



### **Katherine Fortenberry, PhD – SBIRT Clinical Implementation Grant**

Katherine Fortenberry PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, along with Troy Madsen MD, associate professor in the School of Medicine, have been awarded a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment, or SBIRT, Clinical Implementation Grant from the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

The two year, \$500,000 grant will allow for Fortenberry and the team to create a standardized screening process for substance abuse in the Sugar House, Madsen, and Centerville Family Medicine Clinics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The implementation of the grant will lead to items such as standardized screenings and trainings for medical assistants on how to ask and discuss substance abuse problems with patients.

“Discussion can have a significant impact down the road, but if we are not consistently asking then it becomes a larger problem,” Fortenberry said.

Studies have shown that intervention at an earlier stage of addiction can reduce use and reduce the negative impacts of addiction to different substances. The processes and trainings that are included in the grant also allow for consistent screenings, such as a short questionnaire at the beginning of visits to a primary care provider, and better access to community resources.

Along with Fortenberry and Madsen, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine faculty and staff including Melissa Chang MD, Johanna Greenberg PA-C, Sarah McCormick PhD, Abigail Zeveloff LCSW MPH, as well as Ruben Tinajero MS, a psychology doctoral student, will all be working on various processes of the grant implementation.

After the two year grant is over, the processes, trainings, and tools will be a consistent part of patient visits at the three Salt Lake Clinics.