

## Life saver

Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE

it?"

"Yeah, I don't know where it is."

"Driver's license?"

"No."

"Was it revoked?"

"A long, long time ago," Draper said. "DUI from 22 years ago."

"Paid for and everything?"

"Are you interested in getting it back?"

"Yeah!"

Swapp has some version of this conversation with every person she meets in the jail. She also runs through their history of addiction and asks them what they most need to get back on their feet.

She told Draper she would try to get him into intensive outpatient therapy. That would involve four to five classes a week and a lot of driving. He'd need his license back. She didn't make promises but said she would talk

**"I'm your biggest fan here."**  
to his probation officer and the judge. He sighed and thanked her.

**"I want you to succeed."**  
Swapp said. "I want you to be with your mom, too."

**CHERYL SWAPP**

Talking to Robert Draper, a detainee in the Sanpete County Jail

The federal grant that funded the launch of Sanpete's community health worker program is held by the regional health care services organization Intermountain Health. Intermountain took the idea to the county and has provided Swapp with support and training. Intermountain staff also administer the \$1 million, three-year grant, which includes efforts to increase addiction recovery services in the area.

A similarly funded program in Kentucky called First Day Forward took the community health worker model a step further, using "peer support specialists"—people who have experienced the issues they are trying to help others navigate. Spokespeople from HRSA pointed to four programs, including the ones in Utah and Kentucky, that are using their



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grant money for people facing or serving time in local jails.

Back in Utah, Sanpete's new jail captain, Jeff Nielsen, said people in small-town law enforcement weren't so far removed from those serving time.

"We know these people," Nielsen said. He has known Robert Draper since middle school. "They are friends, neighbors, sometimes family. We'd rather help than lock them up and throw away the key. We'd rather help give them a good life."

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**Above** » The library and therapy room at Castle Ridge Behavioral Health in Castle Dale, is meant to be a peaceful place to study and think for people recovering from substance use disorder.

**Left** » Folders fill several drawers in the office of Cheryl Swapp in the Sanpete County Sheriff's Office.

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