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## **Local Clinician Honored For Service to Community**

*Named Friend of Public Health*

**Manila, UT September 13, 2016** – A local medical clinician received state-wide honor for his service and commitment to public health earlier this month. Duane Draper, who has worked in both Duchesne and Daggett Counties was awarded the “Friend of Public Health Award” by the Utah Association of Local Boards of Health for his commitment and service to public health efforts over the years, at their annual symposium held on September 8th.

Draper, currently practices at the Flaming Gorge Community Health Center in Manila as a Physician’s Assistant where he has served the individuals of Daggett County tirelessly for nearly a decade. As the only health care provider in the county Duane provides important preventative and acute care to residents and visitors alike.

In addition to serving as the sole provider in the county Duane has proven to be a valuable partner of the TriCounty Health Department. Duane has coordinated efforts between the health department and the school district to increase immunization rates among school-aged children in Daggett County. Duane also serves as a Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer and is an active participant in the TriCounty Disease Surveillance Team. In fact, Duane exhibits his commitment to public health by traveling the 140 miles round-trip on his day off to attend the disease surveillance meetings in-person. Duane is also an active participant in the Daggett County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Without a brick and mortar presence in Daggett County, the Flaming Gorge Community Health Center serves to fill an important public health gap in the

community. As such, Duane and TriCounty staff are working on ways to successfully partner to meet the needs of the communities of Daggett County. Duane is always looking for ways to better serve and bolster the health of the small rural community whom he loves, and who love him.

Most importantly, Duane does what he does, not because he wants credit, but because he cares. Duane Draper is not only a Friend of Public Health but a friend to every single person in his community. Congratulations to Duane!



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