



STREET MEDICINE

Rep. Clancy
Sen. Grover

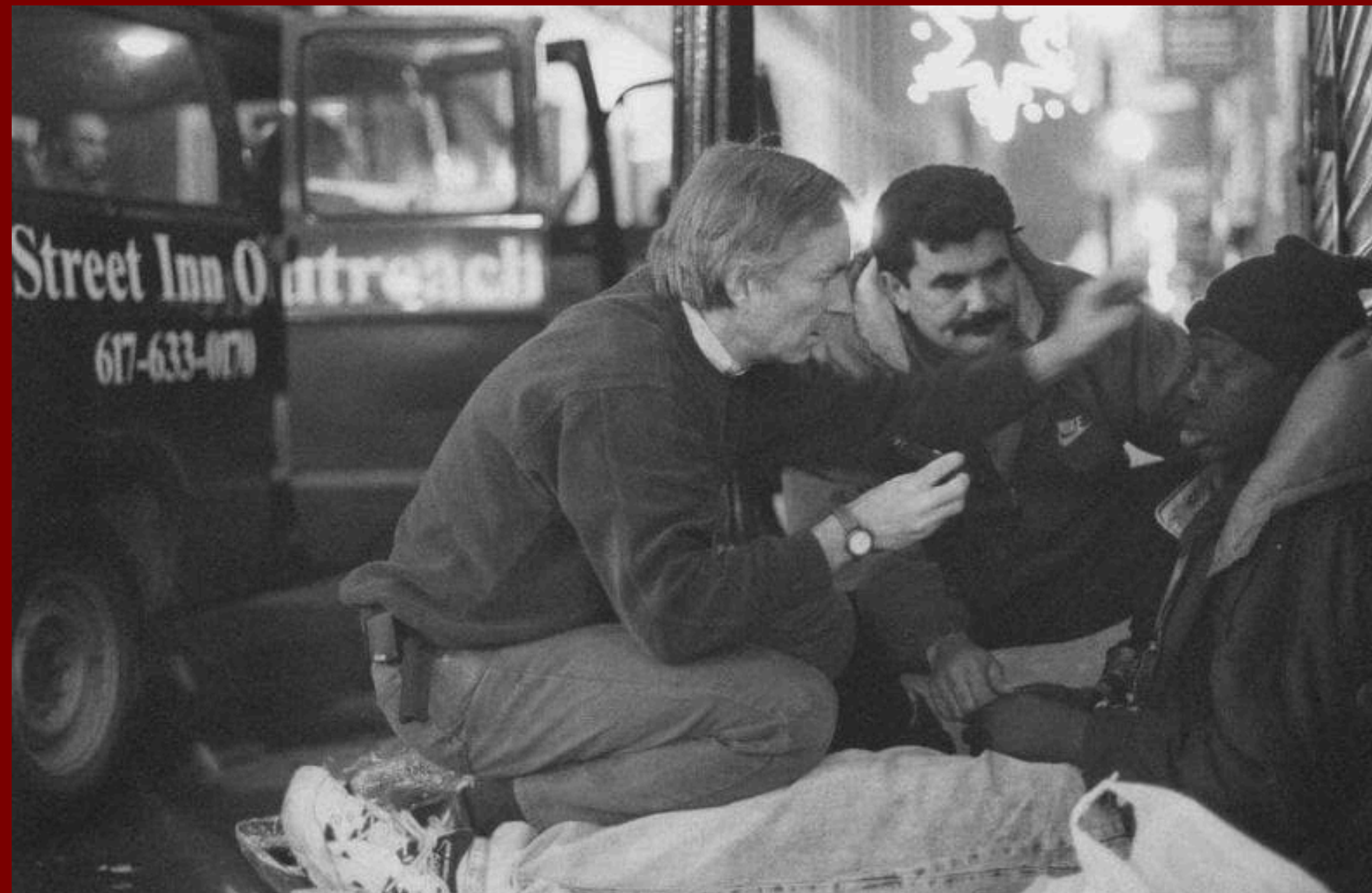
HB 339



History of Street Medicine:

“Health care for the disenfranchised is predicated upon a one-to-one relationship made possible only by the investment of time and by a willingness to venture beyond offices and exam rooms to unfamiliar turf.”

— Dr. Jim O’Connell, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless



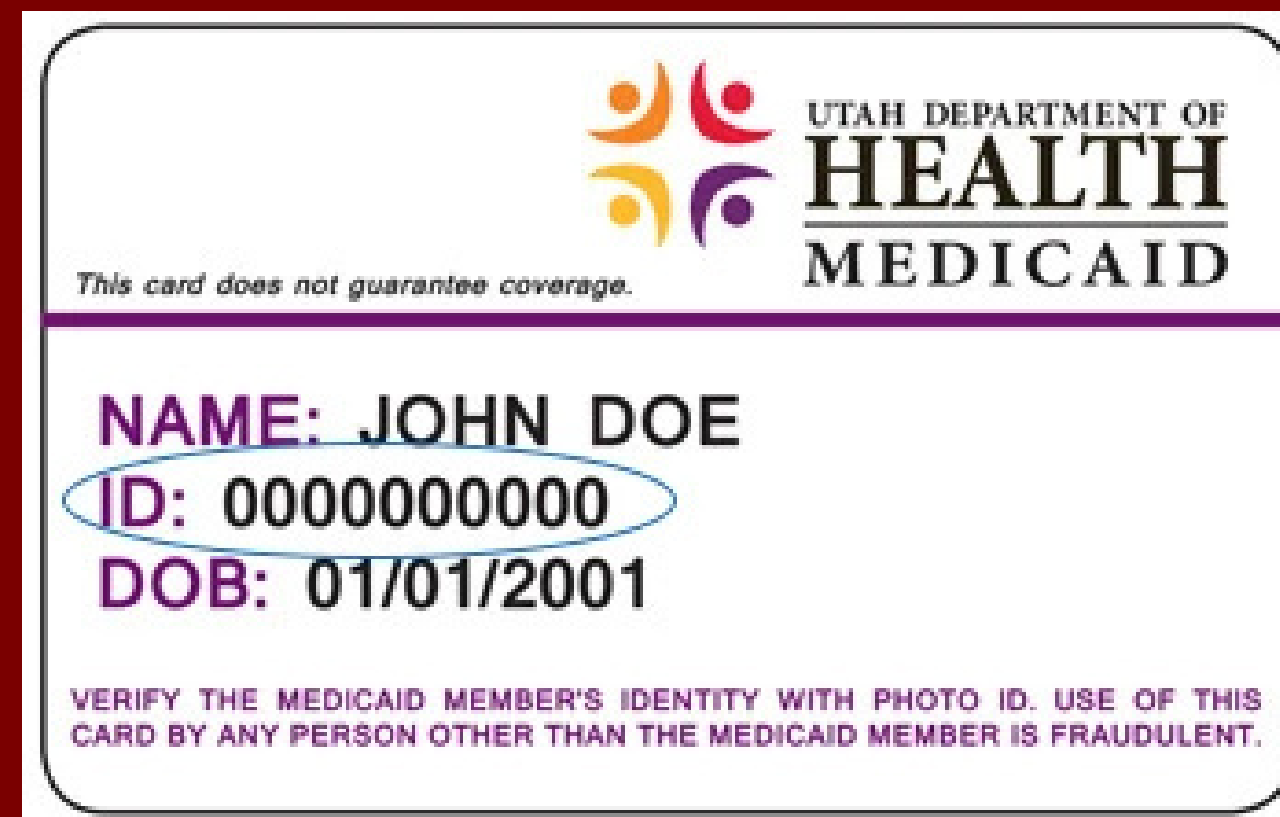


Why Street Medicine Matters:

- Thousands of Utahns live with untreated physical and mental health conditions, and many never set foot in a clinic.
- Traditional care models require patients to come to us. Street medicine takes care to them.
- By meeting people where they are, we can prevent crisis, reduce ER strain, and restore dignity and trust.

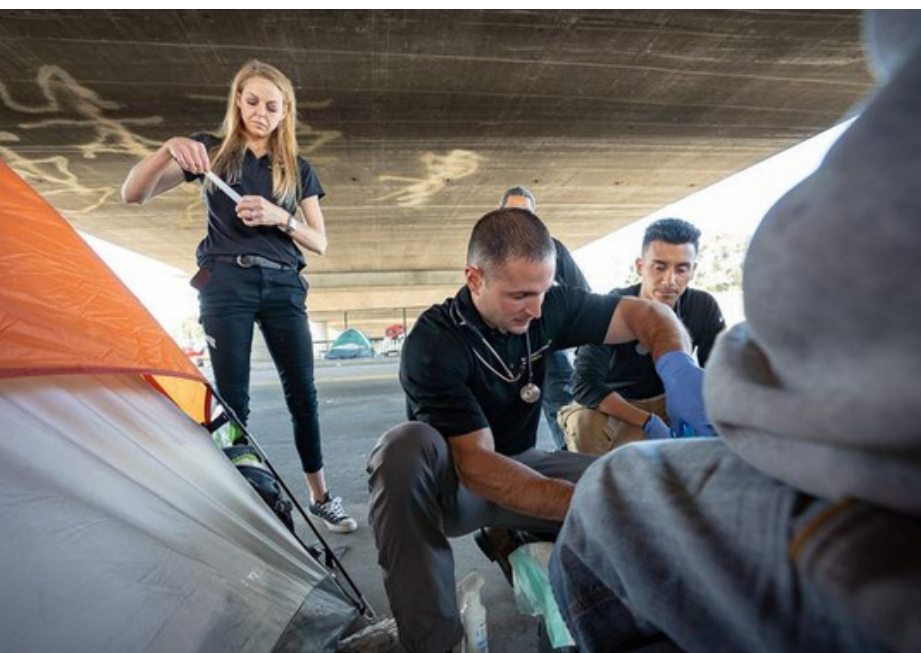
Care Exists, but Access is Limited:

- Providers like Fourth Street Clinic deliver world-class care, but many patients remain uninsured at the point of service.
- Current Medicaid presumptive eligibility (PE) only applies to hospitals, pregnant women, and certain clinics.
- Result: delays in coverage → interrupted treatment → more ER visits → higher costs for everyone.



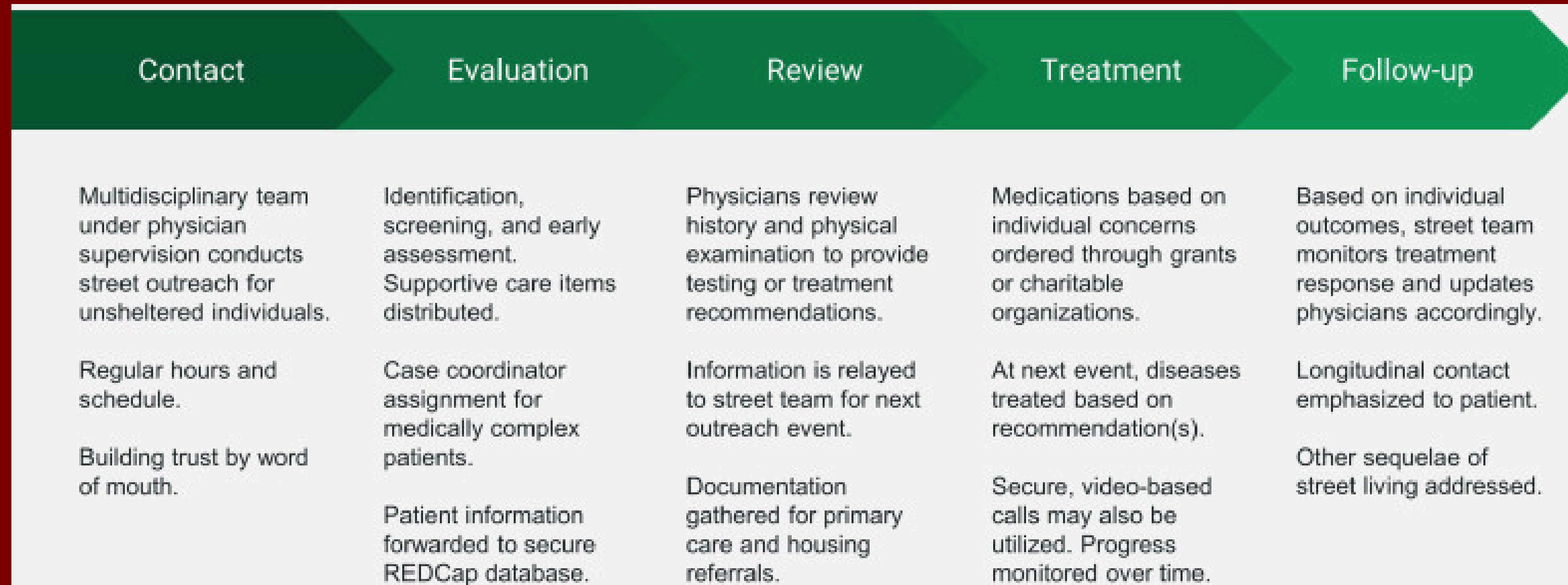
Defining Street Medicine:

- Utah law currently has no definition of “street medicine.”
- This bill directs DHHS to define it in administrative rule, ensuring clarity for:
 - Provider qualifications and partnerships
 - Billing and documentation standards
 - Coordination with hospitals, mental health, and managed care organizations
- Defining it legitimizes the work already happening on the ground and sets a framework for accountability and scale.



[Effective] Street Medicine Programs may improve patient satisfaction (Christensen, 2015), improve primary care retention (Edwards, 2017), or reduce emergency department visits (Drees, 2019; Lynch et al., 2022).

Research:



Evidence shows that street medicine improves engagement and outcomes for hard-to-reach populations and represents not only a public health innovation but also an ethical response to systemic gaps in care for society's most vulnerable. – *Street Medicine: A Scoping Review of Program Elements, International Journal on Homelessness (2023)*



BROWN
Alpert Medical School



QUESTIONS?

Thank You!

