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For Immediate Release

AMA President and Utah Attorney General Address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder at Cottonwood Youth Academy

South Salt Lake City, Utah—Dr. John Nelson, president of the American Medical Association, along with Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, today joined other medical professionals at the Cottonwood Youth Academy, a state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment center for youth inflicted with fully preventable and treatable diseases, to address the issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Dr. John Nelson, an obstetrician and Utah native, discussed Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), the debilitating effects of each and how the diseases are completely preventable. According to the U.S. Surgeon General:

- Both FAS and FASD are totally preventable, while, on average, one in every 100 live births is inflicted with either FAS or FASD.
- In the United States FAS and FASD affects more than 40,000 infants annually, more than Down's syndrome, Spina Bifida and Cerebral Palsy combined. The spectrum may include mild and subtle changes, such as a slight learning disability and/or physical abnormality, to severe learning disabilities, growth deficiencies, abnormal facial features and central nervous system disorders.
- Both Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and FASD are completely preventable by avoiding alcohol exposure during pregnancy.
- No amount of alcohol can be considered safe during pregnancy.
- Alcohol can damage a fetus at any stage of pregnancy.
- The cognitive deficits and behavioral problems resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure can have lifelong effects.

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Both Dr. Nelson and Attorney General Shurtleff applauded the facility and recognized the efforts made by various Utah organizations to curb the spread of FAS and FASD, including the Utah Fetal Alcohol Coalition and the Alcohol Policy Coalition.

Recently opened, the Cottonwood Youth Academy is expected to become one of only a limited number of nationally approved diagnostic centers and the only one of its kind combining diagnostic and treatment capabilities. The Cottonwood Youth Academy's mission is to provide innovative and personalized outcome based treatment and education to help facilitate an individual's productive contribution to his or her community.

EDCUTAH worked with the Cottonwood Youth Academy throughout the course of the project, meeting with representatives of South Salt Lake and facilitating its partnership with Coldwell Banker, the real estate firm responsible for the property's lease transaction. EDCUTAH is an investor-based public/private partnership working with government and private industry to promote the state of Utah. EDCUTAH specializes in being a comprehensive source of critical economic data and key public/private contacts in order to facilitate the recruitment of out-of-state companies and spur the development and expansion of local businesses. For more information on EDCUTAH, visit www.EDCUTAH.org or call 801-328-8824.

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