

Opportunity to Collect and Preserve the Stories of Utah's Opioid Epidemic

Utah was seventh in the nation for opioid deaths in 2013-15. As we work to understand the causes of this dramatic statistic, we believe that one way may be to ask and truly hear the stories of those ravaged by this social issue. These individuals include active users, people in recovery, family members, police officers, judges, schoolteachers and principals whose students deal with their parent's drug use, and others. This work is timely and we believe it will provide insights to the social dilemma as well as honor the experiences of those affected and help support recovery by removing stigma.

Purpose: Partner to collect, preserve, and share the stories of Utah residents affected by the opioid epidemic.

Required Training: Hands-on, interactive oral history training by USU folklorist Randy Williams; invitation required

Training Information: Oct 29th from 1:15-3:15pm, located at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S. 900 E., Murray, UT

Next Steps: Work with USU HEART faculty to identify interviewees, interview, and preserve this important story.

Dissemination: A robust digital collection of the interview audio and transcripts housed at Utah State University Special Collections and Archives and a potentially edited in book format at a future date.



Randy Williams, Assistant Librarian and Affiliated Folklore Faculty, USU

Randy is the folklore curator and oral history specialist at Utah State University's Special Collections and Archives. Along with managing the world-renowned Fife Folklore Archives, she directs USU's community-based fieldwork projects, bringing the voice of diverse peoples from the Inter-Mountain West into the Archives. Recent fieldwork efforts include [Voices from Drug Court Oral History Project, 2016-17](#) and the award winning [Latino/Latina Voices Project, 2007, 2012](#).