



July 28th, 2019

To whom it may concern:

This Letter of Support is written on behalf of Routt County Public Health (Routt PH) expressing support of The Memorial Hospital's (TMH) (dba: Memorial Regional Health, MRH) efforts to lead the development of a coalition of Northwest Colorado agencies, with the shared goal of reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid use disorder among individuals who come in contact with law enforcement or are involved in the criminal justice system. Routt PH expresses its belief that grant funding from the *Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic* is a valued and necessary resource to support the development and implementation of a sustainable coalition.

Routt PH recognizes the importance of collaboration and has the resources and expertise to advise the coalition regarding strengthening epidemiologic surveillance and public health data infrastructure; implementing community-level opioid overdose prevention activities; and establishing or enhancing public health, behavioral health, and public safety collaborations. Coalition members have their own areas of expertise and duties they must fulfill. Routt PH desires to be a resource by helping identify community trends (positive or negative), share information, and be a sounding board to help develop and implement solutions that serve to change the trajectory of individuals who enter the legal system due to opioid and substance use disorder, but want a different path out.

Routt PH has the ability to support a Northwest Colorado opioid use disorder coalition through data collection, analysis, and dissemination, and being a trusted advisor regarding how to act upon such information. It is our desire to support the coalition in its goal of reducing the morbidity and mortality related to opioid use disorder through our combined efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'B. Melton'.

Beth Melton
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