- Allowing for autonomy but creating a “chain of command”
 - Current System’s Decentralization created confusion re: Who is in Charge
 - Governor, Legislative Economic Recovery Taskforce, The Legislature, Department Heads, Local Health Department, Counties, Cities
 - Clearly define the chain of command and inform the public of how best to engage
- Responding to a crisis requires a system that can respond to crisis
 - Military “war games” engrain a chain of command
 - Crisis is only exacerbated when the response has not been practiced
 - COVID today, what is on the horizon?
- How do we decentralize this effort with clear roles and responsibilities?
 - Statewide Education Effort with a Decentralized (county-by-county) implementation proved difficult for the business community
 - How do we handle multi-jurisdictional businesses
 - How do we have standardized definitions (Critical Industry Exemptions)

Current and Looking Forward – Economic Recovery

- Deployment of Cares Act (State, County, City) – June, August, October
- Avoiding Duplication (PPE)
- Plan Standardization/Approval
- Supply Chain Coordination
- Reporting Procedures (SOPs)
- Highest and Best Use Criteria



Current and
Future Needs

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Budget
Flexibility



RAINY DAY FUNDING LIMITED BY
COUNTIES

ONE YEAR OF PROPERTY TAX OR 50% OF
GENERAL FUND REVENUE, WHICHEVER
IS GREATER



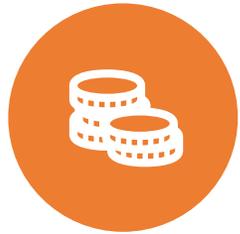
REVENUE SILOS
MOTOR FUEL TAX
TRT —>TOURISM

- Counties are in the middle of their budget cycle
- CARES Act cannot be used to replace lost revenue
- Legislative Authorization required for new revenue sources or enhanced flexibility

Conducting County Business While Social Distancing

- Tax Sale – REVENUE AND TAXATION
 - DMV – Registration, License Renewal – BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES
 - Behavioral Health – MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
 - Senior Services – AGING SERVICES
 - Policing Activity – Protest, Health Order Enforcement – PUBLIC SAFETY
 - Recording of Documents – REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY
 - Economic Development Recovery – ECONOMIC RECOVERY
 - Elections/Voter Engagement – ELECTIONS
 - Telework and Remote Meeting Protocols – GENERAL PROCEDURES
-
- HOW DO WE STAY OPEN WHILE KEEPING THE PUBLIC AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES SAFE

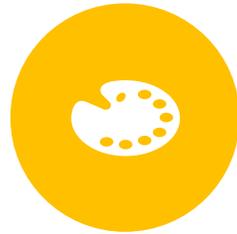
New and Emerging Issues



**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC SUPPORT**



**COORDINATION
WITH CITIES AND
SPECIAL DISTRICTS**



**SUPPORT FOR
HERITAGE AND ARTS,
AND NONPROFITS**



**PROPERTY TAX
VALUATIONS ISSUES
(TRUTH IN TAXATION)**



**TOURISM (TRT) —>
MASS GATHERINGS**

Several Issues To Anticipate

- Behavioral Health Services
 - Losing Ground in Substance Abuse and Mental Illness – Efficacy of Remote Service Delivery
- Economic Development
 - CRA's contemplate economic growth to create Tax Increment
- Revenue and Taxation
 - Impact to Valuations
 - Income approach to Valuation and Lien Date Issues
 - Floating the Tax Rate
 - Delinquent Tax Filing – Property and Sales Tax
- Personnel Issues
 - Remote working
 - Public Safety/First Responder Impacts
- Infrastructure
 - Deferred Maintenance
 - Bond Obligations
- Legal Liability for Response
 - Corrections
 - Youth Sports
 - Community Assets (Parks, Rec Centers, Rodeo grounds, etc.)

The Aftermath and The Next Crisis

More Revenue Flexibility

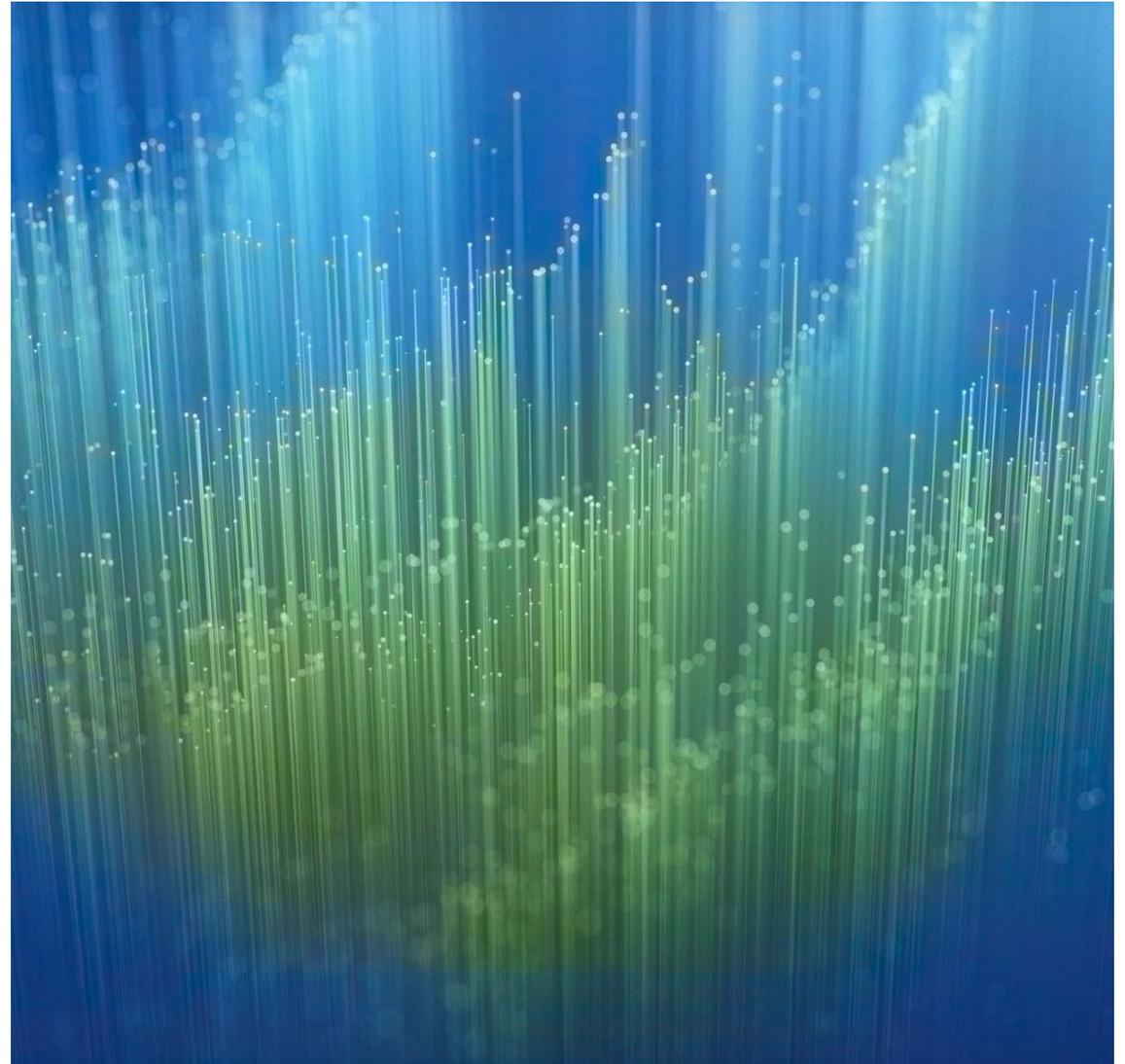
More Reserves

Statutory Chains of Command

Uniformity in Tracking Response

Process to Report

What Worked, What Didn't



Questions?

Lincoln Shurtz & Brandy Grace
Utah Association of Counties

Jill Parker
Utah Association of Local Health Departments

