



## **SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH**

### **Sherry Mecham, Kitchen Supervisor**

Sherry Mecham began working for Summit County Sheriff's Office in 2014. As the Kitchen Manager Sherry is responsible for the overall coordination of a large culinary program. Sherry organizes and prepares food estimates, supervises, plans meals, places orders, maintains inventory, prepares meals and ensures the correct caloric meals are prepared for the inmates as well as prepares meals for those who have allergies and/or other medical restrictions. One of Sherry's most essential functions is overseeing the vocational training of the working inmates in our facility. Sherry and her staff help educate incarcerated individuals who have entered the working program in preparation, cooking, and ensuring sanitary procedures are being utilized during preparation and serving. Those in the working program leave better prepared to integrate into society and the skills she imparts has a beneficial effect on their recidivism rates. Sherry's responsibilities are many and are instrumental in the functioning of the Summit County Jail. We are grateful for the role she plays in Summit County and are pleased to spotlight her during County Government Month.

### **Lonnie Dawson, Paralegal**

"More words cannot describe what Lonnie Dawson does for the Summit County Attorney's Office. For over 25 years, Lonnie has been the heart of the County Attorney's Office's operations. Lonnie is a consummate professional and takes personal pride in the excellence of her work product, accuracy, and service. She is patient with members of the public, defense lawyers, and staff. Lonnie is always pleasant, always willing to help, and masters every task assigned to her. She is also a wonderful person, and we in the Summit County Attorney's Office know exactly how lucky we are to have her on our team."

### **Alyssa Mitchell, Health Educator**

Alyssa began working for Summit County in 2015. With mental health becoming a growing concern in Summit County with our youth and adult population, Alyssa has assembled a team of volunteers trained in a suicide prevention program known as Question, Persuade, and Refer. (QPR). This core team has grown to over 30 trained volunteers who do a fantastic job in our community. Under Alyssa's direction, over 60 QPR trainings were hosted and more than 1,100 people trained in 2018. Alyssa's care and concern for people is demonstrated in her presentation style and personal stories. Alyssa has also played a key role in launching the Hope Squad, a school-based peer support program, which is now established in both Park City and North Summit School Districts. Participating students are trained in suicide prevention and mental health awareness. Alyssa works as the direct advisor for the North Summit students and provides support and resources for Park City students.

We are grateful for Alyssa's contribution in Summit County and thank her for the role she plays in 'Connecting The Unconnected'.

### **SaRene Brooks, Health Educator**

SaRene Brooks started working for Summit County in 2015. Personal relationships are important to SaRene and this really shows in her work, displayed in her deep passion for diabetes prevention and diabetes self-management. SaRene's personal experience with diabetes allows her to connect and support individuals seeking to create lasting lifestyle changes. Behavioral changes are difficult to make and SaRene is with her participants every step of the way, continually offering encouragement and tips for success. In addition, SaRene has shown her commitment to her career through hundreds of personal hours dedicated to acquiring her Certified Diabetes Educator Credential. SaRene is the first CDE employed by Summit County. This credential allows her to work with individuals with diabetes to teach them skills to better manage and overcome the challenges associated with diabetes and other chronic disease. We're grateful to her for the role she plays in ultimately improving the quality of life for so many Summit County residents.

### **Derek Moss, Corrections Nurse**

Derek Moss began working for the Summit County Sheriff's Office in October 2007. Derek has continually improved our medical facility and its operational procedures by integrating new techniques. He oversaw the transfer of an antiquated file type medical records system to a state of the art digital record and charting system. Derek is continually learning and keeping himself very aware of new policies, procedures and current trends within correctional facilities and medical practices. Most recently Derek has initiated the process of receiving a Class-B Pharmacy license. If granted, this will save County taxpayers a significant amount of money by reducing Emergency Room visits. This license would also allow lifesaving medications to be on hand at the Summit County Jail. We appreciate Derek for all that he does and thank him for the advancements he has made in the Summit County Jail.

### **Jean Wilson, Administrative Assistant**

Jean was born and raised in Coalville and has seen much of the growth in North Summit take place. As a result, she has become a pillar in the community and someone who many respect and appreciate. This level of respect carries over into the workplace, with many County employees sharing a similar sentiment for Jean. Jean started working for Summit County in September 1997 and has worked in a variety of clerical and administrative capacities including immunizations, vital records, women's health, and most recently environmental health. She has made significant contributions to the County, both professionally and personally. She will tell you her greatest accomplishment is helping young families, especially young mothers, get the services they need including birth certificates and immunizations. She takes pride in knowing these young families are doing well and have what they need to take care of their babies. You will hear Jean say, beaming with pride, "I remember when she was this little (motioning with her hand) and she came in to get her shots. Now, we are giving her kids their shots. Mercy... how time flies! But they are a good family..." Then Jean will proceed to tell you about the good things that family has done for the area dating back three generations. To Jean, everyone is a friend. Whether you are a co-worker, colleague, or someone from the public, Jean always greets you with a big smile and a friendly "How are ya?!" We are lucky to have her and, more importantly, the people of Summit County are lucky to have someone of Jean's caliber serving them for so many years.

### **Ashlee Vernon, Community Development Secretary**

Ashlee Vernon is the Community Development Department's Secretary II. Her primary responsibility is to implement and coordinate Summit County's electronic "e-360" building permit and building inspection software program. Ashlee's work results in residents, contractors, and architects being able to file for building permits and schedule inspections without having to call or travel to the Courthouse. Any new technology and related software can from time to time prove challenging to new users—that's where Ashlee comes in. Her professional expertise and helpful demeanor helps our users navigate this new tool-- saving time, energy, and the drive to Coalville. Ashlee is one of the vanguard of employees helping to make local government quicker and more responsive to the needs of our community with technology.

Ashlee was born and raised in Ogden. She moved to Summit County four years ago and has worked in the Community Development Department at the County for nearly three years. Ashlee says one of the things she likes best about working for the County is helping the public. We are grateful to have her on the team and thank her for all she does for those who live and work in Summit County.

### **Cyndy Sipe, Housekeeping Supervisor**

Cyndy joined Summit County's Facilities Department in July 2012. Currently, she is the housekeeping supervisor and manages a team of five individuals who work extremely hard every day to take care of employee work spaces and keep the County's facilities clean and inviting to the public, among many other duties. When it comes to "connecting the unconnected," Cyndy and her team are the backbone of the Summit County organization – their work supports every employee in performing their jobs efficiently and helps ensure the public has a positive experience when visiting County facilities.

Cyndy's contributions to Summit County go above and beyond housekeeping. She was nominated for this recognition due to her leadership. Cyndy is always looking for and implementing ways to make the buildings more efficient for employees and the public. She sees opportunities to add value and brings forward solutions, whether it is identifying a piece of furniture to help an office function better, or finding a solution for a remote dais for Council meetings that is both practical and dignified, or suggesting materials to use in the construction of new facilities based on how easy they are to clean and maintain. Cyndy creates a positive work culture among her team, involving all employees treating one another with respect, trust, integrity and gratitude. She also leads by example, rolling up her sleeves to pitch in or take on a task no matter what it is or who requested it. With Cyndy, it is never, "No, I can't do that," but rather, "How can I help you?" She is extremely dependable, always has a smile and a great laugh. Cyndy is among those in the Summit County organization committed to making the County a better place for those who work, live and visit here.

### **Jennifer Morrill, WIC Director**

Jennifer Morrill serves as the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Director for the Summit County Health Department. She has been the key person in developing a contingency plan for both "threats" of the government shut down, which directly affects the WIC program operation. Jennifer initiated two grant applications offered through the WIC program, and was successful in the award of both grants which covered the cost of furniture, equipment, and computers for the new Kamas Health Department WIC rooms, and a remodel of the Coalville WIC office. Jennifer is instrumental in maintaining spending within the WIC budget. In addition to supporting her own employees she also

engages and promotes all other health department programs. We are grateful to have her on staff and thank her for all she does for Summit County women, infants and children.

### **Jason Nelson, Plans Examiner**

Jason Nelson is the Community Development Department's Plans Examiner. Jason is responsible for reviewing building permit applications and assisting residents, contractors, and architects through the technical aspects of the permitting process. Jason's role is to help ensure that all construction in Summit County meets the necessary standards to keep people safe and living in a quality-built environment. In 2018 Summit County reviewed over 1,100 permits totaling over \$200,000 in valuation. Jason's hard work and oversight made these permits happen.

Jason joined Summit County in 2014 as a building inspector. He had previously served in that position in Vernal. In 2016 he accepted the position of Plans Examiner for the County. He is a board member of the ICC. When he's not at work he enjoys hunting, fishing, and being outdoors. Thank you, Jason, for the role you play in 'Connecting the Unconnected' in Summit County.

### **Jacqueline Swan, Early Intervention Director**

Jackie Swan is Summit County's Early Intervention Director and Occupational Therapist. She has been with the Summit County Early Intervention Program for 23 years. Jackie is very passionate about her work, and she truly loves her kids. The devotion she has to her work, and the people she helps, is absolutely inspiring. One example is illustrated below, from the parent of one of the children attending the Early Intervention Holiday Party with Santa:

"Jackie, and this program, have changes our lives. My daughter has struggled since she was born. Although she has now graduated from the program, she continues to benefit and will for the rest of her life. Just look at her. Isn't she beautiful? We could not have imagined she would come so far."

Jackie's passion is obvious, but sometimes her knowledge and training are underappreciated. She has Occupational Therapy experience at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City. She has served as a pediatric OT instructor at the University of Utah and has multiple OT certifications for work in baby's and youth. Jackie is recognized as the best at what she does in the state of Utah which makes it our honor and privilege to have her on the Summit County team.

### **Karen Butler, Early Intervention Speech Pathologist**

Karen Butler has been a Speech Pathologist for the Early Intervention Program in Summit County for 25 years. She has made a huge and direct impact on the lives of her clients.

"Karen has brought such a sense of hope to our house. She has been incredible with my son from the first moment she stepped into our house. She has had such a desire to help with his delayed speech. She is constantly thinking outside the box about new ways to help him or to use different approaches. He looks forward to "playing" with her and showing his skills each time she comes. We are forever grateful," said the parent of one of Karen's clients.

Karen's numerous certifications include Parent Hanna training, multiple trainings in autism, listening program, speech disorders/treatment, apraxia and Greenspan floor time. Like her intervention peers,

Karen is all about team solutions, especially in multi-disciplinary kids. Summit County and the Health Department are incredibly fortunate to have Karen working for and with us.

#### **Adrian Ruiz, Maintenance Technician**

Adrian joined Summit County's Facilities Department in May 2016. He is one of the County's invaluable maintenance technicians and services the Justice Center, which includes the County Jail, Courts, and Sheriff and Attorney's Offices. Every day, Adrian performs mission-critical work related to the health, safety and welfare of judges, county employees, visitors and inmates. He diagnoses problems and determines corrective repairs, such as ensuring the jail has hot, running water, or the building is cooled in the summer and heated in the winter, or the entrances are cleared of ice and snow, among many other duties. When it comes to "connecting the unconnected," Adrian performs important preventative maintenance, daily inspections, and emergency repairs of facility systems, enabling County employees to provide services to our County's indigent population, offenders with mental health or substance abuse issues, emergency dispatch, and others. Adrian was nominated for this recognition due to his highly service-orientated work ethic, trustworthiness, and the essential support he provides every day to County personnel. Adrian is among those in the Summit County organization committed to making the County a better place for those who work, live and visit here.

#### **Colleen Blonquist, Registered Dietitian**

Colleen Blonquist is a registered dietitian with Summit County's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. This program provides education on nutrition, food purchases and preparation, as well as vouchers to purchase healthy foods. WIC is mandated by the Utah Department of Health. Under Colleen's care, participants receive a nutrition plan which includes education classes and individualized education. She also educates new moms on breast feeding, one-on-one assistance, and breast pumps. Colleen 'connects the unconnected' by referring clients to other health department programs, departments within the county, and partners in the community, including food banks, health care organizations and more. We are grateful for all she does on behalf of the many women, infants and children living in Summit County who are in need of extra care.

#### **Kirsten Nilsson, Youth Services Librarian**

Kirsten Nilsson has been the Youth Services Librarian for Summit County Library since July 2011. She oversees the Children's and Young Adult collections at all of the Summit County Library branches. She provides programming at the Kimball Junction Branch for children and their parents/caregivers and assists the other branches as needed. She also oversees the Library's Summer Reading Program each year. Early Literacy is a huge part of the Library's mission and Kirsten ensures that we are leading and collaborating with our local preschools and schools to ensure children in Summit County have the literacy tools they need to be successful in life. Kirsten currently offers 3 story times a week at the Kimball Junction Branch. Last summer Kirsten provided a dual language music hour in Kamas titled Cantamos! (We Sing!) for the dual immersion students in the community. She runs a successful Mother/Daughter Book Club for girls in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. Each month the girls and their mothers (or another adult) both read the same book and then meet for a discussion. Kirsten has also helped coordinate the One Book One Community Program in partnership with Park City Library, Dolly's Bookstore, and Park City Education Foundation. Authors Sherman Alexie, Daniel James Brown, Cristina Baker Kline, and Ruta Sepetys are a few of the authors the community has been able to meet as a result of this program. Kirsten is also passionate about art and ensures that our libraries have traveling art displays for visitors to enjoy throughout the

year. Kirsten makes working at the Library fun and always has creative ideas for new programs such as the Summit County School of Wizardry that we offered last fall.

### **Sylvia White, Registered Nurse**

Sylvia White is the Registered Nurse for the Early Intervention Program, and has been for the past 16 years. If you've ever had the opportunity to witness Sylvia working with the families she serves, especially the children, you've seen something magical. Sylvia's bottom line is to advocate for, and help, her patients. One example is shared in the story below, from the parent of one of Sylvia's kids:

"Sylvia's guidance during the first six months after our preemie child was born was priceless. What an incredible breadth of knowledge she provided during the most trying months of our life. Her joie de vivre is infectious and I enjoyed her visits immensely as well. Thank you so much Sylvia!!"

All told, Sylvia has been a nurse for 43 years! Obviously, she began working when she was very young! Summit County and the Health Department are incredibly fortunate to have Karen working for and with us.

### **Dave Allgood, Landfill Operator**

Dave Allgood joined Summit County in 2005 and is a landfill operator at the County's landfill. He works side-by-side with Recycle Utah and members of the Summit County community twice a year at the Recycle Utah-sponsored Household Hazardous Waste collection events. These drop-off events are important to our County by keeping hazardous materials out of our critical drinking water sources and engaging our citizens in responsibly disposing of these items. Dave is an expert in quickly assessing materials as they come in and determining the best disposal route for them. He is an extremely hard worker and his interactions with the public are always professional and accommodating. Dave maintains a calm demeanor even when the event gets busy and stressful (or paint is spilled!). For 14 years, Dave has played a critical role in helping our residents dispose of their waste and utilizing his expertise in upholding the health, safety and welfare of our community. Summit County appreciates his commitment to waste management and the work he performs day in and day out to protect our land, water, and air.

### **Christina Sally, Investigator**

When Christina Sally was hired as an investigator in the County Attorney's Office, no one knew that the office was hiring the equivalent of three employees. Christina is a tireless work machine who has been instrumental in making the Attorney's Office what it is today. Besides investigating criminal cases for the office, Christina also investigates personnel matters including allegations of discrimination or harassment. It was Christina who, through countless hours of effort, brought the Children's Justice Center to Summit County. Christina has also been a children's advocate in other areas including her private fund raising efforts and her recognition as an expert in the child abuse arena speaking at numerous conferences on the issue. Christina's work studying secondary trauma will culminate, in coming months, in Christina being awarded a PhD in Forensic Psychology. Christina also created and has been running Summit County's Camp Safety since 2012. Camp Safety is a summer camp for 4-5 year olds held in late summer on the eve of entering the school system. Christina and her camp helpers instruct young children on many aspects of keeping safe and knowing what to do in a variety of situations: getting lost/separated from a trusted adult, bicycle safety, handling a bully, trusting police officers, and keeping their bodies safe. The children even get a visit from Park City Fire and catch water balloons thrown from the fire ladder. The program is the only one of its kind (in the nation!) and is Christina's brainchild and labor of love.

Christina built Camp Safety of her own initiative and its curriculum and support grow with each passing year. The County is pleased to recognize Christina's innovation and contributions to Summit County and to our youngest community members.

### **Department of Motor Vehicle Technicians**

We are happy to honor the Summit County Department of Motor Vehicle team--Julie Keyes, Esbeyde Rea, Monique Ovard and Kellie Couey. We all know the DMV has a reputation for long waits, but in Summit County these helpful, customer-oriented employees make the process as quick and efficient as possible. They are often told they're the "best kept secret" in Utah, but we're sharing the secret with you! They'll go above and beyond to smooth the vehicle registration/titling process while making sure your vehicle is compliant with state law. We thank them sincerely for their dedication to their jobs and to the citizens of Summit County.

Stop by our 3 DMV offices to say hello to the team. They're open in Park City Monday through Friday, in Coalville on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, and in Kamas on Wednesday & Thursday.