The State of Utah & the Fight
Against the Opioid Epidemic

***Select highlights of AG & Utah Opioid Taskforce Action***

**2014**AG Reyes joins other state attorneys general to begin the conversation about opioid addiction as a public health crisis instead of a purely law enforcement issue.

AG Reyes appoints senior members of executive team to help create state opioid solutions.

**2015**
AG Reyes urges Congress to pass the ***Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015****.*

State AGs meet with pharmacies to urge implementation of self-imposed limits on filling scrips. AG Reyes begins discussions with pharmacies regarding electronic scrips.

**2016**
AG Reyes speaks at national forum on opioid threat, gathering solutions and information for Utah.

State AGs begin informal **investigations into opioid manufacturers**; AG Reyes gathers with state AGs to formulate strategies regarding investigations and solutions.

AG Reyes meets with members of the Utah Medical Association, American Medical Association, and other physician interest groups to discuss growing concerns about the opioid epidemic.

**Suboxone Lawsuit:** Utah AGO files lawsuit against Suboxone, an opioid addiction treatment drug for blocking generic competitors.

AG Reyes joins colleagues in calling for changes to outdated laws limiting Medicaid funding to treatment centers based on number of beds.

AGO promotes Sundance-accepted, opioid-awareness film ***Dying in Vein*.**

**2017**
Utah joins bipartisan coalition of **41 state attorneys general investigation** seeking documents and information from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids.

**Utah Take Back**: DEA and AGO promote two times during the year and collect over 26 tons of unused, expired, or unwanted prescription drugs.

**Utah Opioid Task Force:** Created with DEA, Utah Legislators, public health officials, & community members to act against the opioid epidemic.

Utah AGO assists DEA in **one of the largest heroin busts** in Utah, arresting 35 conspirators.

***Pharmacies announce major changes*** and will restrict filling of scrips regardless of doctor’s prescription after years of urging by state AGs.

AG Reyes urges **health insurance companies** to examine financial incentives that contribute to the opioid epidemic in Utah through letter co-authored by a coalition of 37 states & territories.

AG Reyes joins bipartisan group of AGs to encourage**healthcare companies** that provide pharmacy benefit management services to implement programs that mitigate prescription opioid abuse.

Utah Opioid Task Force alerts health care providers and law enforcement that **Naloxone rescue kits** are legal and only used as an antidote to reverse an opiate overdose.

AG Reyes meets with White House Cabinet members, such as Labor Secretary Acosta, regarding opioid policy.

AG Reyes advocates for and assists DEA in bringing the **DEA 360 Program** to Utah.

AG Reyes invited to White House to represent Utah and be with President Trump as he declares **opioid crisis a national "health emergency"**.

**Mental Health Number**: AG Reyes partners to create emergency number for those in need.

**2018**AG Reyes and Task Force host at Utah Capitol nationally televised **Rural Opioid Roundtable with White House** Drug Czar Jim Carroll and Anne Hazlett, senior executive from U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Task Force appoints Randy Parker, Utah State Director for USDA and Beaver County Commissioner Mark Whitney as **Rural Committee Chairmen**.

AG trains faith leaders, testifies at Congressional roundtable on Safe UT and opioids in D.C.

**D.C. Opioid Press Conference:** AG Reyes joined U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and DEA Director to address the nation's opioid epidemic and deliver a new opioid policy.

**Utah Senator Mike Lee** joins Utah Opioid Task Force alongside AG Reyes and DEA District Agent in Charge Brian Besser as co-chair.

**Utah Take Back**: DEA and AGO promote this year's initiative and bring in over 16,000 pounds of unwanted, unused, and expired drugs in one day.

Utah AGO issues **Request for Information (RFI)** from various law firms in the ongoing investigation into the role of opioid manufacturers and distributors in causing and exacerbating the opioid epidemic.

AG Reyes meets with **U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams** on the “harmonization of naloxone Good Samaritan laws, equitable access to treatment drug courts and medication assisted treatment, and other opportunities for partnership between state depts of justice and health.”

DEA 360 Program, Utah AGO, Senator Lee, and DEA announce a **fall opioid summit.**

AG Reyes moderates **Farm Bureau Opioid Roundtable.**