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Inclusion of Psychiatric
Physician Assistants in the Utah
Mental Health Practice Act ”



Mental Healthcare in Utah

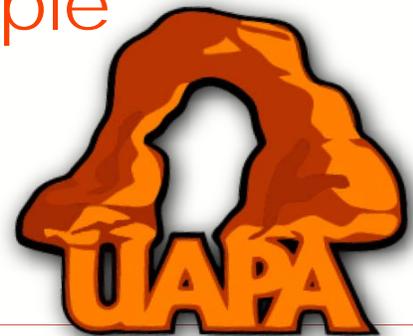
- ▶ Bureau of Labor Statistics

- ▶ Nationally

- ▶ **311** mental health providers per 100,000 people

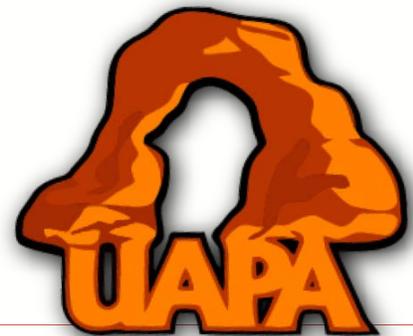
- ▶ Utah

- ▶ **209** mental health providers per 100,000 people



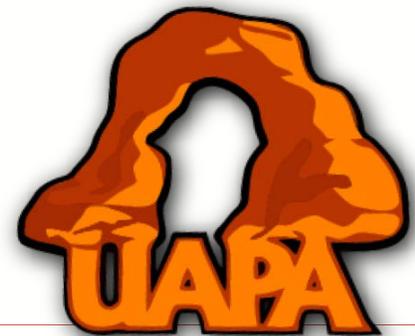
Mental Healthcare in Utah

- ▶ Suicide Rate
 - ▶ Nationally
 - ▶ **13.4** per 100,000
 - ▶ Utah
 - ▶ **25.2** per 100,000 people
 - ▶ **↑ 46.5% since 1999**
 - ▶ **5th Highest Nationally**



Mental Healthcare in Utah

- ▶ **The opioid crisis** has become the worst drug epidemic in modern American history. There were over 47,000 opioid overdose deaths in 2017 nationally—more than from automobile accidents or firearm-related homicides.
- ▶ Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths
 - ▶ 2017
 - ▶ Nationally rate
 - ▶ 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons
 - ▶ Utah
 - ▶ 15.5 deaths per 100,000 persons



Utah Mental Health Practice Act

Utah Code

Chapter 60 Mental Health Professional Practice Act

Part 1 General Provisions

58-60-101 Title.

This chapter is known as the "Mental Health Professional Practice Act."

Enacted by Chapter 32, 1994 General Session

Utah Mental Health Statute

"Mental health
therapist"

- Physician & surgeon, or osteopathic physician engaged in the practice of mental health therapy
- Advanced practice registered nurse, specializing in psychiatric mental health nursing
- Advanced practice registered nurse intern, specializing in psychiatric mental health nursing
- Psychologist qualified to engage in the practice of mental health therapy

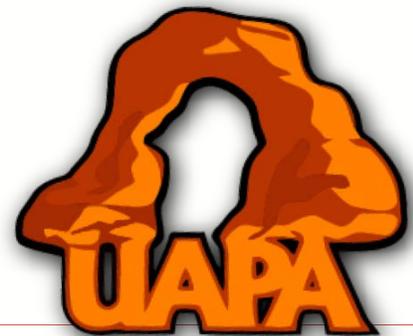
Utah Mental Health Statute

"Mental health
therapist"

- Certified psychology resident qualifying to engage in the practice of mental health therapy
- Clinical social worker
- Certified social worker
- Marriage & family therapist
- Associate marriage & family therapist
- Clinical mental health counselor
- Associate clinical mental health counselor

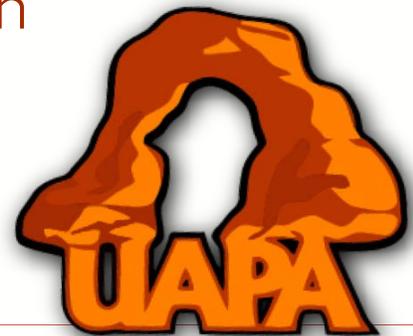
Psychiatric/Mental health Nurse Practitioner

- ▶ A psychiatric/ mental health APRN will need a minimum of 4,000 hours of combined education and clinical practice. The Board will award 1,000 hours for completion of an approved program.
- ▶ Fully 3,000 practice hours will be completed post-examination. At least 1,000 will be comprised of mental health therapy practice. At least 2,000 will consist of clinical practice that is carried out under a psychiatric mental health advanced practice nurse or other mental health therapist to whom supervisory duties have been delegated. Supervised practice is to be completed in the five-year period following graduation. The supervisor will later verify certification and confirm practitioner competency.
- ▶ Completion of a Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner board examination



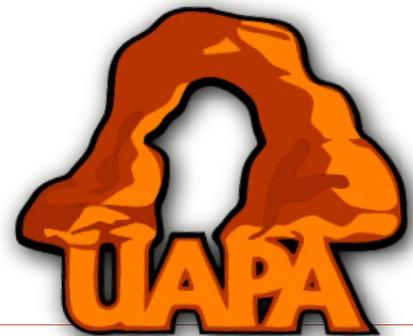
How to become a PA (Physician assistant)

PAs are educated at the master's degree level. There are more than 238 PA programs in the country and admission is highly competitive, (UPAP had 1800 applicants for 68 seats in 2019) requiring a bachelor's degree and completion of courses in basic and behavioral sciences as prerequisites. Incoming PA students bring with them an average of more than 3,000 hours of direct patient contact experience, having worked as paramedics, athletic trainers, or medical assistants, for example. PA programs are approximately 27 months (three academic years), and include classroom instruction and more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations.



Education of a PA

A PA's medical education and training are rigorous. The PA school curriculum is modeled on the medical school curriculum that involves both didactic and clinical education training. In the didactic phase, students take courses in basic medical sciences, behavioral sciences, and behavioral ethics. In the clinical phase, students complete more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations in medical and surgical disciplines, including family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, general surgery, emergency medicine, and psychiatry.



What is the PA's role in Healthcare?

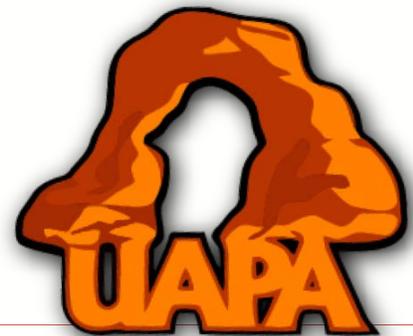
PAs are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment

plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative.

PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality.

Take medical histories • Conduct physical exams

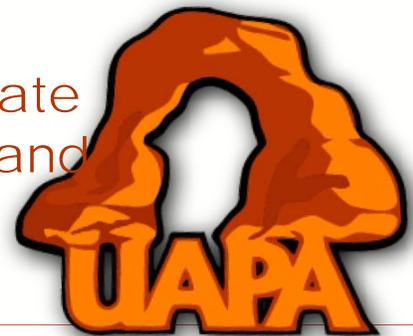
- Diagnose and treat illness • Order and interpret tests
- Develop treatment plans • Prescribe medication
- Counsel on preventive care • Perform procedures
- Assist in surgery • Make rounds in hospitals and nursing homes



Inclusion of Psychiatric Physician Assistants in the Utah Mental Health Practice Act

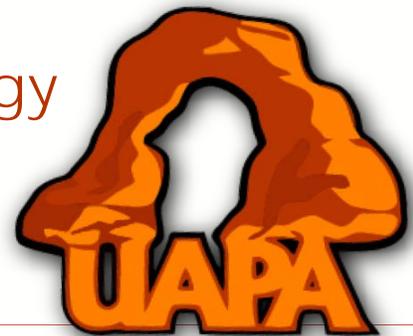
▶ Proposed Qualifications

- ▶ 4000 hours of clinical practice post NCCPA certification
 - ▶ 1000 hours of mental health therapy practice and;
 - ▶ 2000 hours of clinical practice under supervision a licensed mental health provider
 - ▶ Post-graduate academic certification or degree in Psychiatry/Mental Health (1000 hours toward experience requirements)
 - ▶ Obtain the NCCPA Psychiatry Board exam and obtain the certificate of added qualification in Psychiatry and maintain NCCPA PANRE and 100 CME every 2 years



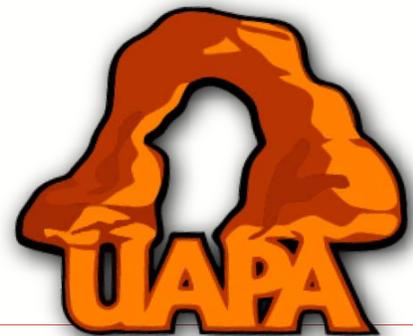
Inclusion of Psychiatric Physician Assistants in the Utah Mental Health Practice Act

- ▶ Psychiatric Physician Assistants as independent licensed mental health care providers
 - ▶ Scope of practice – determined by the education, training, and experience of the PA verified by an approved credentialing and privileging process at her/his place of employment
 - ▶ Legally responsible to meet the standard of care in the provision of mental health therapy and psychopharmacology



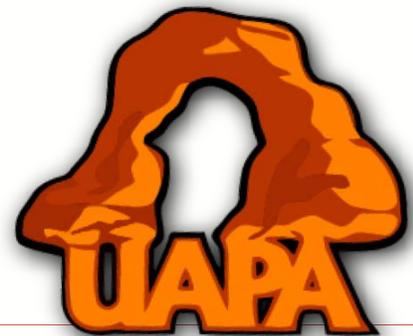
Inclusion of Psychiatric Physician Assistants in the Utah Mental Health Practice Act

- ▶ Psychiatric Physician Assistants as independent licensed mental health care providers
 - ▶ Eligible to directly bill and collect fees for service or reassign to other entities
 - ▶ Perform comprehensive physical/psychiatric examinations
 - ▶ Initiate, modify, and maintain treatment plans



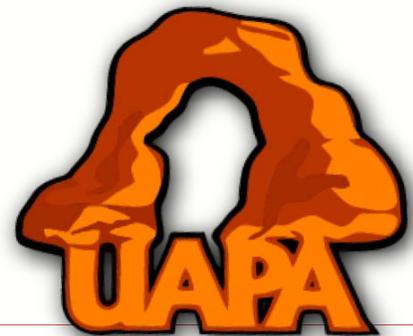
Inclusion of Psychiatric Physician Assistants in the Utah Mental Health Practice Act

- ▶ Psychiatric Physician Assistants as independent licensed mental health care providers
 - ▶ Provide therapeutic services
 - ▶ Collaborate with or refer patients to specialized care
 - ▶ May qualify as a Designated Examiner
 - ▶ Certify Applications for Emergency Involuntary Commitment (Blue Sheet, White Sheet)



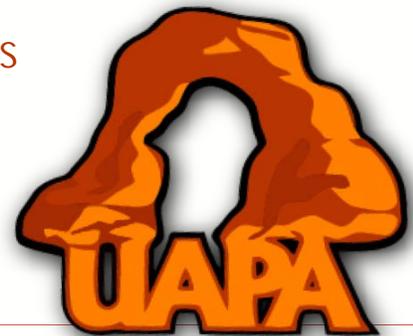
Inclusion of Psychiatric Physician Assistants in the Utah Mental Health Practice Act

- ▶ Psychiatric Physician Assistants as independent licensed mental health care providers
 - ▶ Independently authorize and procure any diagnostic and/or therapeutic procedures/devices or pharmaceutical products



Inclusion of Psychiatric Physician Assistants in the Utah Mental Health Practice Act

- ▶ Psychiatric Physician Assistants as independent licensed mental health care providers
 - ▶ Pathway for PAs currently practicing Psychiatry
 - ▶ Maintain PA license
 - ▶ NCCPA Certification
 - ▶ Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Psychiatry
 - ▶ 5 years FTE or 10,000 hours OR hold a qualifying degree for licensure as defined by the Mental Health Practice Act



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Thank You

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