The nation’s largest suicide prevention organization, the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](https://afsp.org/), hired Taryn Aiken Hiatt, as the Area Director for [Utah](https://afsp.org/chapter/afsp-utah/) and [Nevada](https://afsp.org/chapter/afsp-nevada/). Taryn is the founding Chair of the Utah Chapter, organized the [Salt Lake City](https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.event&eventID=4624) walk for many years and has conducted hundreds of trainings in Utah and elsewhere. Taryn is also an eloquent spokesperson for AFSP’s Lived Experience programs.

“For such an important role, we needed an individual with such a strong background in community organizing to help us implement and apply the strategies we know will save thousands of lives over the next few years,” said [**AFSP CEO Robert Gebbia**](https://afsp.org/about-afsp/robert-gebbia/). “Ms. Hiatt brings the right mix of skills and experience to this role. We are pleased to have her on board and to continue the momentum underway in the Mountain States in the area of suicide prevention.”

In 2016, Ms. Hiatt was chosen to participate in a short film series “[Voices of Hope](https://afsp.org/find-support/voices-of-hope/)” which highlights various people and their lived experience in suicide (attempts and thoughts of suicide). Taryn is a survivor of her own attempts as well as a survivor of suicide loss, losing her father Terry Aiken on October 5, 2002. As a dedicated volunteer for the past 11 years, she shares her story and passion to give hope and educate our communities about suicide.

Hiatt is a certified safeTALK, CONNECT Postvention Trainer, and Mental Health First Aid Trainer, facilitating hundreds of seminars to many different groups, and sharing tools to help build resiliency in our communities. She dedicates her time to sharing suicide prevention and education.

Taryn is my mentor, losing her father the same year as I did. We’re both survivors of attempts and both in recovery. She is the person who inspired me to volunteer with AFSP, and it has been the most amazing journey.

Taryn has also been mentioned in the Huffington Post and USA Today (links below)

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/meet-taryn-aiken_us_576920f3e4b0ed0729a230d3>

<https://health.usnews.com/health-news/patient-advice/articles/2015/09/10/coming-out-as-a-suicide-survivor?int=98e708&int=98e708>