



UPAN Newsletter Volume 3 Number 10 | **OCTOBER 2016**

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, November 14, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM

TOPIC: Anna Brower of the ACLU will discuss how California is working to fight Video Only Visitation in its jails. We can possibly learn what can be done in Utah about this problem.

LOCATION: Draper Library Meeting Room 1136 Pioneer Road, Draper UT 84020

There will be **NO** UPAN meeting in **December**

Next Year's 1st UPAN Meeting, **Monday, January 9, 2017 6:30 – 8:45 PM**
Topic: TBA Location: Holladay Library 2150 E Murray Holladay Rd, SLC, UT 84117

FOCUS MEETING: FOCUS Meetings Cancelled Until Future Notice

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**Disclaimer: Formulate your own opinions about the information presented.
This information is presented for the reader's enlightenment and evaluation.**

*A secret of happiness is letting every situation be what it is instead of what you think it should be,
And then making the best of it. (Mind of Greatness Facebook quote.)*

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Contact Information for PrisonEd Foundation: Box 900693 Sandy, UT 84090
Email: prisonedfoundaton@gmail.com

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 10th UPAN MEETING

Facilitated by Molly Prince and Shauna Denos

Proof! Legislators Pay Attention If You Write

The October UPAN meeting was a family meeting. Various updates were shared that have also been addressed in this newsletter. Miriam Greenland discussed the positive response she has received from sending her letter to all Utah legislators detailing the facts about the dire need for increased funding for SOTP in USP. Legislator Brian King responded to her. He reminded her that there are a lot of needs in Utah and limited resources to fund all the needs. He told her that more people need to write all senators and representatives about this situation and now is the time. **Eric Hutchings** (one of the sponsors and proponents of HB 348 in 2015) has contacted Miriam and she has had conversations with him about the funding issues as well. Miriam has received encouraging responses that demonstrate our lawmakers will pay attention to well thought out letters that share useful information about this important aspect of the criminal justice system.

Update On SOTP Audit

It was also encouraging that the Auditors of the SOTP audit have notified us that they are dividing the focus of the audit into two parts: 1) the need for increased funding for SOTP, and 2) the performance portion of the audit on SOTP.

UPAN Secretary Mike McAinsh reported that he has received a number of surveys and as of October 10 had compiled the information on about 160 of them. They continue to come in and he is working on a spreadsheet to use for sharing the information with the Auditors. He also reports that he forwards to the Auditors the comments and feedback included in some of the surveys - both positive and negative - regarding SOTP.

Committees To Focus On Specific Areas Of Interest

This family meeting also provided a forum for family members to share their feelings and discuss the formation of some UPAN committees. It was proposed that working groups and committees be formed for various areas of concern and interest. More volunteer family members are needed to serve on these committees in order to more effectively gather information and pinpoint what we need to be approaching the UDC about.

These work groups or committees would meet on their own and identify specifics, gather information and present their findings to the UPAN directors in a format and manner suitable for the directors to take this information to DOC administration with both the

concerns as well as ideas (solutions) that could be proposed to address the concerns.

It should be noted that UPAN attempted to form committees the first year of its existence, and while a few people signed up for them, there was no follow through, so we dropped the idea. UPAN has grown significantly since that time. Now that it has been proposed again, please consider if you would be interested in forming a work group on particular areas of interest and let us know at:

utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com

Areas Of Concern That Need To Be Addressed

An example of the diversity of topics that need to be addressed are listed but are not limited to:

Visiting in USP - consistency of the enforcement of policies across all housing areas in USP including dress code and visiting rules.

Visiting in County Jails – this is a challenging area.

Inmate Accounting – the use of a third party company based in St. Louis (Access Corrections) that charges use fees for everything - to put money on inmate accounts, for parolees and probationers to pay supervision fees and restitution, and the lack of consistency and accuracy in that system.

Telephone Problems – various issues

IPP issues – and it may be wise to look at having a representative for each county jail – one or more people who have a loved one in each county jail could focus on gathering information about each jail and building a respectful, professional working relationship with the jail administrator of each jail to address problems particular to that jail. UPAN Directors still work with IPP Director Chipp on systemic issues related to the IPP program, but Chipp cannot mandate how the jail administrators and sheriff's run their own jails.

Medical and Mental Health – It would help if we could have volunteers with experience in the medical and mental health fields to help in this area.

Fundraising – UPAN is a 501c3 non-profit organization. A committee to focus on fundraising would be very helpful so that UPAN could afford to rent office space as well as improve its web presence which costs a lot.

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A crocodile has many teeth. Ugandan saying

When you focus on problems, you'll have more problems. When you focus on possibilities, you'll have more opportunities. Zig Ziglar

**UPDATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AS DISCUSSED IN THE OCTOBER MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
AND REPORTED IN THE DAILY HERALD AND SALT LAKE TRIBUNE**

The following article is adapted from articles written by Mark Johnson published in the Daily Herald on March 5, 2014 and updated on October 14, 2016 and a Salt Lake Tribune article written by Matt Canham on October 14, 2016.

Progress Made But Treatment Goals Fall Short

A year after the implementation of HB 348 and known as Utah's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), the reforms to Utah's criminal justice system have reduced Utah's prison population, but are falling short of a goal to get more people into treatment for substance abuse and mental health problems, according to a report released by the CCJJ on October 13, 2016.

The number of people in treatment has dropped in the past three fiscal years, at least in part because of a lack of facilities in Utah outside the prison system, said Ron Gordon, executive director of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. "For those who don't need to be in prison, don't put them in prison, treat them in the community. That only works if we have treatment opportunities in the community," Gordon said.

Inmate Screening Program

The package of reforms that passed in 2015 included a new inmate screening program. There have been 25000 screenings of offenders to determine who would benefit from treatment versus incarceration this past year. It found that more than half (53%) of people booked into county jails needed substance abuse treatment. 41 percent were referred to mental health programs. 1/3 of those screened needed both types of treatment. Despite the screening program, the number of treatment admissions over the past year dropped from 9,672 to 9,516. The total number of people in such programs fell from 11,315 to 10,411.

While that could be due in part to patients staying in treatment longer, Director Gordon said that it's going to take a large increase in the number of facilities with adequate funding to reach the goal of reducing repeat offenders through treatment. While Utah's legislature approved an additional \$4.5 million funding for such treatment, it doesn't yet appear to have made a difference in the number of agencies and facilities these people in need can use to access treatment. The state Legislature passed a limited expansion of Medicaid, which would provide help in this area. The federal government is now reviewing the program. Gordon indicated that one option is to request increased funding from lawmakers.

Three Improvements Now In Effect

On the positive side, what is working is reducing the prison population by decreasing penalties for certain drug-related offenses, creating incentives for good behavior in prison and putting fewer people in prison for parole violations. According to The Salt Lake Tribune article, prison population was going down before the reforms went into effect, and the criminal justice reform has helped push the downward trend.

Utah's prison population has dropped by 600 since fiscal 2014, the report found. The reason for this is that prior to the implementation of JRI, the prison population was declining and the reported reason is due to the drop in the number of convictions for theft and possession of a controlled substance. JRI reduced drug possession charges from felonies to misdemeanors for the first two convictions and significantly reduced enhancements for arrests in drug free zones. It also changed sentencing guidelines to emphasize probation over incarceration for lower level offenses and created "earned time credit" to reduce length of stay in prison for inmates who complete certain eligible programs while incarcerated.

A Few Points Of Further Interest

Since the bill went into effect in October, 2015, according to the Tribune article, the number of people sentenced to prison for violent offenses was only reduced by about 50 people and those on parole remained the same. However, those picked up for drug offenses were more frequently sentenced to jail rather than prison or put on probation far more often than previously.

The drug-free zone enhancement was limited to cases where children were present, which resulted in a large reduction in the number of cases it is used in prosecution.

The current population of state inmates in the custody of the Utah Department of Corrections is around 6,300, including both prison and all state inmates housed in 21 of our 26 county jails throughout the state.

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"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow man; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects."

Herman Melville – author of Moby Dick

UPAN Supports The UDC In Acting On Inmate's Proposal To Create A Hospice-Geriatric Dying-With-Dignity Program

by Molly Prince*

Inmate Comes Up With A Great Proposal

UPAN received notification in July 2016 from Gary Hilfiker in Draper of a program he has proposed to the Utah Department of Corrections. In his letter, he states that this program is "long overdue" and UPAN agrees.

And It's Written With Touching Prose

There is an increasing number of aging inmates who suffer from a variety of critical or terminal illnesses in Utah State Prison. Mr. Hilfiker writes, "The Utah State Prison is a city within a city... the adversary of death is common to all." His program proposal seeks to "provide comfort and solace to those of us that are critically or terminally ill and to maintain contact with the inmate/patient's family during this time. In spite of what we may have done to put ourselves here, as fellow humans we should be allowed death with dignity and not just cast aside to await life's final breath."

With many incarcerated individuals receiving long re-hearings and expiration-of-life sentences (the so-called natural life decisions), many more inmates will be seeing the end of their lives while incarcerated in Utah over the coming years.

We Are ALL Still Human Beings

The objective of the program is to "provide comfort and care to critically/terminally ill patients in the Utah State Prison infirmary." The proposal outlines a program in which inmate volunteers can visit with the dying patients. During these visits, they might simply talk with them, pray with or over them, or just hold hands and sit with unresponsive patients to reassure them they are not alone. Volunteers could contact the patient's family/support system via EMRO/CHS to keep them informed of the situation. Mr. Hilfiker reminds us that "providing such a service is valuable to the recovery of the critically ill and brings peace to the dying soul."

Improving The Visuals In The Last Place They'll See

He proposes that inmate volunteer labor could be used to refurbish the rooms in the infirmary that the dying are housed in. This would include cleaning the carpets, floors, walls, and painting them. He suggests inmate artists could paint murals on the walls to lighten the atmosphere. He also identified coordination with Reading for the Blind could be accomplished to provide recorded books and religious scriptures.

Comfort, Dignity, Humanity Receives Support

In the community, we have the option of being with loved ones as they are passing. Hospice services are available to support the family and patient through this process. This proposal is a reasonable request to

provide the same comfort and humanity to the process of going through an illness or dying to inmates and their loved ones. We are pleased to know that the medical and programming directors are following up to create a program to offer this much needed service.

These Steps In Humanity Can Be Therapeutic And Life-Changing For Those Who Serve

Other prisons throughout the country have begun programs that include inmates sitting with and assisting chronically, critically, and terminally ill incarcerated patients. Angola in Louisiana may be the first US prison to implement a hospice program that is fully staffed by inmate volunteers, and overseen by an interdisciplinary team of professionals including (but not limited to) the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, Religious Services, Social Worker, Physicians, Nurses, and Security. In addition, inmate orderlies are trained to care for their patients with the same professionalism, care, and compassion as any certified nursing assistant out here in the community. For more information on the concept of prison hospice, view this YouTube video on Angola's program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMLjANwBRDk>.

UPAN Has Heart – We Support This Program

UPAN wants to publicly share our support of this program. It is our understanding that Director of Institutional Programming Victor Kersey has reviewed and is acting on this idea. I contacted him about this proposal and he responded saying that he had received the proposal from Mr. Hilfiker and has provided a response to him.

How Lucky Or Blessed Are We? Director Kersey Has Long-Term Experience In This Area

Director Kersey wrote in his email addressing my inquiry that he agrees that we need a hospice/geriatric program at UDC. He explained that he has experience in this area and noted that his facility in Dixon, Illinois "was part of a nationwide group 17 years ago that created the Quality Guidelines for Hospice and End-of-Life Care in Correctional Settings." Dir. Kersey indicated that he has been working to implement a hospice/geriatric program with USP Medical Director Tony Washington in the coming months. UPAN directors are gratified to learn that this program is "on the front burner" for Dir. Kersey!!

We look forward to its implementation and will report on its progress as we become aware of it.

* Note: Article by Molly, paragraph headings by Editor

"Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother." Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

DISPELLING ANOTHER RUMOR REGARDING SOTP AND THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

From Molly Prince, UPAN President

UPAN has been queried from some inmates who were told that due to the Legislative Audit of SOTP, all special hearings for time cuts will be delayed. UPAN

has checked with Director Victor Kersey regarding this. He let us know that is a false rumor and that the legislative audit will NOT impact earned time credit.

Bureau Of Prisons Re-Entry Handbook For Inmates And Families/Support Groups

From Molly to the UPAN email list:

Lots Of Helpful Information

Hello everyone: This email contains the link to a Bureau of Prisons re-entry handbook that gives families and inmates a lot of information to help them prepare for release and re-entry into society where challenges and new advances in our society can cause difficulties.

Families Helping Their Inmates

It has a lot of websites in it rather than physical mailing addresses, so it would be helpful for families to:

- 1) go to the websites, 2) find the mailing addresses, and
- 3) provide them to their loved ones who are getting out

in the next few months so they can write to those sources about various needs and issues.

Families/Support Systems Learning What They Need To Know

It also is helpful for families/support systems to know this information as well in order to better help your loved one navigate release and reintegration.

Legislators Can Learn About Re-Entry Issues

I also encourage our legislators in Utah to look at it so they become more familiar with some of the issues felons face upon re-entry.

Get your re-entry handbook at: https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/reentry_handbook.pdf

See Metamora Films: <https://www.metamorafilms.org/2016/10/09/fathers-behind-bars-the-problem-for-americas-children>

CHRISTMAS / HOLIDAY CARDS

Call For Volunteers To Send Cards To Inmates

Becoming A Tradition, But Volunteers Needed

The past three years, UPAN families and volunteers have sent Christmas or Holiday Cards to inmates who would not otherwise receive them. We currently have a number of volunteers who already print and mail the newsletters to inmates who don't have their own family or friends' support to do so.

We are seeking volunteers to send holiday cards to inmates. If you are willing to do this, please email us at: utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com

and let us know how many inmates you are interested in sending cards to. We will provide you with names as soon as we get them collected.

Give Us Some Feedback On Your Participation

If you already send newsletters to inmates and wish to send holiday cards to those same individuals, please let us know that you will do so. If you cannot send cards to the inmates you already send newsletters to, please let us know and we will be happy to assign them to another volunteer who is willing to send cards alone. We are hoping to have a list of volunteers in place by mid-November to whom we will assign inmates.

Gathering of Names of Inmates

If you know of incarcerated individuals who have no one who sends them cards or letters, and who do not already receive the UPAN newsletter from a volunteer who will be sending them a holiday card as well, and you would like to offer their name for the UPAN Holiday Card program, please submit their Name, Offender #, housing unit, and facility (Draper, Gunnison, a county jail, etc.). If you have the address and zip code of the county jail, that would be helpful, (as we don't have those memorized the way we do Draper and CUCF).

You may email the information to:

utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com or mail the info to UPAN P.O. Box 464 Draper, UT 84020. Please submit names before November 15th.

Early Mailing Helps Alleviate The Overload

The mail rooms in the prisons, particularly at Draper, become backlogged and overwhelmed during the holidays. We are hoping UPAN families/volunteers can be assigned their inmates by mid-November allowing them to get their cards mailed in early December to assure the inmates receive them before Christmas.

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Be the change you wish to see in the world. Gandhi

ConQuest Dads Enjoy An Afternoon With Their Kids

written by Molly Prince, edited by Warren Rosenbaum

A Big THANK YOU To The Organizers Of This Event

On Saturday October 15th, 16 fathers who participate in or recently graduated the ConQuest program in Promontory enjoyed four hours with their children in the first men's "Kids Day Event" in Draper. Last year this event was held for the women in Timpanogos. This event was an accomplishment that was made possible by the therapists of ConQuest under the direction of program director **Randi Peterson**, in coordination with correctional staff in Promontory and the Division of Programming. UCI donated items for this event, a delicious grilled chicken and potato salad lunch was prepared by staff and culinary. United Way donated items, as did Anna Brower from the ACLU.

These Types Of Activities Promote Rehabilitation (Readers May Need A Tissue To Dry Your Eyes)

It was exciting to see the families get to go into the gym and find their own table that had a place card with their father's name on it. It brought tears to my eyes to watch them light up as their fathers arrived and they were able to hug and sit with each other in a more normal situation than they get to experience in visiting.

After the great lunch served by the ConQuest staff, the kids and their fathers got to go out in the yard and move from table to table to participate in various activities: coloring, playing board games, painting and decorating pumpkins, throwing footballs, basketball, playing catch with softballs, and creating designs with blocks. Included were a table where the kids had balloon animals made for them and a photo opportunity where the family could have their picture taken together. Inside the gym, t-shirt decorating and Halloween cookie decorating were offered.

Relaxed Family Time

It was heartwarming to see these families eat lunch together, talking and simply enjoying the normalcy of a meal together after years apart. I stood and smiled with a full heart as I watched the kids get to run around in

the yard with their dads, laughing and calling to them; the enjoyment on the father's faces of being with their families and having a semblance of a "normal" family visit, not restricted to jail video visits, barrier visits, or to sitting with a table between them.

Volunteers Helped This Great Event Happen

Volunteers manning activities at this event included **United Way** and staff from other parts of the prison. **Anna Brower** of the ACLU and **Mary Crawford**, a director in the DATC Vocational program at USP manned the cookie decorating tables. It was a hit. One teenage girl visiting her father decided to decorate cookies for all the officers present at this event. She was quite talented at it. She and her father decorated about 18 cookies which I enjoyed taking out to the yard and through the gym to various officers in attendance. It was a privilege to be a part of this great afternoon. Other administrative and housing staff were present in this groundbreaking event including Warden **Scott Crowther**, Deputy Director **London Stromberg**, DIO Director **Jerry Pope**, Deputy Warden **Kent DeMille**, and the new public information officer **Maria Peterson**.

A New Prison Could Host These Essential Events

I have no idea if this has ever been done for the fathers at USP, but if it has, it has not been done in an extremely long time. This is the beginning of something wonderful. I asked the Warden if there could be an event next year in both the women's and the men's facility, so they each get an opportunity every year. His response was to say that hopefully, as they gain experience in how to safely and successfully hold these events, they can maybe they expand. Personally, I hope to see this become a possibility in all of the facilities throughout both Draper and CUCF in the coming years. It was reassuring to hear from the administrators present that maybe the new prison can be a facility designed with accommodations that can easily host these types of events that help families connect.

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Personal Perceptions and Insights Learned While Incarcerated

Adapted from an article originally authored by Lee Ann McConnell, LCSW -- with substantial editing by Warren Rosenbaum, the UPAN Newsletter Editor

Lee Ann McConnell is a therapist who has worked with probationers and parolees in court and board ordered treatment for the past 20 years.

Wisdom Learned Often Comes At A High Price

Incarceration is a high price to pay for the perceptions and insights one learns from these circumstances. There is a polarity (opposites) here. The contrast of life before and during incarceration can provide a sharp awareness of what an inmate had and is now deprived

of. For those who have come to the conclusion of their incarceration and are now living back in the community, new insights are realized regarding what is now valued that was previously taken for granted. This new insight can offer a benefit learned through the individual's incarceration. A new appreciation can be birthed

through this severe contrast. In other words, you didn't know what you had until it's gone.

Examples Of Some Contrasts

Sharp contrasts occur often in our ever-changing life experiences. We appreciate a good home cooked meal when we have had to settle for a dry bologna sandwich or bland-tasting commissary offerings. Think of the warmth and comfort of our own bed as opposed to substandard substitutes. The ability and freedom to roam the countryside or any place on earth as opposed to incarceration for years. No one knows better or is more aware of these contrasts than individuals who have been incarcerated. Being stripped of what they believed were staples in life causes what they deeply valued most to come to the surface.

Actual Quotes From Former Inmates

In many cases the period in an offender's life when they are incarcerated may provide the most intense wake-up call of all. As a treatment provider, Ms. McConnell took the opportunity to ask the parolees she works with what they consider are the benefits they are reaping from their experience in prison, including their opportunities to participate in therapy while incarcerated. Their answers were instantaneous and emphatic.

- 1) "I came to appreciate the solitude of really getting to know myself: of knowing there was no one to blame for my choices but me."
- 2) "I learned to do the things I feared (like approaching an angry guard or a muscle bound inmate covered in tattoos), and a lot of my fears died."
- 3) "I now understand the value of delayed gratification."
- 4) " I took advantage of every single opportunity for bettering myself; whether it was skill certifications, therapy programs, or educational degrees."

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." Nelson Mandela

The Transformative Power of Prison

**When you're on the wrong track, and making bad decisions, prison can be a way to reconnect with reality.
By Michael J. McAinsh**

Prison can be a transformative experience. For me, prison was a way to reorganize my chaotic life into a more productive one. Prison was not easy for me, by any stretch of the imagination. For one thing, I will take a stand when I've been wronged. This attitude has led to retaliation from some prison guards.

Some guards are working at the prison only for the paycheck; they are not true professionals. I have seen decent corrections officers transformed into mere

5) "I used it as an opportunity to grieve my losses-and I gained an understanding of my own accountability."

6) "I came to understand how important my basic freedoms are – like not having a flashlight shined in my eyes every night, and having privacy while using the bathroom."

7) "I learned to love and appreciate my family members in a way I never thought possible."

8) "I read everything in sight."

9) "I became free of my image and reputation. Being stripped of all the things that fed my ego helped me get to know the real me."

10) "I gained grit. In prison, it's sink or swim."

11) "I met some really good men of integrity."

12) "I used to live on borrowed beliefs. Now they are my own."

In Summary: Awareness, Gratitude, Contentment

Therapist Ms. McConnell's article concludes with the following two paragraphs: "Every sentiment expressed by these individuals was based on a new found sense of deep and immense gratitude. The word gratitude calls to mind a statement that I believe to be one of the keys to true contentment:

It's not what you have that matters. It's what you KNOW you have...

These men know, with an awareness and certainty those of us who haven't been stripped of our freedoms may never be fully aware of, the vast scope of life's offerings. I count it a blessing to be in their presence and be reminded on an ongoing basis of the sweetness and richness that is possible in each moment of life."

It is to the guards, the “cogs in the wheel” of the Department of Corrections, that I owe my passion for working for reform of the prison system.

When I first went to prison, I wrote out a mission statement and four goals on an index card, to guide my life behind bars. Over the 15 years of incarceration, I lost track of many possessions, but I never lost that card. Here is what I wrote:

- Mission Statement: I am in prison due to a lack of self-control. I will choose to make the most of my commitment so when I leave prison, I will not re-offend.
- Goals:
 1. Participate in programs by choice, not coercion,
 2. Keep mind and body healthy,
 3. Strive to work while in prison,
 4. Participate in leisure activities.

In spite of the turbulent seas that threatened my frail lifeboat, this card was the rudder helping me make the course corrections that kept me on an even keel through my prison journey.

I lost a lot when I went to prison, but what I gained was a passion for life. Before prison, I failed to really appreciate the beauty around me. For example, before my incarceration, I used to go out on winter camping trips, in order to challenge the elements. However, it was while I was incarcerated that I discovered the colors in snow.

Since I've expired my sentence, I've slowed down to enjoy the little things around me. I am experiencing spring as if for the first time. I enjoy the small blossoms of weedy plants in an open field as much as the grand exposition of spring flowers in Temple Square. I've been watching the trees, noting the progression from buds to blossoms and then to leaves.

I have come to understand that, no matter how bleak a situation may seem to me today, there is always something worse that could happen. There are billions

of people who live in abject poverty compared to my relative affluence. I have lost my house and cars, but I have gained a life in which I have discovered simple joys that make me content with what I have.

I discovered that becoming passionate about something in life lowers the chance of recidivism. While in prison, I became passionate about learning Spanish, and teaching myself graphic arts on the computer. Both of these passions have served me well out here in the free world.

I have renewed my passion for gardening and bike-riding. Having discovered the joy of junk found on my two-wheeled excursions, I am constructing an artwork from the “stuff” I've collected. I have set a goal of developing a portfolio of art that I can use to enter juried shows. I want to test my artistic abilities against those of other artists. While in prison, my ability to make art was largely hampered by restrictions put on artists by how the Department of Corrections limits the ways that inmates can express themselves artistically.

I have left behind my selfishness, and am more aware of the needs of others. As an advocate for prisoner rights, I communicate regularly with inmates. Some of these I knew in prison, others I only know through correspondence. All are suffering from a moribund system that is constantly cutting back on opportunities for inmates to exercise, to gain access to jobs, to get an education. A large part on my contentment with life while in prison stemmed from the recognition that I had a date beyond which the Utah Department of Corrections could no longer hold me. Many inmates have no idea when, if ever, they will get another chance at life outside the confines of the prison. I want others to share the hope that I discovered when I realized that I had a chance at a “second life.”

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AUTHORIZATION TO VERBALLY DISCUSS HEALTH INFORMATION

Previously published in June and October 2015 UPAN Newsletters

A Major Advance In Health Care Concerns

In June, 2015, UPAN was very pleased to announce that Utah Department of Corrections had finished developing an "Authorization To Verbally Discuss Health Information" form and procedure for inmates to use when they want to give a third-party person permission to speak with the Clinical Services Bureau (Medical) about their health information. The third-party person would be a family member or friend outside of prison, not in the medical profession, that the inmate identifies on a form that has been developed and is available to the inmates through their Case Managers.

How The Form Is Accessed

UPAN has been told that the form the inmate needs to use has been posted on the UDC's internal website, where Case Managers will be able to access it and print it out for inmates to fill out and return to the Case Manager to forward to Medical.

Its Use Is Limited To Verbal Discussions

It is to be used ONLY to grant permission for verbal discussions about an inmate's health situation between a Clinical Services Bureau staff member or provider and the identified third party representative.

GRAMA Still Required For Physical Copies

For physical copies of medical records, inmates still need to use the GRAMA form to request medical records; that form is also available from a Case Manager.

How It Works Internally

There is a designated staff member at the Clinical Services Bureau to handle the calls from designated family members about an inmate's medical situation.

How It Works For Inmate And Third Party

1. Inmate requests the form from Case Manager, who prints it out for inmate.
2. Inmate fills out form which identifies the name of the third party being designated, including a phone number to contact them, and returns completed form to case manager.
4. Case Manager notarizes form and submits it to the Clinical Services Bureau.

5. A designated staff member at the Clinical Services Bureau will contact the inmate's designated person to confirm telephone number, set up pass code, and provide telephone number the third-party will use to call for information. The staff member will have authority to either answer questions or get information.

6. Each authorization **is good for 90 days**. If an inmate has an ongoing or chronic medical conditions, the inmate would be wise to renew the authorization every 90 days so it is already in place in case something comes up. It is the responsibility of the inmate, not the designated third-party representative, to renew the authorization in a timely manner.

Plan Ahead, It Takes About A While

UPAN has been told it takes about a week for the authorization process to occur once the inmate submits the form to the Case Manager and the Case Manager submits to Medical and the medical staff can reach the designated third-party to confirm the name and phone number provided by the inmate.

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UPDATE ON THE NEW UTAH STATE PRISON DEVELOPMENT

by Molly Prince using information from the DFCM website

According to Steve Turley, the UDC director involved with the new prison development, the state is still taking steps toward the purchase the actual property west of the airport (approx. I-80 and 7200 West) that has been identified as the new site. Before that happens, a lot of testing and research continues to be done.

He reports that a company named Gordon Geotechnical Engineering has been doing testing on the air quality and soil samples of the proposed sites.

Steve Turley and the architect have met with the ACLU, People Not Prisons, and Disability Law Center regarding their vision for a new prison and input on the design. UPAN directors Shauna Denos and Molly Prince met with Dir. Turley and one of the architects regarding our hopes for what a new prison would entail. We provided him with multiple pages of our "wish list."

Information about the progress being made is posted by The Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM) on a state website <http://newutahstatecorrectionalfacility.com/news-updates/> It is not a lot of information.

Their latest update to the site was on September 23, 2016 which talks about the need for a new prison and how it will assist in implementing some of the criminal justice reforms. This will be discussed in a UPAN news article in the future. The July 2016 entry reported that DFCM had eliminated the east parcel of the Salt Lake City site from consideration and the focus is now solely on the west parcel. This area is a portion of the Salt

Lake City site selected by the Prison Relocation Committee last summer.

The website article states, "The east parcel was ruled out because of environmental concerns and site costs, including issues surrounding the existence of an abandoned landfill. The elimination of the east parcel represents our commitment to constructing the new prison in a manner that balances community and environmental interests while meeting the needs of the Department of Corrections' staff, volunteers and inmates," said Eric Tholen, DFCM division director. "The focus on the west parcel ensures the best use of State resources for this critical project."

There are reports on the site available on the website. There has been a lot of concern and speculation by the public about the stability of the land in that area and the wisdom of attempting to build a prison which necessarily requires a LOT of structural weight on unstable land.

According to a review written by Geotech on January 27, 2016, "Site development will also require that the majority of the campus be blanketed with a surficial fill layer to obtain desired overall site grade (above Great Salt Lake level) and equally important to provide a stable base for subsequent construction activities. We strongly recommend that the thickness of surficial fill be held to a minimum yet provide minimums for geotechnical stability and flooding potential. Flooding potential to a great extent can be controlled to specified level by utilizing the West Desert pumping system. This level in the near future must be defined."

UPAN has received concerns regarding if the west desert pumps are even in working order since they have not been used for so many years. There is the question about what it will cost taxpayers to refurbish and bring them into working order to be considered.

The January 2016 report further states, "At this time, it is our opinion that the proposed facilities can be supported upon conventional spread and continuous wall foundations. To aid in developing preliminary cost estimates, it must be anticipated that all of the conventional footings will be underlain by approximately two feet of granular structural fill which may consist of granular site grading fill and/or replacement fill. This is the foundation system used at the Salt Lake International Center except for the recently constructed FBI building where rammed aggregate piers/Geopiers® were required beneath the more heavily loaded wall and column foundations. Noted that utilizing rammed aggregate piers/Geopiers® is not excessively expensive. In addition, their installation is relatively fast."

The report discusses fault lines that would contribute to earthquakes based on a literature review. It asserts that "no active faults pass through or immediately adjacent to the site." It reports that the nearest known active fault is three miles east of the West site. It further states, "The Wasatch fault zone further to the east will control ground motion and is considered capable of generating earthquakes as large as magnitude 7.0."

More research continues in terms of liquefaction. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS) website liquefaction is "a process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid, like when you wiggle your toes in the wet sand near the water at the beach." This effect can be created by the shaking caused by an earthquake.

The West site is located in a "high liquefaction potential area in Salt Lake County, according to the report. The report states, "Preliminary analysis indicates that the potential for liquefaction is relatively high but also localized. Our experience, however, indicates that the magnitude of liquefaction-induced settlements provided in the preliminary reports and the concern of lateral spread although present are over emphasized. The

liquefaction associated with near-surface soil can be drastically reduced by soil improvement described previously. Ground rupture is not anticipated to be a high concern. The available data indicates that in areas the liquefaction potential is low. Therefore, the selection of locations of primary facilities across the site will be very important."

In closing, the report reads, "Of significant importance is whether or not the actual location of the primary prison facilities can be located on the fairly large site to minimize liquefaction mitigation and the fine tuning of the building types, one-, two-, and possibly three-story loads, and most important realistic projections as to the required long- and short-term performance of various facilities under static and dynamic earthquake loading."

UPAN hopes and prays that those in charge are able to make accurate and specific predictions to contribute to the decision making process. People we love and care about will be housed in the new prison. People we know and care about volunteer out there and there will be a large number of prison officers and staff working out there. We want them all to be safe from environmental hazards (bugs and toxic dust) as well as from a disaster like an earthquake.

Finally, there has been concern expressed over the potential of a new Utah prison located so close to the Great Salt Lake simply sinking over the coming years if the ground is unstable. Look what has happened to the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins. Their new facility built in 2011 is already cracking and sinking after only a few years, just like the old structure that was vacated due to ground instability related to ground water fluctuations.

After making the announcement that the East parcel is no longer under consideration for the Utah State Prison site, DFCM is continuing to review the West parcel in more depth, including evaluating the best boundary options for the new facility.

DFCM anticipates finalizing a property purchase and beginning work on the site later this year. Construction is expected to take approximately four years once the purchase is finalized.

Remember: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

That's all for this month. The UPAN staff hopes our newsletter provides information that you find interesting. By the way, here's a trick you should begin, as fall and winter come closing in, A little practice 'n you'll be in your prime, of staying both warm and cool at the same time. Now that's cool. Ed.

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