

# THE PREPAREDNESS POST

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
YEAR 4, ISSUE 2

## The Governor Makes it Official *by Charla Haley*



David Patton, PhD., who served as interim director of the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) during the 2011 legislative session, has been appointed by Governor Gary Herbert to become UDOH's Executive Director. His appointment must still be approved by the Senate. Dr. Patton's appointment marks a departure from past agency heads, who came from the medical profession. But supporters say his background brings a nonpartisan problem-solving focus at a time of great uncertainty in the nation's health care system.

"On top of its day-to-day duties of protecting the health and wellbeing of our citizens, the health department faces significant challenges in managing Medicaid growth and implementing health reform efforts," Herbert said in a statement. "Patton's strong background in public policy and his keen leadership abilities make him the right person to successfully lead the department into the future."

Dr. Patton first joined UDOH in January 2009 as chief operating officer, and four months ago began

serving as interim executive director when Dr. David Sundwall resigned to pursue other interests.

While he has no "dramatic changes" in store for the department, Dr. Patton says Utah's slip in national rankings of healthy states is unacceptable. He's hoping a continued effort to curb smoking rates and highlighting the need for more exercise and a better diet to offset obesity will have a positive impact in the near future.

Medicaid is another issue of concern. The \$1.8 billion low-income health insurance program keeps taking a larger portion of the state's budget and will keep growing under federal health reform. Dr. Patton plans to focus on state plans to change the way Medicaid pays doctors and taking steps to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse within the system.

In the area of disaster preparedness, Dr. Patton believes educating Utahns will help the state better withstand unpredictable circumstances, such as an earthquake or serious disease outbreak. He says, "The Utah Department of Health is very active in working with federal, state and local partners in planning for the worst. As we do that," he adds, "we can determine where our potential weaknesses are, make adjustments, and become more advanced in our own roles when an unexpected situation arises."

Other changes in the Executive Director's office include appointing Dr. Robert Rolfs, M.D., M.P.H., to serve as deputy director of the department. Dr. Rolfs will oversee the public health functions of the department, including the Division of Disease Control and Prevention and the Division of Family

continue to maintain his roles as chief medical officer and state epidemiologist.

Teresa Garrett, R.N., M.S., has been appointed director of the Division of Disease Control and Prevention. In her new position, Garrett will oversee the Department's Bureau of Epidemiology, Bureau of Health Promotion, Utah Public Health Lab, and the Office of the Medical Examiner.

### To find Preparedness Training information:



<https://www.utah.train.org>

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# Do-It-Yourself Illness Reporting

by David Heaton, PIO, SWUPHD

Self Reported Illness

Monday, April 11, 2011

SOUTHWEST UTAH  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT  
PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

About Clinical Services Health Promotion Environmental Health Communicable Disease Emergency Preparedness Vital Records

**SELF REPORTED ILLNESS**

**Self-Report your Illness**

This information is only for residents or recent visitors to the following counties of Southwest Utah: Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington.

All information is confidential.

Complete all fields, at the end of each page click next to continue. When the survey is complete click the submit button.

If this is a medical emergency, please call 911 immediately.

This report to the health department does not provide a diagnosis or treatment for your illness, the information we collect on this website helps the health department understand which illnesses are in the community so steps can be taken to stop the spread.

\* Required

**Demographics**

Name: \*

Phone number: \*

Street Address: \*

City: \*

Zip: \*

Age:

Gender:

Submit

http://www.swuhealth.org/communicable-disease/self-reported-illness(4/11/2011 1:34:37 PM)

As a nurse working in the Communicable Disease/Emergency Preparedness division of the Southwest Utah Public Health Department (SWUPHD), Lisa Starr gets lots of calls from people who have questions about symptoms they are experiencing and possible exposures to illness. Getting an accurate history and time frame is important in narrowing down potential culprits and preventing outbreaks. Although the health department will get reports of diseases that are detected during medical visits, many people don't seek health care for various reasons.

"I wanted to find a better way to get information," says Lisa. "I heard about the 'self-reporting' idea from a health department in another state which can also serve as an early alert system for notable symptoms or syndromes," she added. Earlier this year, Lisa was able to launch the idea on the SWUPHD website ([www.swuhealth.org](http://www.swuhealth.org)).

"We have a 'Self Reported Illness' link on our home page that brings up a detailed

online questionnaire," Lisa continued. "The process stimulates memory and guides people in reporting a more accurate history of places visited, what they ate, and other possible sources of exposure. I can also follow up to investigate further or advise them on treatment."

To illustrate, a woman recently used the website to report a cluster of upper respiratory illness in her family. They were unable to afford medical help, but Lisa was able to contact her to answer questions, recommend home treatment, and help her rule out anything more serious that would have required a doctor's care.

The SWUPHD hopes the online self-reporting system will catch on and provide an additional tool to interact with the community and get a head start on preventing the spread of infection.

## Ready to Respond *by Charla Haley*

Four Utah cities are now ready for action in the event of a large-scale disaster. Dan Camp, Emergency Health Systems Consultant for the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness UDOH says the department has purchased four BLU-MED Response Systems. Each system is a 25-bed portable medical facility that will enable the state of Utah and local communities to rapidly respond to large-scale disasters when and where they are needed. These systems can also be used to meet medical needs during events that have the potential to overwhelm medical responders and medical facilities.

On February 25, 2011, a team of about 20 EMS personnel assembled at Moab Regional Hospital to set up the system for the first time in the eastern Utah community. Camp says the exercise took just under 2 ½ hours. “There were a few who hadn’t set this up yet so that’s why we try to bring more people in to start doing the training,” Camp said. We want all of our strike team members to be trained.” Camp asserts that with practice, the team should be able to put the unit together in as little as 1 hour 45 minutes.



Until it’s needed for a response, the BLU-MED system will stay at the hospital in storage. Camp says, “That’s one reason we’ve placed three of them

in more remote areas of Utah. We have one in Salt Lake City, but the other three are in Moab, St. George and Tremonton. That way we can even pull them into another state if necessary.”



Camp says the Bureau of EMS and Preparedness is continually updating strategic plans to make sure that every region in Utah is covered in the event of an emergency. Until now, if an incident called for disaster response in southeast Utah, it would have had to rely on the Salt Lake City system. The lack of a closer response system was tragically pointed out in 2008 when a tour bus carrying skiers home from Colorado to Arizona crashed on an icy road near Mexican Hat. Nine people died and 43 were injured, forcing officials to call in emergency medical workers from across the state. The BLU-MED systems will greatly enhance southeastern Utah’s response to similar large-scale events.

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## Collaborating for Better Communication *by Kevin McCulley*

Utah's Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), funded by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, has a history of ensuring preparedness across the health care spectrum by including providers beyond hospital facilities. The federal Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) enhances the ability of hospitals and health care systems to prepare for and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. For example, including Utah's long-term care (LTC) facilities (Skilled Nursing, Intermediate Care Facility) and the Utah Health Care Association in HPP funding has created numerous dividends.

During the first part of the current budget period, a special communications project conducted in conjunction with Utah's Department of Homeland Security provided for the acquisition of HAM and VHF radios for all LTC facilities in the state. This project, which includes training and an ongoing skill maintenance plan, has created a statewide communications network of LTC facilities. In addition, the placement of radios in local sites improves the ability of facilities to communicate with other health care partners and jurisdictional emergency management within their communities and regions. This collaboration was recognized by Utah Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell as a best practice to be shared with other states as an example of exceptional funding use.

Engaging Utah's long-term care community in the HPP funding program has increased local participation in Regional Healthcare Coalitions. As the presence of these facilities has increased in the planning process, so has the recognition that long-term care facilities can play an important role in supporting surge capacity efforts, such as providing additional bed space for overburdened hospitals. Long-term care facilities also bring extensive experience with the care and treatment of individuals with chronic and disabling conditions and may serve as critical local points of contact for communities impacted by disasters.

**UDOH Web sites:**  
[health.utah.gov](http://health.utah.gov) (main)  
[health.utah.gov/preparedness](http://health.utah.gov/preparedness)  
[health.utah.gov/ems](http://health.utah.gov/ems)



Be  
Ready  
Utah

**Promote business, community and workplace  
preparedness: [www.BeReadyUtah.com](http://www.BeReadyUtah.com)**

## New Faces

**Karyn Leniek, MD, MPH**, is the new **Deputy State Epidemiologist** at the Utah Department of Health. She came to Utah from Virginia where she was a local Health District Director. She did her preventive medicine residency and postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is board-certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. Karyn enjoys hiking, swimming, and spending time with her mischievous dachshunds.



**Roger Norman** is the new **warehouseman** for EMS and Preparedness. Originally from Pennsylvania, Roger came to Utah for a friend's wedding 20 years ago, fell in love with the state, and never left. He has worked several warehouse jobs and brings 20 years of experience to UDOH's Family Health and Preparedness division in inventory control, quality control, safety, shipping and receiving. He is father to two wonderful boys, Bryson and Daxton. And besides the enjoyment he gets from spending time with his kids, Roger loves sports, playing darts, dancing, and going to concerts and the theater.

**Brett Cross** joins the Bureau of EMS and Preparedness with duties as a **trainer, planner and Strategic National Stockpile support staff**. Brett's position involves tribal focus, but he'll also work with the local health departments on training.

He comes to UDOH from the American Red Cross where he was the Director of Emergency Services for the 14 counties from the point of the mountain south. Brett is an advanced instructor for the American Red Cross in the disaster training program and currently serves in the Utah Army National Guard as a combat medic. He is also attending Utah Valley University where he is studying Emergency Management Administration.

From Charles City, Iowa, Brett currently lives in Orem. He returns to Iowa as often as he can to see his parents, grandparents, sisters, and his two adorable nieces!



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Upcoming Trainings and Events — April – June 2011

U-TRAIN [www.utah.train.org](http://www.utah.train.org)

DATE	Conferences / Events	Organization Sponsorship	Location	Registration Information	Contact
April 19- 20	<b>HPP Healthcare Summit</b>	Utah Department of Health	Homestead Resort Midway, UT	By Invitation <b>NO Cost</b> <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> <b>UTRAIN Course # 1026041</b>	Lanette Sorensen <a href="mailto:Lanettesorensen@utah.gov">Lanettesorensen@utah.gov</a>
April 26-27	<b>Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS)</b>	Utah Department of Health	P.S. Education & Training (POST) Sandy, UT	<b>NO Cost</b> <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> <b>UTRAIN Course # 1007482</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>  Riki Rice <a href="mailto:rikirice@utah.gov">rikirice@utah.gov</a>
April 28	<b>ADLS Instructor Course</b>	Utah Department of Health	P.S. Education & Training (POST) Sandy, UT	<b>NO Cost</b> <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> <b>UTRAIN Course # 1007483</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>  Riki Rice <a href="mailto:rikirice@utah.gov">rikirice@utah.gov</a>
May 4-6	<b>Public Safety Governor's Summit</b>	Utah Department of Public Safety	Davis Convention Center 1651 N 700 West Layton, UT	<b>COST: \$150.00</b> <a href="http://publicsafety.utah.gov/">http://publicsafety.utah.gov/</a>	Judy Hamaker-Mann <a href="mailto:jhamaker@utah.gov">jhamaker@utah.gov</a>  Patrice Thomas <a href="mailto:pthomas@utah.gov">pthomas@utah.gov</a>
May 10-11	<b>UDOH Partners Strategic Grant Planning Retreat</b>	Utah Department of Health, Bureau of EMS and Preparedness	Homestead Resorts 700 Homestead Dr. Midway, UT	<b>By Invitation ONLY</b>	Dean Penovich <a href="mailto:dpenovich@utah.gov">dpenovich@utah.gov</a>

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May 20	<b>Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS)</b>	Utah Department of Health	Iron County EMS Cedar City, UT	<b>NO Cost</b> <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> <b>UTRAIN Course # 1027010</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>
May 21	<b>Moulage.... “Do It Yourself”</b>	Utah Department of Health	Iron County EMS Cedar City, UT	<b>NO Cost</b> <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> <b>UTRAIN Course # 1027010</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>
May 24	<b>UDOH SNS Full-Scale Exercise</b>	Utah Department of Health, Bureau of EMS and Preparedness	Statewide LHDs	<b>By Invitation</b>	Don Wood <a href="mailto:donwood@utah.gov">donwood@utah.gov</a>
June 6-7	<b>CDC CASPER Workshop</b> (Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency)	Utah Department of Health	Hilton Hotel Downtown SLC	<b>NO Cost</b> <a href="http://www.utah.train.org">www.utah.train.org</a> <b>UTRAIN Course # 1026048</b>	Jodee Summers <a href="mailto:jodeesummers@utah.gov">jodeesummers@utah.gov</a>  Michelle Muirbrook <a href="mailto:mmuirbro@utah.gov">mmuirbro@utah.gov</a>

