

Mary Lou Emerson, M.S.
Director, Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory
(USAAV+) Council
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Ms. Emerson has worked at the state level in the substance abuse field for over 35 years. She currently serves as director of the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory (USAAV+) Council, a position she originally held from 1990-2000, and then returned to in 2005 after serving for five years as Assistant Director for Prevention and Children's Clinical Services at the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. The USAAV+ Council provides policy, funding, and programmatic recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, Judiciary, and Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. From 1985-1990, Ms. Emerson served as Education Specialist for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Programs at the Utah State Office of Education. She began her work in the field as Training Coordinator and School-Based Prevention Program Specialist for the Utah Division of Alcoholism and Drugs from 1982-1985.