



UPAN Newsletter Volume 4 Number 2 | **FEBRUARY 2017**

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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The Keys: Patience Hope And Wisdom

NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, March 13, 2017 6:30-8:30 PM TOPIC: TBA
LOCATION: Ruth Vine Tyler Library 8041 Wood St, Midvale, UT 84047

DAY OF EMPATHY - WEDNESDAY MARCH 1, 2017 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Allies of Cut50 - National Day of Empathy

Presented by League of Allies and UPAN See Pages 2 and 9 for Details

APRIL UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017 6:30-8:30 PM TOPIC: TBA

LOCATION: Taylorsville Library 4870 2700 W, Salt Lake City, UT

FOCUS MEETING: FOCUS Meetings Canceled Until Further 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.

Quotations of Presidents: “The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don’t wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.” Barack Obama

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Allies of Cut50 - National Day of Empathy

Presented by League of Allies and UPAN

Location: Kafeneio Coffee House - 258 West 3300 South, South Salt Lake City

Britnee Webb of League of Allies and UPAN are organizing an event focusing on creating empathy & humanizing the experience of prisoners and their families. Guest speakers, open forum, more info to come on our website and email. Please invite anyone interested. We would love to have former inmates & their families present to speak in the forum.

Ideally we want state officials, legislators and policy makers present, because they are who we are humanizing the experience for. We want them to see our inmates as more than numbers. (Can I get an "Amen!" on that? Ed.) See a full, informative article (including some heartrending statistics) about this event on page 9 of this issue.

H.B. 156 "BAN THE BOX" – REDUCING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS

by Molly Prince with excerpts from Rep. Sandra Hollins Op-ed

Quick Details Of This Pending Legislation

Rep. Sandra Hollins (District 23) has sponsored HB156 "State Job Application Process" to reduce barriers to employment for felons. On February 10th, it passed the House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee on an 8-2-0 vote. As of the writing of this article, it has not yet made its way to the house floor, and it may have been voted on by the time the UPAN newsletter is published. Through our email and Facebook, we have encouraged people to reach out to their State Representatives and share support for this bill!

This legislation provides that a public employer may not require an applicant to disclose a past criminal conviction before an initial interview for employment; and provides exemptions for certain public employers.

What this means is that public employers cannot ask on an application, prior to an initial interview, for an applicant to answer a question about their criminal history. It does not mean that the employer cannot ask about criminal history after the first interview. This allows for the applicant to talk face to face with an employer and present themselves in person, rather than being pre-judged because they checked a box admitting to a criminal history. The entire text can be found at: <http://le.utah.gov/~2017/bills/static/HB0156.html>

Rep. Hollins Wrote An Excellent Op-ed Piece

Published in the Salt Lake Tribune on February 6, 2017 about this topic. Here are excerpts from her article:

"It's a fact that many people do not like to address in their own communities — felons live among us. It is also a fact that felons have served time for their crimes, and through our newest investments in our justice system, often walk out of prison or jail with new life and job skills to help them make good choices for their future. But what happens when one of those people has worked so hard on the inside to improve his lot in

life, only to find on the outside no one will hire him? Employment is a key factor in supporting people who are reintegrating into our communities after incarceration. It is one of the top two issues that can determine whether or not someone winds up back behind bars. It is vital that, as we continue to work on making prison systems rehabilitative, we continue to support those formerly-incarcerated in our communities. "Banning the Box" does just that."

Not Comprehensive, This Is A Good Start

For the past few years, a movement called "Ban the Box" has been picking up momentum across the country. Utah's bill is intended for state and local government employers. It is one step toward offering an equal chance of employment to everyone who has the skills and experience necessary to do a job. All it does is remove the check boxes and questions from job applications asking about convictions of criminal acts. Hollins' article continues, "*Ridding our communities of this one small check box can open up whole worlds to those people seeking employment after incarceration or arrest.*"

Skills and Experience – This Sure Makes Sense

She further writes, "*If a felon has the skills and experience to do a job, shouldn't he or she be given that interview? If someone formerly incarcerated has the wherewithal to make your business successful, shouldn't that person be given the opportunity to share their ideas? If we expect these people to contribute to society, is it fair to shut them down at every turn?"*

Rep. Hollins is following the lead that President Obama took in November, 2016 by signing an Executive Action to "Ban the Box" on federal employment applications.

UPAN families are all too aware of the challenges that former felons face as they work to rebuild their lives in the community upon release. Please write your legislator to support this legislation.

Quotations of Presidents: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." – Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)

BOARD OF PARDONS ASKS FOR FUNDING FOR ELECTRONIC DATABASE

by Anna Thomas and Molly Prince

Funding Needed To Comply With Audit Finding

This year, the Board of Pardons and Parole has asked the Utah legislature for special one-time money from the State, in order to fund the electronic file-system we have all been pushing for. The Board requires these funds to ensure that this system, which will result in data we can publicly track and report with regards to BOPP performance, will be done in a reasonable amount of time AND with enough quality to produce good outcomes.

Provides Better Access And Up-To-Date Information

In addition, an electronic database will also mean there are no more paper files, for documents to get lost. It means more than one Board member can access an inmate's records at the same time in order to have all information necessary for an informed decision. It will also allow them to have the most recent information easily available on an inmate's performance in prison, behavior, accomplishments, completion of education and programming, etc. when making decisions that affect the inmate's future.

Prisoner Advocates Working With BOPP Director

The Legislative Audit of the Board released in February 2016 identified the important need for the Board's record-keeping to be modernized and come into the 21st century. But it takes funding for that to happen. UPAN, the ACLU, and others have been working with BOPP Executive Director Greg Johnson to support him in meeting the recommendations of that Audit over this past year. Mr. Johnson and his team have worked hard to research and identify a system that will meet the needs of the Board today and in the future. This will also benefit the community as a whole, including inmates and families of incarcerated persons in Utah.

Better Efficiency Can Offset Cost Of Improvements

The cost of this system will be 1.3 million dollars over the next 3 years. While this sounds like a lot, let's put this into perspective. It currently costs an average of \$30,000 per year to house a state prison inmate in Utah. That is before extra costs for medical, transportation for medical or legal purposes, etc. So if this electronic system is put into effect, provides enough up to date and relevant information to assist the BOPP in releasing just 43 more inmates to the community than it might have while continuing their paper system, then we have effectively paid for the system.

* * * * *

"The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger—but recognize the opportunity." — John F. Kennedy (1917–1963)

"We are not limited by what we have done, or what we have left undone. We are limited only by what we are willing [or unwilling] to do." -- George H. W. Bush [Decisions have consequences. Ed.]

Citizens Can Help – Legislative Session Ends Soon

If you care about transparency and performance tracking with the Board of Pardons and Parole, please consider writing (email is quicker) to members of the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee and asking them to PRIORITY FUNDING FOR THE BOARD OF PARDONS & PAROLE BUDGET REQUEST FOR AN E-FILING SYSTEM.

Let them know that your family and community are personally impacted by the decisions of the Board of Pardons and Parole. Tell them that this agency needs to provide more transparency, and needs to have more accountability – and that a better filing system will help them do that. Be sure to say that UPAN, ACLU and others have been working with the Board to pursue these reforms, and there are lots of active community members who care about this small appropriation.

You can find the list of who sits on this committee at this link under Members tab:

<http://le.utah.gov/asp/interim/Commit.asp?Year=2017&Com=APPEOC>

For Readers Without Internet Capability

Here is a list of members of the EOCJ Appropriations Committee: Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher (R), Senate Chair; Rep. Eric K. Hutchings (R), House Chair; Rep. Bruce R. Cutler (R), House Vice Chair; Sen. Curtis S. Bramble (R); Sen. Margaret Dayton (R); Sen. Lincoln Fillmore (R); Sen. Jani Iwamoto (D); Sen. Peter C. Knudson (R); Sen. Ralph Okerlund (R); Rep. James A. Dunnigan (R); Rep. Brian S. King (D); Rep. Merrill F. Nelson (R); Rep. Tim Quinn (R); Rep. Angela Romero (D); Rep. V. Lowry Snow (R); Rep. Logan Wilde (R). **See Senate and House mailing addresses at bottom of this page.**

If YOUR elected official sits on this committee (the committee contains both representatives and senators), WRITE OR SEND AN EMAIL TO THAT PERSON.

If your elected official DOES NOT sit on this committee, WRITE OR SEND AN EMAIL TO SENATE CHAIR (Daniel Thatcher) and HOUSE CHAIR (Eric Hutchings).

State Senate, PO Box 145115 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

House of Representatives PO Box 145030 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

GOOD LANDLORD AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED BY REP. BRIAN KING

by Molly Prince

Incentives Offered To Landlords NOT To Rent!

Rep. Brian King, Minority Leader of Utah's House of Representatives, sponsored HB178 in an attempt to STOP Utah cities from giving incentives to landlords who refuse to rent to people with criminal histories. These incentives are in the form of discounts on fees that landlords pay the city connected with their properties and their rental business.

As of February 14th, the Utah House passed it with a 62-9 vote, but with an amendment to exempt Ogden and West Valley City (where halfway houses are located) from the changes it contains. Many testified in favor of it at the House Business & Labor Committee, including Matt Duhamel of Metamora Films, Shannon Miller Cox of Journey of Hope, Adult Probation and Parole, Anna Thomas and the ACLU, and ex-offenders who testified about their own challenges trying to find housing.

According to an article by Lee Davidson in the Salt Lake Tribune on February 2, 2017, a dozen cities in Utah offer landlords financial incentives not to rent to people with criminal records.

Mr. Davidson's Tribune article on Feb. 15 quotes Brian King as saying, "We need to move in a direction to allow our inmates to get on their feet as quickly as possible." Research shows that ex-offenders are more likely to relapse or return to criminal activity if they can't find employment or stable housing.

The Utah League of Cities and Towns reports that twelve cities in Utah include penalties in their programs if land-lords rent to people with felony convictions.

For Example: The SL Tribune on Feb. 15 reports that Ogden city charges a \$7 per unit fee for large apartment complexes that participate in its good landlord program, which includes a ban on renting to released felons. At the same time, they charge \$82 per unit for others who do rent to felons.

Ogden's chief administrative officer, Mark Johnson, blames Northern Utah Community Correctional Center, a halfway house located there, for a "concentration of criminals" who seek affordable housing in certain areas of the city. He claims that creation of the program has resulted in dispersing them. Mr. Johnson also is reported to have said the city thought it had worked out

a compromise to avoid the current proposed change. According to the Tribune article, over the past year, Ogden has piloted a program that has correctional officers conduct risk assessments on offenders being released in order to give them a "thumbs up or down" in terms of their risk for landlords to consider. If someone is assessed as low-risk, they can receive a city waiver allowing landlords participating in the good landlord program to rent to them without penalty.

A Problem With This Compromise.

What about the hundreds of people whose offenses were years ago, who are no longer on probation or parole, and have no one to do a risk assessment on them to open the door to housing for them? The ACLU supports UPAN's perspective.

Ogden claims that the waiver has helped 58 people with criminal records rent since October. That may be, but families and former offenders are frustrated because there is still a serious shortage throughout Utah of affordable housing for those who have a criminal history

Rep. Gage Froerer, R-Huntsville, a realtor, supported Ogden's position. "As a landlord, I would feel much more secure renting to a felon who comes out with a waiver." The reality here is that the city and landlords are wanting guarantees that these risk assessments cannot make. Nothing in life is guaranteed.

"City Governments Should Not Coerce Landlords"

Landlords can rent to whom they please, based on their own policies and preferences, as long as they are within the law. Rep. King has the more realistic perspective. His view is that landlords are free to do background checks, credit checks, etc. on their own. "But city government should not coerce them into that decision."

The original bill is supported by diverse groups coming together for the greater good – the ACLU, UPAN families, as well as Utah Adult Probation and Parole, the Utah Sentencing Commission, and the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

There is some frustration that Rep. Peterson a R-Ogden added the amendments exempting Ogden and West Valley City. Time will tell if it will fully pass this session. ***

PREMIER SHOWING OF "NOT FOR RENT!" Metamora Films' latest documentary film is being released and screened at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah on April 5, 2017

Tickets are free, but because there are only 100 seats available at the Wildcat Theater, we ask you to only register if you are fairly confident that you will attend. For more information go to <https://www.notforrentfilm.com/>

"We all do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more." — Bill Clinton (born 1946)

NEXT FAMILY ORIENTATION MEETING Tuesday, March 7, 2017 6 p.m.
by Molly Prince, with information from Maria Peterson and the UDC Website

Low Attendance Reduced Frequency Of Meetings

The Utah DOC used to offer a monthly Family Orientation meeting. Due to low attendance, they have reduced the meetings to once per quarter. Depending on future turnout, they may increase it back to monthly.

This meeting is designed for family and friends to learn about what to expect when a loved one is incarcerated and how to navigate the prison system. The hour-long meeting features presentations from various prison staff, from clinical services to programming. Family Orientation is held at the Fred House Academy, 14727 Minuteman Dr. in Draper. For additional information, please call 801-576-7320. The next meeting is

scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017. The website, so far, does not say that the meeting starts at 6 PM.

Orientation Videos Available Online

If you are unable to make it to the quarterly meeting, there are a series of videos that provide an Introduction to various aspects of the prison system's operations. They are found at:

www.corrections.utah.gov/index.php/family-friends/orientation-booklets [Ignore the cautions, link is safe. Molly uses it all the time. Ed.]

The booklets that used to be available on the website are not accessible at this time. They are being updated according to the website.

NEW CHAIRMAN SHIFTS POSITION OF FCC ON CAPS FOR INMATE CALLS

by Molly Prince, based on information adapted from The Washington Post

Question: Does The FCC Have State Jurisdiction?

An article by Ann E. Marimow on February 6, 2017 in The Washington Post reports that the Federal case that has been going on over the past 3+ years in an attempt to cap the prices that phone service providers charge inmates and their families has "turned really strange."

Collusion Between Some Law Enforcement Agencies And Providers To End Phone Rate Caps

The Federal Communications Commission, now led by Chairman Ajit Pait, appointed by President Trump, no longer defends the caps FCC imposed on the cost of in-state prison phone calls. In late January, law enforcement officials and inmate phone providers urged a Federal Appeals Court to scrap the limits on the high cost of phone calls for prison inmates and their families.

A Dollar A Minute Or More – Outrageous!

This issue has long been of vital importance to the families of inmates across the country. Here in Utah there is a significant disparity between the cost of calls from the prisons to loved ones and the jails to loved ones. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit is supposed to determine whether the FCC has the authority to cap prices for inmate calls that have reached more than \$1 per minute. However, Ms. Marimow's article points out that this issue has now taken on a new political dimension in the wake of the presidential inauguration and a change in the balance of power at the Federal Communications Commission.

Since 2013, Federal regulators have been advocating to regulate and reduce the costs of inmate calls charged by for profit service providers. With Ajit Pait at the helm, the FCC abruptly announced that it would no longer defend a major part of its own rules in court. The change in position followed the departure last month of two Democratic commissioners.

Judge Wants to Put Case on Hold

According to the Post article, "the commission's new majority, including President Trump's pick to serve as chairman, Ajit Pai, does not think that the FCC is on solid legal footing when it comes to regulating in-state prison phone calls. Those calls represent more than 80 percent of inmate calls."

With the FCC abandoning a key provision of the regulations, Judge Laurence H. Silberman repeatedly asked why the court should not just put the case challenging the price limits on hold, given that the FCC attorney in court wasn't speaking up for the FCC policy that capped in-state call rates. A hold would give the commission time to rescind or rework the regulations on its own, he said. Silberman is quoted in the Post article as saying, "This case is really strange."

Here's The Outrageous Collusion Part

In general, inmates making calls from state and federal facilities must have accounts with private prison calling companies which hold money deposited by family members. These for-profit companies charge fees for inmates or family members to deposit funds, and then charge fees to connect, as well as per minute and per call fees. Their contracts then provide for profit sharing with the correctional facilities.

A number of states, including New York, New Jersey and Ohio, have independently lowered prison phone call rates, but the caps are opposed by a coalition of law enforcement officials from nine states. (Utah is not included in that coalition.) [Thank God! Ed.]

Original FCC Rate Caps Intended to Control Prices

Mithun Mansinghani, Oklahoma's Deputy Solicitor General, told the court that prison facilities rely on the

money from private companies to pay for inmate programs aimed at reducing recidivism and to ensure the security of the phone calls. (This is true of some prisons, including Utah, but not all prisons across the country). [Editor's Note: How conveniently they come up with excuses to exploit inmates and families.] It seems that Judge Cornelia T.L. Pillard has a realistic view of the situation. According to the Post, she "seemed skeptical" that the states — rather than the private companies — were bearing the cost to ensure secure phone calls. Pillard suggested that the rate caps were aimed at controlling prices charged by the few companies that control the inmate-calls market, not at eliminating commissions to prison facilities.

Screwing Over The People Who Are Already Down

This article reports that inmate phone providers paid at least \$460 million in commissions to correctional facilities in 2013, according to a brief filed by a coalition of advocates for inmates and their families.

Attorney Michael K. Kellogg, who represented the phone services companies in court, said the FCC had "created something of a mess." The agency, he said, "is trying to make it impossible to collect commissions," and the rate caps "will put us under water." [This is absurd! Ed.]

UPAN MEETING -- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

President Shauna Denos opened the meeting, sharing updates about upcoming events. Britnee Webb shared about the upcoming Day of Empathy and encouraged everyone to get involved, including sharing with their friends on Facebook. Molly Prince gave a brief update regarding the status of the BOPP working on adopting a Structured Decision Making Tool and Rationale Sheet (meaning they are still in the process). A media clip

Kurt Guner, PhD candidate at U of U and Prison Education Program Manager for SLCC

Kurt shared how SLCC has received funding from the Utah Legislature for a pilot program to start providing Utah state prison inmates with college classes. He has just started the first semester in this program.

Since college courses ended in Utah State Prison several years ago, inmates have not had many choices to participate in college level courses. So far, correspondence courses with a limited number of universities and participation in the not for credit PrisonEd have been the only options. The funding for this pilot program pays for all the student supplies. He reports, "The teachers are excited, the students are excited."

Currently, Guner oversees the classes that serve up to 90 students in Draper and CUCF. This includes a class of men in the Oquirrh and women in Timpanogos. These students actually go to classes on site, but they are unable to take text books back to their living

Update on Previous FCC Decisions

In October 15, the FCC voted 3 to 2 to cap rates for state and federal prison inmates at 11 cents per minute. The agency's order dropped the average rates for in-state calls from a total of \$2.96 for 15 minutes to no more than \$1.65 for 15 minutes. For calls between states, the order dropped the average from a total of \$3.15 for 15 minutes to no more than \$1.65 for 15 minutes. The D.C. Court temporarily blocked some of the 2015 rules from taking effect after opposition from the phone companies and law enforcement officials. In response, FCC reworked the caps by a 3-to-2 vote.

Marimow reports that Mignon Clyburn, who is the only Democratic commissioner left on the FCC, was sitting in the front row of the courtroom on January 30th. She was the one who first pushed the issue in 2013. Clyburn is reported to have said that the FCC has an obligation to ensure "just, reasonable and fair rates," after the hearing. "We're here for phone justice," she said. "That's what we're asking for." [Who could ask for anything less! Ed.] File a complaint about Utah's inmate calling service providers at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us> or write Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

was shown of Shauna's interview on Channel 2 with Christina Flores the first week of February regarding the necessity of legislative funding for an electronic record-keeping system for the Board. More updates on the BOPP coming in March. Summaries of our guest speakers' presentations on educational opportunities within the Utah prison system are shown separately below.

locations. The program serves a limited number of men in Gunnison via correspondence, and Mr. Guner goes out to CUCF once a month to meet with them.

All courses are general education courses. The courses are chosen for their ability to meet criteria for a General Education Certificate as well as for practical application in life. This semester there are three courses offered which include math and English for both men and women; communications for men; and sociology for women. He is hoping next semester they will offer history classes for the summer, as well as personal finance and philosophy.

Candidates for this program had to have a high school diploma or a GED, and then were tested. More male inmates tested than there were openings for, so out of those who passed the test, the ones who were accepted were randomly selected.

This program does not discriminate regarding length of time an inmate participating has until release. Instructors are teachers at SLCC. They are looking for instructors, so if someone is interested in teaching in the prison program, they should apply through SLCC.

Mr. Guner answered a variety of questions from the audience. He made it clear that he views the success

of this program will be based not on how many people graduate, but on the student - teacher interaction and the positive impact it will have on the lives of the students.

UPAN Comment: We are very excited that Mr. Guner has chosen to create a program through SLCC that is a step toward bringing higher education back to USP.

Don Wright, PhD, Founder and President of PrisonEd

PrisonEd provides college-level, non-credit courses to Utah prison and jail inmates through the US Mail. Books are mailed to students from the publisher or book distributor. In some facilities, the books are sent to the libraries and the inmates must check them out rather than own them. Different facilities have different rules regarding the books, so please be very clear on your own facility's rules about property contracts if you are interested in PrisonEd.

There is no charge to students. No person involved with PrisonEd (tutors, administrative assistants, staff) receives money – all time is donated. Prisoners receive scholarships and pay nothing. Zero funding is received from the State. The program functions on contributions. PrisonEd is registered as a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. To donate or learn more go to <http://prisonedfoundation.org/>.

Dr. Wright shared the history of how he developed PrisonEd. He had been a volunteer in the Wasatch Chapel for about 5 years when Utah State University pulled its higher education programs from the prison. He said, "I saw the devastation that resulted. I thought someone should do something about this." He decided he was the one to do something about it. Having spent thirty years in the public school system as a teacher, counselor, and coordinator of vocational programs, he created PrisonEd.

He started a program where he was allowed to go into the prison and teach a course himself, once a month, called Mentors from History That Can Change Your Life. He worked very hard for several years to become approved through the UDC to offer PrisonEd as a non-credit correspondence program. Finally, when Rollin Cook became Executive Director in 2013, PrisonEd was given permission to function. Since that time, as of

January 2017, 501 students have enrolled and ½ of those are still active in taking courses. They receive a certificate of completion when they complete a course.

The program is available in Draper and in the jails throughout the state. Gunnison has U-Prep and so inmates have to go through that to access it there. There are 15 volunteers that work with PrisonEd to deliver the tutoring and administration of the program.

Don shared letters of appreciation from Inmates. He believes he has received about 2,500 letters during his journey so far with PrisonEd. He reports that even though he has already written two books, he is working on another titled "Transgressors to Transcenders" and will chronicle his experiences with the transformation of inmates involved in PrisonEd, including some stories of PrisonEd participants – anonymously, of course.

Listening to Dr. Wright, it is clear of his passion for helping others and teaching, as well as his deep respect for the spirits of each inmate he has worked with. He looks at PrisonEd non-credit courses as a way to prepare for college, to help the students eventually CLEP out of college courses when they are in the community. He closed his presentation saying he will ask students, "The question is not when you get out, but are you going to be ready?"

UPAN Comment: We appreciate all the work Dr. Wright has done over the years to further the education and development of inmates' intellect as well as their value, self-worth and ability to think critically about things that matter.

We thank both speakers for taking the time, out of their busy schedules, to join us and speak at our meeting.

Serving Time Café Offers Opportunity to Women Inmates by Molly Prince

After meeting with DOC Public Information Officer Maria Peterson on January 9, 2017, UPAN directors Shauna Denos, Shane Severson and I ate at USP's own Serving Time Café. The food was delicious and very affordably priced. We also had the opportunity to talk with two of the several women inmates who work there

as well as their supervisor. The café is operated by Utah Correctional Industries. It is located on prison property at 14072 Pony Express Rd, by the parking lot for the Olympus Facility and Utah Correctional Industries' showroom.

Considering Prison Food, Our Apologies To Inmates For Printing This Tempting Menu

Serving Time Cafe serves breakfast and lunch, with breakfast available all day. Menu items include hamburgers, deli sandwiches, daily soups, bacon and eggs, breakfast sandwiches, breakfast burritos and specialty desserts. The cafe also offers catering services (box lunches, deli platters) for business lunches, retirement parties and conferences. It is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is closed on Federal and State holidays. Customers at the café include officers, staff, and volunteers of the prison, as well as the general public. Many visitors have discovered that Serving Time offers an affordable breakfast or lunch before or after a visit with their incarcerated loved one.

Job Skills, Good Work Ethic, And Self-Esteem

Serving Time opened on Dec. 7, 2009 and has done very well. Carolyn Price supervises the crew of female inmates who are grateful for the opportunity to work there. Ms. Price is clearly proud of her program and her employees. She describes the café as a way for the women to begin to start associating with the public, develop job skills and a good work ethic, and demonstrate responsibility. She discussed how working in the café helps to increase self-esteem and gives the women an opportunity to do something productive as they move toward release from prison.

Some of the employees have earned vocational certificates in culinary arts while incarcerated. The café provides them with actual experience working in the food service industry. They work as dishwashers, dining room attendants, prep cooks, bakers and cooks. In order to be employed in Serving Time, the women must have a release date with less than three years left.

The Workers Love Their Jobs And This Opportunity

We had the opportunity to speak with two of the women working there. Tina talked about her experience there, "I love it. It gives me the opportunity to transition to work. I love the people and I love my job." She is a Level 4 inmate and has already gone to the Board, having a release date coming soon. She said she is happy to have been offered this job and will remain working until she goes home. She described it as busier in the summer time than the winter months.

She said "Regulars come in, we know what they want, we see them coming and we get it (the order) going." She discussed that everyone working at Serving Time lives in the same housing unit, so they not only work together, but they live together. When asked how that goes, Tina replied it works out and the women learn how to get along at work as well as back in their housing area. She admits that she likes to have fun at work and says she sometimes dances around to the music playing on the radio. "The girls have fun and sing while working. "We get along, we work out problems." She shared that she is looking forward to "going home and taking care of my mom."

Service – The Path To A New Clean Sober Life

We also talked with Breaisa. She said she enjoys working in the café because it gives her an opportunity to interact with the community and "transition into the real world. They treat us like people here." She also said that supervisor Carolyn is "helpful and good to work for." Breaisa went on to say, "Just because we made bad decisions, we are not bad people." She also talked about her participation in the Exercising for Life that has changed her life while incarcerated. She said the teacher, whose name is Bluff, "really helps and we learn that our mind is stronger than our body." She has been incarcerated since the age of 21 and is 24 now. Her son was 1-day old when she came to prison, and she looks forward to getting to know him when she gets out. She wants to be a good mother to her son and daughter. She discussed how her family has been involved in the prison system all her life. She feels there is a reason she has been in prison for the length of time she has, stating "I stayed long enough to learn something." She gets out in a few months and looks forward to starting a new life, clean and sober.

Encouraging Endorsements And UPAN Summary

Native American spiritual volunteer Lacey Harris has lunch there every time he goes out to the Draper area. He reports, "The staff is excellent, very friendly, the service is courteous, the food is excellent. It is always busy, yet they keep it clean and presentable. I always enjoy the welcoming atmosphere. I highly recommend it to anyone."

UPAN appreciates the women of Serving Time Café and is pleased that this opportunity exists for them. Also, we love the good food at an affordable price!

Suicides Among Prison Corrections Officers Affect Us All

Michael J. McAinsh, UPAN Secretary

Corrections officers, as a group, are frequently misunderstood and under-appreciated. The officers who understand their place as role-models, can change the lives of the many felons entrusted to their care. As UDC Executive Director Rollin Cook pointed out, in a recent interview with the Deseret News, "[Corrections Officers] are responsible for keeping people enclosed,

managed and improving them, helping them with rehabilitation..."

Corrections Officers And Very Grim Statistics

According to a 2009 police task force study by the New Jersey State Police, corrections officers have a rate of suicide that is two times greater than police officers in

general. The 2013 US Department of Justice study, cited in the Deseret News, lists the position of corrections officer as an occupation that leads to a greater number of suicides than other occupations. The report goes on to say that, on average, a corrections officer will not live to see his or her 59th birthday. So it is with great sadness that the Board of Directors of UPAN learned about the recent suicides among corrections officers.

With Few Exceptions, Dedicated Men And Women

In my time in prison, I've met several guards who were disagreeable. I would try to tolerate them, but that can be difficult to do, especially when you cross paths with one who seems to have an "agenda." However, the majority of corrections officers whom I have met are honorable men and women who were dedicated to their work. Some even confided in me about the difficulties they had with their supervisors! I've had run-ins with corrections officers that were resolved, and we then were on friendly terms.

There are those inmates who will proclaim, "I hate all guards." They refuse to see the people who are working at the prison as human beings, who have a tough job to do. Having worked in a prison clinic as a nurse, I know how it feels to be hated by some inmates, just because I worked for Corrections. I also appreciated the inmates who reached out to me as a human being.

To be an effective corrections officer, one must have on-the-job experience that cannot be learned in the academy. However, many seasoned officers leave corrections after two or three years for better-paying

jobs in law-enforcement or some other field altogether. Poor pay leads to under-staffed prisons, which leads to mandatory overtime, and problems like poor morale, job fatigue, domestic problems, and sadly, suicide,

Better Salaries, More Officers, Less Stress

It is the position of the UPAN Board of Directors that an increase in salaries for corrections officers to bring pay in line with other correctional facilities and attract quality recruits is one of the answers to this problem. It will allow for employees to earn raises as they stay with the department and advance in rank so the UDC will retain valuable and experienced officers. The UDC has asked the legislature for an increase of \$5.8 million annually to accomplish this.

Director Cook Taking Positive Steps

We commend Director Cook for acting to address problems from within the department by keeping a peer-support team in place, as well as bringing in a professional team from the Desert Waters Correctional Outreach to provide training and insight.

The training is designed to help correctional officers understand the traumatic impacts they may experience because of their jobs, which they often hide from their spouses and families. According to the Deseret News article, Dir. Cook states, "Our organization is trying to go out of its way not only to address the employees' needs, but we'll also be inviting the family members and so on to be able to come to some of these trainings so that they can begin to talk about it."

UPAN directors send our condolences to the Department and the families of the officers lost since October, 2016.

UPAN AND LEAGUE OF ALLIES PRESENT SALT LAKE CITY'S ALLIES WITH CUT50 DAY OF EMPATHY ON MARCH 1, 2017

Information in this article from a variety of sources including <http://www.cut50.org/> and <http://www.thedreamcorps.org/>

Empathy - Inmates Are People, Families Punished

Day of Empathy is a national day of action to generate empathy on a massive scale for millions of Americans impacted by the criminal justice system. UPAN has partnered with a local activist group, League of Allies to present our own Allies with Cut50 Day of Empathy on March 1, 2017.

In order to reform our criminal justice system, we must first humanize and empathize with those who are impacted by it. Throughout the country, the Day of Empathy will highlight the needs and share the perspectives of Americans impacted by the current justice system. This can include survivors of violent crime, those who are addicted or mentally ill, incarcerated individuals working to transform themselves, people with a criminal record desperately seeking a second chance, families of incarcerated persons, and all community members impacted by

crime, public safety, and violence. Without empathy, we cannot achieve meaningful policy changes that keep our communities safe, our families whole, and our economy strong. There are thousands of people - mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, children, and others - who have stories to tell. In Utah, we are focusing on inmates, parolees, and their families.

National Awareness Of All The People Impacted

The Day of Empathy will shine a light on people impacted by the criminal justice system, uplift their voices, and win over hearts and minds towards the idea that transformation is possible.

On March 1st, 2017 organizations across the country will be activated for a single day of action to spotlight their local efforts and unite under a unified banner to highlight the strength of the bipartisan criminal justice reform movement.

Nationwide Actions To Produce Positive Results

"Ambassadors of Empathy" will meet with elected officials in various State capitols and Governors' offices across the country. They will share their experiences and how they have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Legislators will gain first-hand experience of the human consequences of a criminal justice system that has gotten too big, too unfair, and too brutal.

The Day of Empathy events across the country will feature events that might include storytelling, digital media, and virtual reality content to humanize formerly incarcerated people, survivors of violent crime, and millions of others. The Day of Empathy is intended to accelerate the bipartisan drive to create more effective, efficient, and humane criminal justice system.

Yesteryear Concepts Of Punishment Are Outdated

The Day of Empathy is sponsored by #Cut50, an initiative of The Dream Corps. It is a national bipartisan initiative to safely and smartly reduce our incarcerated population by 50 percent over the next 10 years.

<http://www.cut50.org/mission>

The following is taken directly from the #cut50 website: More than two million people are behind bars in the United States, which is close to 1 out of every 100 Americans. At a time when highways are crumbling and schoolchildren go without books, America spends \$80 billion every year on the incarceration industry – an expense that has a devastating impact on individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole.

Reliance on overly long sentences and tough on crime policies is both morally indefensible and economically unjustifiable. For more than three decades, our elected leaders advocated for longer prison sentences and for increasingly minor offenses.

The media and popular culture created a narrative to support that. It drove fear into the heart of every mother,

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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

Hoping this month's articles have warmed your heart, while with patience, hope and wisdom, you're staying cool. Ed.

"A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens – citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization." — George H.W. Bush

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network
P.O. Box 464, Draper, UT 84020
Website: UtahPrisonerAdvocate.org
Email: Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com

father and elected official in America. As a result, we sent too many people to prison, for too long, with a disproportionate and highly destructive impact on poor communities and communities of color. We now have:

More than 70 million people living with some type of criminal record.

23 million bear the label "convicted felon"

5 million children have at least one incarcerated parent

2.2 million people in prisons and jails

\$80 billion per year spent on prisons (*not to mention millions more that families and friends pay to help support offenders during their prison stays*).

How #cut50 Plans To Bring About Change

"We have a once-in-a-generation (aka, lifetime, Ed.) opportunity to reform a criminal justice system that has grown too big, too unfair, and too brutal. We catalyze (bring about) new and unlikely partnerships, elevate proven solutions, amplify the voices of those directly impacted by the system, and popularize a new narrative of justice, redemption, and transformation."

#cut50 is an initiative of The Dream Corps which is committed to solutions, servant leadership, and soul. They choose massive goals that propel us far outside of anyone's comfort zone. Then they build surprising, unlikely alliances that help win.

<http://www.thedreamcorps.org/>

Utah's Event Not Under Dream Corps

In Utah, we have not come under the umbrella of Dream Corps and the national #cut50, but we will come together and share our stories on Wednesday evening, March 1 at 6 p.m. in the Kafeneio Coffeehouse located at 258 West, 3300 South, Salt Lake City, UT. There will be scheduled speakers as well as an open mic as time permits. Legislators and other Utah officials are invited to attend. Invite your Elected Officials! We hope to see you there!

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