



UPAN Newsletter Volume 4 Number 10 | **OCTOBER 2017**

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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BOPP Structured Decision Making Tool & Re-Entry

NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City
TOPIC: Open Family Meeting Free and open to the public.

* * **NO UPAN MEETING IN DECEMBER** * *

Next UPAN Meeting, Monday, January 8, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City
TOPIC: TBA Free and open to the public.

FOCUS MEETING: Monday, December 4, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 PM
LOCATION: Region 3 Adult Probation & Parole Office,
 36 W. Fremont Ave (1100 South; 36 W. is Just West of Main St.) SL
Subject: TBA

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

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. Winston Churchill

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” R. W. Emerson

“Appreciate the ones that walked away from you. They are making room for the ones that won’t.” Unknown

Willy the Plumber Scholarships for Children of Inmates

What It Is And Who Administers The Scholarships

Willy the Plumber Scholarship is specifically for children of incarcerated persons who are doing a lot of time. It was created and is sponsored by Karl's Affordable Plumbing (Karl Winsness) and is managed and administered by the Community Foundation of Utah, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered with the IRS. The Community Foundation focuses on community development by working with individuals, businesses, government entities and non-profit organizations. It files all necessary paperwork, coordinates grant distribution, tax filings and provides marketing and enhanced visibility. Five percent of the funds received cover administrative costs.

Selecting The Deserving Beneficiaries

The children of incarcerated parents often face extraordinary challenges when compared to those whose parents are never imprisoned. Among these challenges are emotional distress over the temporary or long-term loss of a loved one and the resulting economic hardship.

Due to the financial strain placed on the family, the goal of earning a college education can be out of reach for many these children. In an interview for an article in the St. George News, Karl stated, "I decided to help the children of those who are incarcerated, because these kids are really the forgotten victims of crime."

A Recent Example

One of this year's scholarship recipients, Tiffany Harris of Santa Clara, recently relocated to Provo to attend Brigham Young University where she is majoring in biochemistry. She received one of two \$1,000 scholarships Willy the Plumber Scholarship gave this year. These are one-time scholarships designed to help them get started. Harris was raised by her grandparents after her father went to prison and her mother was unable to care for her.

History Behind This Scholarship Program

Winsness was incarcerated at both the Utah State Prison in Draper and the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison. After spending 17 years in prison he was released in 2004. He witnessed firsthand the impact his incarceration had on his two daughters, Lisa

Curtis and Jamie Lee, particularly as they prepared for college. The economic obstacles they faced in their efforts were made more difficult because of his incarceration.

Handling And Specific Uses Of These Funds

According to Karl, the funds are issued directly to the school, and can be used for housing, books, or whatever is needed, he said. Applications will be available online for the 2018 award by February 2018 at the Community Foundation of Utah website.

How To Qualify For The Scholarship

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Utah resident and have graduated or be about to graduate from an accredited Utah high school.
- Have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher; preference is given to students with a 3.0 or higher.
- Be attending or planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university or technical school; online or for-profit schools are ineligible.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Show proof that one or more parents or guardians are currently incarcerated and/or have a history of being incarcerated.
- Be prepared to submit the following documents:

Two letters of recommendation; financial aid documents; proof of parent incarceration; acceptance letter from eligible college/university or proof of application; an essay; current transcript with GPA.

"It's up to me, the public and the Utah State Prison inmates to make sure that this scholarship keeps working," the scholarship's creator has said. Support for the Willy the Plumber scholarship is much needed for the next school year.

For more information or to contribute to the Willy the Plumber Scholarship, contact Community Foundation of Utah <http://www.willytheplumberscholarship.net> or call 801-559-3005. Donations can be mailed to: Willy the Plumber Scholarship, The Community Foundation of Utah, 2257 South 1100 East, Suite 205, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better – it's not. Dr. Seuss

"There are no unimportant people. You are not insignificant." John L Mason

"You are like a teabag – not worth much till you've been through some hot water". John L. Mason

"Most of the time I don't have much fun. The rest of the time I don't have any fun at all". Woody Allen

CALL FOR SHORT ARTICLES FROM INMATES AND FAMILIES ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE THANKFUL FOR ON THEIR PRISON JOURNEYS

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, once again we at UPAN are starting to reflect on what we are thankful for in our lives. This experience we call our prison journey is an integral part of our lives, whether we are inmates, family members, friends, or others involved in helping and supporting incarcerated and paroled individuals in Utah. The Prison Journey forever influences and changes us, for better or worse.

We welcome any short articles from you about what you have found to be thankful for during your time involved in the prison system from any perspective – inmate,

family, corrections staff, service provider, etc. We will consider them for publication in the November UPAN Newsletter. If you submit, please let us know if we can use your full name, initials, or other identifying information in the byline if it is chosen for publication. We cannot respond to everything submitted, but please know we read everything and deeply appreciate the time, thought and energy that goes into writing an article, even if it does not end up in the newsletter.

Submissions can be sent to UPAN's PO box or emailed to us. Addresses are on page 10 of this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS / HOLIDAY CARDS

Call For Volunteers To Send Cards To Inmates & Names of Prisoners with No One on Outside to Send to Them

A UPAN Tradition, Volunteers Needed

The past four 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 family or friends to do so. These volunteers also send out holiday cards to the individuals on their lists.

We are seeking volunteers to send holiday cards to inmates for the upcoming Christmas and Hanukah season. If you are willing to do this, please email us with Holiday Cards in the subject line 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. utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com

Newsletter Mailers: Will You Mail Cards To Your List? We Need Your Response To This Question.

If you already send newsletters to inmates and wish to send holiday cards to them, please let us know that you will do so. If you cannot send cards to those inmates, please let us know and we will assign them to another volunteer who is only interested in sending cards. We

hope to have a list of volunteers in place by mid-November to whom we will assign inmates.

Gathering 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, please feel free 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. We don't have those memorized the way we do Draper and CUCF. Send inmate mailing info to our email address or mail it to our address on page 10. We need it before Nov. 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 by early December to assure the inmates receive them before Christmas.

Christmas/Holiday Card Design Contest For Inmates

UPAN is sponsoring a Christmas/Holiday Card Design Contest. All inmates are invited to share their talents to design either a religious or a contemporary front page (or one of each) with the theme: *the Christmas Holiday season*. Entries should be in color and limited to 5 x 7 inches. Two winning entries will be posted on the UPAN website. They can be selected by UPAN Holiday Card mailers to download, copy and mail as holiday greetings to inmates. All artists are encouraged to join UPAN in the celebration of the 2017 holiday season.

Entries cannot be returned, but will be retained and selected ones kept in a binder to be displayed at UPAN meetings for attendees to view and enjoy. Please sign your entry on the bottom right of your design. No prizes or compensation can be given to the winners. The winner in each category will receive a WINNER Certificate. Entries must be received by November 10th, 2017. Mail to UPAN address on page 10 and write on the envelope Attention: Christmas Card Contest

“Every child is an artist, the problem is staying an artist when you grow up!” Pablo Picasso

ANNA THOMAS LEAVES THE ACLU OF UTAH

by Molly Prince

Anna Thomas is leaving the ACLU of Utah as of October 20 after being there for 10 years. Beginning in November, she joins the staff of Voices for Utah Children, another local non-profit organization, as a Senior Policy Analyst.

In an email received by UPAN, Anna writes, "I have truly enjoyed working with all of you toward criminal justice reform in Utah - and I feel proud of all that we have accomplished together."

As a founder and past president of UPAN, I agree. There has been much accomplished in the past several years in a variety of areas surrounding criminal justice, certain conditions within the Utah prison system, and related to the Board of Pardons and Parole. Anna has been instrumental in helping to facilitate that change.

Anna was supportive when several family members of incarcerated individuals formed what has now become UPAN. I remember first meeting Anna during public discussions related to prison relocation and criminal justice issues held by the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) back in 2013 / 2014. She attended FOCUS meetings and a lot of UPAN meetings as we were getting up and running. Anna paved the way for discussions between the ACLU, the Disability Law Center, UPAN, and the UDC on a variety of difficult issues. Anna has been instrumental in helping give UPAN directors and volunteers guidance over the years. She organized Lobbyist Trainings for UPAN families for three years. She contributed to the nomination and recognition of UPAN for the Torch of Freedom Award from the ACLU in 2014.

Personally, I have appreciated Anna's willingness to offer support, a listening ear, and direction in difficult situations as I have had to learn more than I ever wanted to know about criminal justice reform and how our Utah legislature works regarding a myriad of issues important to inmates, their families, and the community in general. I am going to miss her presence at the ACLU. Thankfully, there are still wonderful people there, including Leah Farrell and Margie Nash who are involved in some of the same issues UPAN is that we can turn to with the hard questions!

UPAN volunteer Miriam Greenland shares her appreciation for Anna by writing, "I will miss Anna as she moves to her new position. Her support of UPAN and of each one of us who struggles with a loved one in prison has truly been outstanding. She has encouraged and inspired me. I have especially appreciated her honesty and forthrightness about what was happening with prison reform; she always told it exactly like it was without trying to sugar coat anything just to make things look better than they actually were. I appreciate how she kept us updated with what was actually happening with the legislature and with what was coming up with prison reform. Her encouragement and positive attitude, even when things seemed hopeless, helped me have the courage to keep trying. I will miss her immensely! I wish her well with her new job, they are so lucky to have her on their team."

The UPAN Directors extend our heartfelt appreciation to Anna for everything she has done and will continue to do to improve society at all levels. She has touched so many lives on so many levels – she is truly an amazing force!

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Utah Board of Pardons and Parole's Progress on Creating a Structured Decision Making Tool and a Rational for Decision Report

by Molly Prince

Two Different But Related Needs – SDM Tool First

In our August 28, 2017 meeting with Executive Director of the BOPP Greg Johnson we were given an update on the Board's progress toward creating a Structured Decision Making (SDM) Tool. This process has been in conjunction with a National Institute of Corrections grant, and the Board has received consultation and direction from the Parole Board of Connecticut under the direction of Dr. Ralph C. Serin, of Carleton University, Canada. Along with Disability Law Center director Aaron Kinikini and DLC attorney Nick Daskalas, we learned a bit more about the approach the BOPP will be taking in this important development that was recommended as necessary in the Legislative Audit of the Board released last year.

Three Other States Use Utah's Planned Model

The model that Utah's Board will be following is a standardized and structured decision-making process that has been empirically validated in Canada and the United States. Empirically validated means that the design of the decision process has been tested and reviewed via the scientific method of forming a hypothesis, experimental design, peer review, reproduction of results, conference presentation, and journal publication. The model on which Utah will develop its SDM tool is also a model currently used in Connecticut, Kansas, and South Dakota. All three of these states have indeterminate sentencing.

Proposed SDM Model Based On Eight Domains

The following information is based on information provided by Dr. Serin to the BOPP regarding the areas to have included in an SDM tool.

• **Criminal and Supervision History** which considers any pattern and seriousness of prior criminal history and community supervision history (probation or parole) if applicable. Since history can be a predictor of future behavior, this area looks at patterns of criminal behavior, early onset of criminal behavior, multiple crimes, multiple incarcerations, criminal versatility, and increase in severity of crimes over time. It also takes into consideration periods of time where the offender is or is not free of criminal activity, free of arrests and incarcerations, which reflects stability of an offense free lifestyle versus continued criminality and higher likelihood of continued criminal behavior.

• **Ability to Control Behavior.** This area considers factors that affect the individual's ability to restrain and regulate their impulsive behavior. It is common for individuals who break the law to have poor self-regulation. Crime is often an "in the moment" phenomenon. Substance abuse, impulsivity, and poor problem solving are common in people who break the law and contribute to the individual's inability to control behavior. Other factors that can contribute to poor behavioral regulation can include inability to appropriately manage anger, pro-criminal peers, sexual deviance, callousness, and sense of entitlement. These can result in higher likelihood of reoffending.

• **Responsivity.** The delivery of programs in a style and mode that is matched to the needs of the person, as well as the dosage based on the offender's risk level. Responsivity factors include (but are not limited to) age, culture, gender, mental health, learning style, cognitive abilities, literacy, language skills, as well as the motivation of the offender.

Research shows that programming that targets criminogenic needs yields the greatest reduction in recidivism. Targeting multiple needs will result in greater reduction in likelihood of re-offense. Programming that considers risk is important. This means that higher structure and more intense treatment for higher risk cases and less structured and less intense treatment for low risk cases will increase the program's effectiveness.

Programming that considers gender and culture (this includes not only ethnic, racial culture, but social and spiritual culture as well) will increase the individual's investment in treatment, motivation and rates of completion, which improves the overall effectiveness of the program, thus reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

Staff administering the programs need to be highly trained and skilled in order to maintain program integrity and contribute to overall program success. This translates into personal, individual success of those motivated to change and integrate the concepts presented into their way of being in the world.

Utah's SDM tool needs to examine the following:

- 1) Have the responsivity factors been addressed in terms of programming?
- 2) Have programs been provided that reflect the offender's level of risk?
- 3) Have the programs actually addressed the primary criminogenic needs?

• **Institutional / Community Behavior** is another domain that considers compliance with the rules of the institution and while on community supervision throughout the current sentence. Research indicates that poor institutional adjustment is related to post-release recidivism. However, research also shows that minor infractions, committed early in the individual's sentence may be less predictive of problems upon release. And good institutional adjustment is not always a guarantee of a successful outcome in the community.

• **Offender Change** is an area that considers the completion of Case Action Plans, program participation, and evidence of change in attitude and behavior over time. This requires evidence that the prisoner has changed and has benefited from their participation in programming (meaning they are no longer the same type of person who began this sentence). Research shows that people who complete programming successfully are more likely to be successful and less likely to re-offend than those who fail to complete a program. This also requires the program to be appropriate to the individual (as discussed in the Responsivity section above).

There needs to be evidence of change in the offender as measured by their behavior, the ability to integrate concepts presented in programming into their daily lives, and is that change sufficient to offset concerns related to criminal history. The change also needs to include an understanding of the extent of impact of the crime on victims.

• **Release Plan** is the domain that considers the nature and viability of the offender's release plan and the conditions necessary to manage risk in the community. Research shows that 50% of offenders who fail upon release do so in the first 3 months after release. Making sure that there are a variety of resources set up and available to the offender – including providing aftercare immediately upon release increases the success of individuals transitioning from prison to the community. Job stability, quality of healthy / pro-social relationships, pro-social peers, good supervision, and abstinence from all unhealthy or deviant addictions contribute to parole success. If the release plan is sufficient and viable, and if there are safety nets in place if the progress the offender has made starts to slip, then the probability of success is increased. For individuals who have failed on parole previously, the current release plan needs to be examined to make sure that all resources are available as well as if the

offender has sufficiently changed to utilize the resources and is invested in being successful on parole.

• **Case-Specific Factors** is another area that considers factors that may not be included in the previous factors. This includes looking at the specific parole stipulations that should be implemented with each individual specific to their case and their risk factors. Example would be Group A or Group B stipulations for sex offenders; drug offender specific stipulations, gang specific stipulations, etc. In looking into this domain, it appears that this area of consideration could also include looking at factors that the inmate has no control over, such as the notoriety of the case / offense / offender, or severity of victim impact. Then considering how this unique information fits the rationale for the decision. It should be noted that there is no research that addresses the issue of offense notoriety or severity of victim impact, but they are often still considered case-specific factors in isolated cases by Boards of Parole throughout the country.

• **Interview Impressions** is the final domain in the proposed model the BOPP is considering modeling Utah's SDM on. The file review by all board members will raise questions that Board members will need to ask and clarify within the hearing with the prisoner. Interviews during the hearing are supposed to assist in providing "due process" in decision making and to motivate inmates to continue following their case action plan. The interview is when the Board Member or Hearing Officer may ask about the individual's understanding of the impact of crime on others, or ask questions about other facets of change in the offender. It should be remembered that interviews are very subjective, since some offenders are well composed and can speak and present well under pressure while others cannot. Interviews can be used to clarify offense-specific issues and try to gauge the level of change that has occurred. However, using interview information gathered in a short hearing alone is not recommended. Information gathered in the interview should not over-ride evidence of change found in the other domains. The recommendations from Dr. Serin

state, "Interviews are not the strongest indicators of performance; hence Board members should be wary of over-riding aggravating factors based solely on interview impressions." I would suggest this is also true of over-riding mitigating factors solely based on the interview as well.

Timeline To Begin Implementing The SDM

As of the end of August, Mr. Johnson stated that the Board plans to have an SDM in place to test via a paper process. This will be like a pilot program to test and make sure it is working properly before implementing it electronically. They hope to have a new SDM developed and implement a test phase of the new SDM by the end of October or during November.

Second Item – Rationale For Decision Report

UPAN directors again asked about correlating the Rationale For Decision Report directly with the SDM tool that the Board will be using to give a breakdown and full explanations of every domain and how the inmate scored in each area, or what the issues specific to the offender's individual case were that influenced the decision in each area. We again emphasized our desire to see that the decision guidelines, domains, and even numerical scores (if that is the way the SDM works) with full explanations, (rather than pre-printed explanations in each area), be in whatever new Rational of Decision report is developed that will go to the inmate with the decision. Mr. Johnson has been receptive to our requests for this.

Much More Detailed Explanations In Report Needed

It is UPAN's continued assertion that Utah's Board of Pardons and Parole owes a much greater and detailed explanation than is currently provided to the inmate when the decision goes over the anticipated length-of-stay guideline (previously called the matrix) and a very detailed explanation of aggravating factors that led to the decision. The current Rationale for Decision checklist sheet is woefully lacking. **Finally, the Board needs to develop a very detailed explanation of every single factor considered in any natural life decision handed down.**

SOME FACTS ABOUT VARIOUS STATES' APPROACHES TO SENTENCING AND SUPERVISION. Source: <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/cj/sentencing.pdf>

Indeterminate Sentencing In 33 States

Today, 33 states operate a primarily indeterminate sentencing system. These include: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming.

Judges Provided Guidance And Sentencing Ranges

Some of these states, including Utah, have a structured component to their primary sentencing system to provide judges guidance, within broad sentencing ranges, on the type and length of sentence to order.

Structured components are designed to increase certainty and consistency across jurisdictions for similar offenses and offenders. Sentencing guidelines are one example of a structured component. Utah has a Sentencing Commission that creates, reviews, and revises Utah's Sentencing Guidelines.

The District of Columbia and 17 states operate a primarily determinate system. Nearly every state has statutorily limited the length of a probation sentence, generally between 3 and 10 years for non-sex felony offenses.

About one-quarter of states instruct courts to consider risk assessments as part of the sentencing process.

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia allow most inmates to earn some time off their prison term. Utah is

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/making-sense-of-sentencing-state-systems-and-policies.aspx>

not a state that has a formula for “good time” to reduce a prison term.

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia require a period of post-prison supervision for some or all exiting inmates.

For more information, go to the July 2015 report (internet link shown below) prepared under a partnership project of the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Criminal Justice Program in Denver and The Pew Charitable Trusts’ Public Safety Performance Project, Washington, D.C.

FOCUS MEETING SUMMARY -- SUBJECT: RE-ENTRY PROGRAM AT USP

October 2, 2017 by Molly Prince

Re-Entry Program (Transition) For Parole Success

The topic of the October FOCUS meeting hosted by the UDC was on what is happening with the Re-Entry Program, previously called the Transition Program. Parole success has long been an area of concern for UPAN families, the incarcerated who hope to release one day, as well as community providers and support agencies.

The UDC has been saying something was in the works for the past couple of years. UPAN was informed over two years ago that there was a focus committee within the state coordinating with Corrections to form a transition program for inmates to go through as they prepared to leave prison that included preparing for release as well as being able to access resources and services both prior to release and upon release. Nothing seemed to change as far as individuals paroling were concerned. In fact, there seemed to be fewer mechanisms in place within the prison system to help them prepare to leave other than simply getting an address approved or rejected.

ASCENT – An Acronym For A Success Plan

Then, in August of 2016, we were told about ASCENT. Actually, UPAN was not told about ASCENT, our directors and families read about it in the newspaper. It has an impressive title: Achieving Success through Collaborative Engagement and Navigated Transition. According to the Corrections website, ASCENT “brings together key agencies and partners to tackle obstacles that keep offenders from achieving success and rejoining our communities as law-abiding citizens. Those obstacles often include access to housing, employment, education, treatment and transportation. Efforts to help offenders succeed must incorporate victim assistance and public safety, which will also be a focus of ASCENT.”

Info For Inmates Since They Don’t Have Internet

The website goes on to explain that ASCENT is a coalition of multiple service providers, state agencies,

and those interested in helping offenders succeed. A year ago, ASCENT had the intention to: “establish a dialogue and cohesive action among partners who already offer services to people being released from prison as well as those who could improve how they offer services to that population.”

That intent included bringing together a variety of government and non-government participants to streamline and increase the efficiency of delivering services to people releasing from prison “with less confusion or duplication, which in many cases will ensure more people are served without relying on additional taxpayer dollars.”

And more, “The group also intends to see where there are gaps in current services and create new programs or opportunities to fill those needs. By addressing this issue in a cooperative way, ASCENT has the potential to reduce recidivism, increase successful re-entry and ultimately better protect public safety.”

It concludes by identifying several state organizations and others participating in ASCENT which include: Utah Dept. of Corrections; Board of Pardons and Parole; Workforce Services; Human Services; Office of Rehabilitation; State Office of Education; U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services; Federal Public Defender District of Utah; housing authorities (county and state); faith groups; treatment providers; and others.

Many UPAN People Are Examples Of Successful Parole And How To Do It, But Not Invited

We find it interesting that UPAN was never invited to the coalition, despite the fact that there are individuals involved in UPAN who have served time in prison and are being successful on parole, having found their own resources to take them from prison, to homeless, to housed and productive contributing members of society. We have among us treatment providers; service providers; educators; and individuals interested in becoming mentors and volunteers to help those transitioning to the community. UPAN has within its extended

reach a lot of experience and contacts in the private sector who may have been interested in coming to the ASCENT table.

Slow-To-No Progress In UDC's Transition Program Over The Past Year

Despite the roll-out of ASCENT over a year ago, nothing seemed to be happening to help all of Utah's incarcerated start planning their release far enough ahead to have contacts with resources, to have social security cards in hand, or to consistently have aftercare and support services lined up.

There were agents from Adult Probation and Parole that were put on the new Transition Team last year to help state inmates in the prisons and on IPP in county jails start planning their transitions out of prison. However, when UPAN would receive letters from inmates saying they were having problems getting their caseworkers to provide them with resource lists, or asking UPAN about resources they needed in the community, we were baffled. We thought there was a Transition Team that was doing this. We had been told more than once over a couple of years that it was in place. We started asking questions. We started contacting UDC's Public Information Officer and quality control administrator. We were frustrated because UPAN is all volunteer. We thought the people getting paid by taxpayers should be doing something to facilitate providing these individuals everything they need to find places to live, treatment lined up, access to medical care as soon as released, job leads and have their community residences approved.

Fast Forward To The Autumn Of 2017

We are relieved and pleased to share that at October's FOCUS meeting we met the new Supervisor of the Re-Entry Team (formerly known as the poorly functioning Transition Team). His name is Bart Mortensen who can be reached at bartmortensen@utah.gov. Eric Barker, the new Assistant Regional Administrator accompanied him to the meeting. Mr. Mortensen took over this position in May and he and ARA Barker have done a lot of research on what is happening around the country for parole success. He is working hard to pull this team together and get the Re-Entry Program actually functioning in the capacity for which it was designed. We would like to thank Mr. Barker for recognizing the need to kick this into high gear. It was Barker who reviewed the Transition Team's performance and recognized that it was not meeting its objectives and that it needed to be re-organized and implemented appropriately. It may take until the first of the year to get everyone trained properly and put things firmly into place, but once they do, there is a timeline that they will work to meet for paroling individuals.

Mortensen And Barker Answered Some Pre-Established Questions

UPAN director Molly Prince sent them some questions before the meeting about issues that have been at the forefront regarding release processes. The speakers

came prepared to answer them. One had to do with the inconsistency of gate money being given to indigent prisoners upon parole. The policy was clarified as follows: the housing captain of each unit is the one to determine if the inmate qualifies as indigent. Generally, if an inmate has an average of \$100 or more in their account over a 30-day period at the time of decision-of-eligibility for gate money, then they will NOT be eligible for \$100 gate money. This can be complicated by the IPP process in which an inmate is moved from a county jail back to Draper in anticipation for release several days to several weeks prior to actual release. Since funds do not always follow the inmate immediately from the jail back to the prison, some individuals received funds when they were not indigent, and others have actually been indigent and did not receive it. Supervisor Mortensen will look into the policy more completely to see how slip-ups and misinformation can be reduced.

Medical Issues Are A Separate Consideration

One thing the Re-Entry Team cannot do is intervene or interfere with how Medical Services handles their responsibility to make sure all releasing inmates have a 30-day supply of all prescribed medications given to them upon release. There have been cases where people have paroled and not received any blister packs of medication at all, and one case recently where a diabetic was released with a blister pack that contained only six metformin and did not receive his other medications. He was not aware of this until he was out of the prison and to the place he was going to live. That individual went without his medication for approximately 2 weeks before he could get into a reduced fee clinic his therapist referred him to. Since he had been in a county jail prior to transporting back to USP for parole, it is unclear exactly who fell down on the job that put this man's health at risk upon release. These are the types of things that still need to be addressed, and the Re-Entry Team may not be able to interfere with situations that should be handled by the Medical Service.

Mentoring: Brief discussion was held about mentoring programs and services, It sounds like the women's program in Timpanogos is the only one that has a solid mentoring program that starts months prior to the woman paroling to help her reunify with her children, access support services and that will continue to mentor her after her release. We were told there is an Officer Burton who heads up the Mentor Program at USP. That would be through the volunteer office.

Real Paper Handouts – Greatly Appreciated!

Mr. Mortensen shared actual paper handouts with us about the research and rationale behind having a Re-Entry Program. The handouts were greatly appreciated allowing us to take notes on them and read more after the meeting, thus gain a broader understanding so our future questions to the UDC are informed ones.

The comprehensive handout included the Integrated Case Management (ICM) Approach to Successful

Transition from Prison to Community, which consists of three phases. The first is the Institutional Phase, which spans from the moment a person enters prison until 6 – 12 months prior to release. Phase 2 begins between 6 – 12 months prior to the parole date in which the inmate prepares for release (the Release Phase). The 3rd phase is the Community Phase in which the offender is actually on community supervision for long term stabilization. There are a variety of things that take place in each of these phases that are too detailed to include in this article, and may be revisited in a future article. The phases of the ICM approach are based on the idea that different inmates will need different strategies and are likely to need diverse community and corrections partners as they move from prison into society.

Timeline: There is a timeline that the DOC is hoping to follow with most offenders. The actual length of time any inmate is involved in the preparation for Release Phase may vary due to lengths of time given by decisions of the Parole Board. For individuals who know well ahead what their release date will be, the timeline is detailed below, and would be accelerated for individuals who receive a short release date after a hearing or paper review.

At some point in the future, everyone that can be identified far enough ahead of time will participate in the REAL Transition program as part of their release preparation. Many states have mandatory release preparation classes and programs. Based on info stated at the FOCUS meeting, Utah has chosen REAL Transition, which has been used in CUCF for a while, and also is associated with a non-profit organization in Utah County called Fresh Start that works to help inmates and parolees with transitional needs.

With 180 – 150 days to the gate: The inmate will undergo an orientation to the Transition Program. They will also make sure they are completing any required programming if they have not already done so. There are certain areas that some offenders with special needs will need to start learning how to access or even start to apply for. They will be given information about specific programs they may need to know about, such as for Social Security or for SSI benefits, SO registration, VA benefits, and start to identify desired residence.

At 149 – 120 days prior to release: Inmate is provided with a Resource List for the location in which he/she will be paroling. The Re-Entry team is in the process right now of compiling resources for each general community throughout Utah so the Resource List has resources available in the parole location so it's relevant and useful for the individual. Mr. Mortensen reported that the agreement that USP now has with the Social Security Office is that the eligible inmate makes an application at about 140 days prior to release. The prison will also be verifying with the inmate that he/she has a replacement Social Security card.

At 119-90 days to release: A valid updated needs assessment is completed.

Then 90-60 days to the gate: Parole Access to Recovery (PATR) screening for substance abuse treatment resources; SSI application if needed: wrap-around services initiated, ID verified. Address Verification (AVR) sent to A P & P in paroling jurisdiction, AVR is completed.

Finally, with 60 – 0 days to release: The inmate will have scheduled an appointment with any required treatment provider or counselors; fill out paperwork for sex offender registry where applicable; finalize PATR agreement where applicable; review and sign parole agreement and understand stipulations. **Then release!**

As stated earlier, the time limits can be modified if the inmate's given a short release date, and some items may not have as much time to be completed if given a short date (i.e. 30-day release date after a hearing).

Barker & Mortensen Open To Input From Audience
Several attendees expressed a desire to share further information with them about experiences that people recently paroled have experienced that need to be remedied. Attendees from both UPAN and the Human Justice Foundation offered input and offered ideas.

Maria Peterson, Public Information Officer for the Dept. also stated that they are creating a video for families of prisoners preparing to parole to be available on the corrections' website and YouTube by mid-November. The video will focus on what families can expect regarding parole and how to support their loved one who is releasing from incarceration. She asked for input on what needs to be included in the video from the standpoint of those in attendance.

Utah DOC DOES HAVE a Pre-Release Agreement with Social Security Administration

In an article in September's UPAN newsletter, we incorrectly wrote that Corrections does not have a pre-release agreement with SS Administration. This was based on responses from PIO Maria Peterson. Her responses were based on the answers she got from asking several people in administration. After UPAN's newsletter went out, it came to her attention that a corrections' official had entered into a Pre-Release Agreement with SS as long as a year ago, but nothing happened after that. Eric Barker met with the Social Security office in the prison's district on October 2nd and everything is now in place to advance with that for those needing to get their applications & appointments set for when they are released.

Re-Entry Looks Brighter Under New Management
Overall, this FOCUS meeting had a wealth of information and discussion about the importance of the DOC helping individuals succeed by implementing the Re-Entry Program and advancing with plans that have been talked about for two years. It was encouraging to

those of us who have been very discouraged about the previous lack of follow through. Now Bart Mortensen has taken this job and seems to be moving forward quickly with it and Eric Barker is invested in seeing it succeed. Mr. Barker spent many years as a probation / parole agent, and most recently was a supervisor in the Salt Lake Sex Offender / Mentally Ill Offender Unit. He has spent many years working toward helping people succeed after prison and jail. His passion and interest in this important area of corrections was evident in this FOCUS meeting.

The attendees were also passionate and strong in their desire to see something actually materializing after having two years of talk about it. Mortensen and Barker were receptive and tolerant of the sometimes high-emotions associated with this topic.

UPAN wants to thank Maria Peterson for arranging and facilitating this meeting. We also thank Mr. Mortensen and Mr. Barker for taking the time to prepare answers for questions that were sent to the ahead of time as well as prepare handouts that helped us understand the model they are using for re-entry processes.

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“Forgiving does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We change the memory of our past into a hope for our future.”
Lewis B. Smedes

Monday, October 9, 2017 UPAN MEETING SUMMARY

The October UPAN meeting was well attended with approximately 40 in attendance. Attendees included primarily family members of incarcerated loved ones but included several formerly incarcerated people who are now living successfully in the community. All of UPAN's meetings are now streamed live on our Facebook page. Videos of the meetings remain there to view any time. See our Facebook address below.

How To Make Your Own Christmas Postcard

There were two speakers at this meeting. The first, Michael McAinsh, gave a power-point demonstration of how anyone can make a Holiday postcard suitable to go into Jails in Utah that have a “postcard only” mail policy. This unreasonably restrictive practice is becoming more commonplace in our jails. It has stopped state inmates housed in those jails on IPP, from being able to receive holiday greeting cards from family and friends. Some jails won't allow even regular postcards that requires a stamp to be added, limiting what is accepted to the

extremely small 3.5” x 5.5” postcards purchased from the Post Office with the stamp pre-printed on it.

Mike researched and showed a colorful and informative step-by-step power-point presentation demonstrating how to create holiday postcards in MS WORD on our own computers, including how to make and print your design on the frustratingly small Post Office postcards to send to inmates unfortunate enough to be in facilities with this policy. See the presentation on our Facebook page. Click on “videos.” We would like to extend our appreciation to Mike for taking the time to put this presentation together.

Our second speaker was a retired AP&P officer whose presentation is so informative and valuable that we are not including an abbreviated write-up of it in the meeting summary. We will have the full summary of the presentation in the next UPAN Newsletter (November) as a special, featured article. Watch for it. You will be pleased and rewarded when you read it. I promise. Ed.

Since we cannot change reality, let us change the eyes which see reality. Nikos Kazantzakis

When we are no longer able to change a situation – we are challenged to change ourselves.
Viktor Frankl

Hot heads and cold hearts never solved anything. Billy Graham Now that's cool. Ed.

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Vice-president: Unfilled
Secretary: Unfilled
Director of Communications: Shane Severson
Newsletter Editor: Warren Rosenbaum

“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