

February 2014

## We Have Many Partners

As you may have heard by now, I have been selected as the Bureau Chief of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA). My last day at JTNN will be on 2/14 and my first day at SAPTA will be 2/18. I will be involved with JTNN to the end of February to wrap up transition details. I am very excited about this new adventure with SAPTA. Even though I'm leaving JTNN, I'm viewing it more as moving to another position that will still work and collaborate with the Reno, Sparks, and the Washoe County communities.

On a personal note, saying, "Goodbye" is always difficult for me because I always like what I'm doing and don't always see the need to change jobs. But with the opportunity to lead SAPTA, it seems like the time to make that change is at hand.

So, as I think about the last 14 years at JTNN I try and survey what we have done as an organization and as a community. I remember my first few weeks on the job. Here I was working in a "prevention coalition" trying to explain to people what a coalition is and what we do. I wasn't quite sure myself and I would imagine it showed. But as time went by and as our organization matured, I began to get a handle on what we do and how we do it. It's simply this: JTNN partners with people to get things done. That's the overarching template. Of course, "the devil's in the details," as the cliché goes and what we do is much more complex than

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### Seeking a Drug and Alcohol Evaluation?

The Northern Nevada  
Evaluation Center, an arm of  
JTNN, is a nonprofit certified,  
court-approved drug and

that basic statement. But that simple definition keeps us on track. We have many partners and we are a partner to many. With that in mind, let me share with you a sampling of my personal favorite highlights over the last 14 years:

- In 2000, JTNN worked with the State of Nevada to develop strategies to address underage drinking in our community. The coalition that rose out of that effort is called the Environmental Strategies Group. Our group has worked collaboratively with UNR Student Services, UNR PD, Reno PD, Sparks PD, the Washoe Sheriff's Office, the Washoe County School District, retailers, bars and clubs, and more to develop innovative ways to prevent alcohol sales to underage youth. We're also working on how to prevent underage alcohol sales at the Reno based Pub Crawls.
- In 2009, two parents who lost their son came to us and asked if there was anything we could do to prevent other parents from losing their children to prescription drugs. Frankly, I didn't know what to say so I offered, "Let's call a meeting." We got Reno P.D., the Washoe County School District, and a few others around the table with those parents and I asked the question, "What do we do?" Out of that first meeting in mid-2009, we now have the twice a year Prescription Drug Round Up events that have collected over 1 million pills, a teaching video for parents on prescription drugs, and a statewide training program for physicians and other prescribers. We have close to 40 partners working together to make all of these projects come together.
- Also in 2009, another set of parents came to me and said, "Our daughter died of a heroin and other drug overdose...What do we do to prevent this from happening to others?" Again, I had no idea what to say but it happened that one of our Board members, Laura Newman, works in the media business. Laura and the mom who contacted me began to talk about a media plan to raise awareness about heroin in the community. This turned into another working group called the Heroin Committee. Now almost five years later, we have many heroin and other drug related television public service announcements, a parent support group for parents of children (grown or still underage) who

alcohol evaluation center. The center is located next door to JTNN at 505 S. Arlington, Suite 108, and can provide evaluations within 24-48 hours of an inquiry. **Call 775-329-5006 for information.**

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*Sponsored (in part) by SAMHSA  
and/or the Substance Abuse  
Prevention and Treatment Agency  
of Nevada (SAPTA).*

have alcohol and/or drug problems, and the MuHA (Music Healing Addictions). MuHA is an annual concert that celebrates recovery from addiction.

I could go on and talk about the Anti Drug Mural Project, Recovery Month, Crossroads, the Northern Nevada Evaluation Center, JTNN's entrepreneurial enterprises that help fund the agency, and more. But it gets back to our partners. I've never counted but I'm pretty sure that we work with between 200 and 250 partner agencies, organizations, individuals, governments, etc. in our work at JTNN. We are a small staff and have a relatively small budget but the partnerships drive what we do and what is accomplished in the community.

As I leave JTNN, I am happy to say that I am confident that the organization will do well without me at the helm. In fact, I'm quite sure that some things I didn't think of or that aren't on my radar will be done. I have a great deal of trust and confidence in the JTNN Board of Directors in their leadership and in our most excellent staff to carry on the work and even take it to a new level. Of course, my new job entails oversight of funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment funding in Nevada so I'll be watching JTNN, working with JTNN, and looking for opportunities for partnership.

I would like to end by thanking the JTNN Board, Staff, and all of our Partners for a great 14 years!

Kevin Quint  
Executive Director

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