



UPAN Newsletter Volume 5 Number 10 | OCTOBER 2018

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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Supervision-Length Guidelines – Re-entry Team

NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City

TOPIC: TBA or Family Meeting

All UPAN Meetings are free and open to the public.

January UPAN Meeting, Monday, January 14, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City Topic: TBA

FOCUS MEETING: Monday, (Month TBA later) 2019 6:30 – 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Region 3 Adult Probation & Parole Office, 36 W. Fremont Ave (Just West of State St.) SLC

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.

A Call at Christmas – Goodwill to All Men (and Women) Inmates

NOTE: To families or friends of incarcerated loved ones, if you or your loved one are aware of someone incarcerated who should receive a Christmas card to help make this holiday season a little brighter for them, let UPAN know their name (and number if available) and we will arrange for one of our volunteer mailers to send them a Christmas card. Contact us via email (preferred) or mail using our contact information found on page 10.

“I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become.” Carl Jung

Volunteers Needed to Mail A Few Christmas/Holiday Cards

Many inmates don't have family or friends to mail them a Christmas card. These inmates should have some friendly, caring contact at Christmas time and, as prisoner advocates, UPAN is trying to accomplish this. UPAN will give volunteer mailers inmate names and addresses from our list. Volunteers, please contact us at our email address listed on page 10 of our newsletters; tell us how many cards you would like to mail and we will coordinate this holiday gesture of

"Goodwill-to-All" to neglected or forgotten inmates, to brighten this holiday season. Our UPAN Christmas Card Coordinator, Audrae Rogers, will send detailed card-mailing rules to volunteers so we comply with DOC regulations. UPAN's contact with volunteers will be by email. Use the UPAN email address for first contact then personal emails will follow with the Christmas Card Coordinator.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION FOR INMATES: MAILING UPDATES & ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

If You DO NOT Have Family or Friends to Send UPAN News to You: We now have 64 volunteers who mail out to 412 inmates as of August 31 2018. We continue to receive letters from inmates asking to receive the UPAN newsletter. The Newsletter is sent out every month via email to our volunteers (who are mostly family members of incarcerated individuals), and who are part of an email mailing list of approximately 814 interested individuals. If you have no one to do this, then you can write us and request to be assigned to a volunteer. When you write, please inform us if you have no one on the outside to print and mail to you.

If You DO Have Family or Friends Who Have Access to Email and a Printer: Please ask them if they would be willing to subscribe to the UPAN newsletter by contacting us at our email address on page 10. They can print it out, read it themselves to learn what is going on, and then mail it to you. Please let us know if you are on our volunteer mailing list but have loved ones who are sending it to you and we will remove you from the list. This opens up spots for our volunteers to mail newsletters to other inmates who have no one to do so for them.

Change of Mailing Address or Upcoming Parole Dates: A huge "Thank you" to all the folks who have notified us of their changes in housing facilities or upcoming parole dates. It has cut down on the volume of returned mail we have received this past year! We continue to ask that all inmates please notify UPAN of facility housing changes of address or release. There continues to be numerous moves between prisons and county jails, and if you notify us as soon as you can when those changes occur, it helps us immensely!!! This way the volunteers who send your newsletters to you are not wasting funds on stamps for mail that can't be delivered and is returned. Thank you.

Prepaid Postage

We would like to thank all the inmates that send us envelopes with the postage prepaid to try to help with mailing costs, it is very helpful. It would be most helpful to us if they were not already addressed. Sometimes they are addressed to inmates who receive their newsletters from one of our volunteers who live outside

the Salt Lake Valley and it is not always possible to get that envelope to the volunteer. Some of our volunteers who mail newsletters for us even live outside of Utah! The blank envelopes you send are then used by the main UPAN directors to respond to letters from inmates or given to those volunteers who attend our meetings and send newsletters out to inmates.

Article Submission

Incarcerated writers who wish to submit an article for possible publication in the UPAN newsletter should know that we will review any submitted article that is sent to us at the UPAN P.O. Box. The draft you send needs to be legible so it can be read it easily. Tell us if you want your full name used in the byline as the author, or if you want us to use initials, first name only, last name only, or be Anonymous.

Please understand that any submitted articles that are used are subject to editing by UPAN. We will not publish articles that use foul language. Articles that address the problems faced by inmates, as well as ideas about possible solutions are welcome. Stories and poetry will also be considered, based on the relevance to our newsletter topics at the time and for our primary readership, which are inmates and their families and friends. We always have more articles than will fit in the newsletter each month, so we have a file of pending articles. We also do not have a lot of time for correspondence about articles, so we may not respond or notify you if or when your article will be used. Lack of written response from us is not a sign that we did not receive your article, or that we do not appreciate it.

Who Else Receives the UPAN Newsletter?

In addition to the families and friends of inmates who have subscribed to the UPAN Newsletter, there are a variety of other people who receive it via email. This includes a variety of Utah Dept. of Corrections administrators and staff, volunteers and staff at some county jails, some legislators, attorneys, news reporters, Utah educators, and Utah government officials — including the directors of the CCJJ, the BOPP, and the Governor's office. We also email the newsletter out to a handful of individuals at universities and prisons in other states who have requested it.

Editor's Mea Culpa – aka MY BAD!!

Regarding UPAN's September newsletter, I (your editor) strive for accuracy, however in the NOTE following the Compassionate Release article, I'm embarrassed to admit that the figure .029% should not have the % sign attached. The correct number should have been .029 or 2.9%. Big difference. In a moment of fatigue, weakness and indecision I added the % sign without moving the decimal point two places to the right. MY BAD! It's been a long time since I was in 5th grade math classes (or did we learn that in the 4th grade?).

But more embarrassing is the fact that 25 years ago I taught Business Math at Fresno Community College for five semesters (adjunct faculty). All I can say is my ill-placed decimal point was a "senior moment."

I try to avoid senior moments as often as possible but at age 84, they sneak up on me when I'm not watchful and there I am with an embarrassing error. Such is life. Anyway, we (Molly and I) will continue to do our best to print accurate information in the UPAN Newsletter. Ed.

Letters For Change – A Non-Profit Pen Pal Service For Inmates **This Group Needs Volunteers to Write Letters**

In April, UPAN included an article in our newsletter about Letters for Change. This is a non-profit letter writing service with the mission to promote friendship, understanding, and community through providing a letter service for inmates in prison. Inmates sign up for the program and volunteers on the "other side of the fence" become their pen pals.

The service sounds simple, but the impact is powerful. Some inmates haven't received any contact from outside the prison in years. Inmates have expressed their profound gratitude to Letters for Change and letter writers can expand their experience and find fulfillment in corresponding with an incarcerated individual.

The Program Needs More Pen Pals for Inmates. In general, the rules to be a volunteer state that the person must be 18 years or older to send a letter

through Letters for Change. This service is intended for friendship, not to form romantic relationships. For more information and/or to sign up to be a volunteer pen pal, go to: <https://www.letters4support.org/contact>

For Inmates: If you are an inmate and would like to sign up for Letters for Change, please contact Letters for Change with your name, offender number, and a short paragraph about yourself: Letters for Change, P.O. Box 203, Provo, UT 84603. Multiple inmates can include a note in the same envelope. *Please note this is NOT a service designed to find you a romantic partner nor a service to share letters with sexual content.*

Please do not write or email UPAN about the pen pal program. UPAN is not involved in its coordination and you will not receive a response about pen-pals from UPAN.

"Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that ever come, can depend on what you do today." Ernest Hemingway

October 1, 2018 FOCUS Meeting With MIKE HADDON and JEREMY SHARP **by Molly Prince**

The UDC has resumed FOCUS meetings as of October 1, 2018. The new Public Information Officer, Kaitlin Felsted introduced herself. She also took notes for the speakers. The speakers were Mike Hadden, and Jeremy Sharp.

Mike Haddon has been serving as the Interim Director, was appointed by Governor Herbert and confirmed by the Utah Senate committee as the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Corrections at the end of September and the Full Senate still needed to confirm. Dir. Haddon is an Idaho native with a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in economics. He got his Master's in Public Administration at the University of Utah with a Criminal Justice emphasis. He has a total of 26 years working in the criminal justice arena in Utah. He worked for the Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) in Utah for 14 years, starting as an

intern and working his way up to becoming the Director of Criminal Justice Research. He also has had a position on the Sentencing Commission. He then moved to positions in the administration of the UDC in 2007. Haddon is no stranger to running the UDC as he served as Interim Director between past directors Tom Patterson and Rollin Cook, as well as acting as the Interim Director since Rollin Cook resigned.

Director Haddon discussed his concerns and goals he wants to focus on in the near future. He discussed concerns about the rapid growth of Utah's inmate population over time. He discussed that when Utah's Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) went into effect the inmate population was reduced from approximately 7100 to near 6100. However, today there are now 6600 prisoners in the State Prison System that consists of what Haddon considers three different housing options:

1) USP at the Draper prison site, 2) Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison, and 3) the various county jails that house 25% of Utah's prison system state inmates on the Inmate Placement Program (IPP). Draper is currently housing 3400 inmates. The new prison anticipated to open in a few years is designed for 3600 beds. This raises concerns that there will continue to be a shortage of space to house all inmates under UDC custody. Therefore, there will still be a need to use county jails to house state inmates even when the new prison is completed.

To further complicate matters, Haddon indicated that there are currently 100 vacancies for Correctional Officers in Utah's two prisons. The COs currently employed work mandatory overtime. With the current economy in Utah so good, it is difficult for UDC to recruit officers. He did share that the wages are now more competitive than they were a few years ago.

In addition, with JRI, there has been a significant increase of individuals on probation and parole supervision. He stated that over the past 5 years this population has grown by 2500 parolees. Adult Probation & Parole's (A P & P) agents (Parole Officers – PO's) have growing caseloads, and it is short agents to handle the growing numbers. Currently 3000 to 4000 inmates are released from USP each year.

AP & P also is responsible for completing Presentence Investigation Reports (PSI). Those agents are currently handling 4000 more PSI's per year than five years ago.

In addition to the space concerns that Haddon discussed, he identified that he discussed with the Governor that in the coming 3 to 4 years he wants to focus on Re-Entry and A P & P and the new prison site. The transition team for the new prison will be working closely with Haddon to prepare for the move to the new prison in the next three years.

Other issues were brought up during the FOCUS meeting with Director Haddon that UPAN plans to follow up on. These included concerns related to medical and mental health treatment as well as restrictive housing and the classification systems that restrict individuals housed in restrictive housing from being able to program in a meaningful manner.

Jeremy Sharp took over as Director of Prison Operations (DPO, formerly known as Division of Intitutional Operations, DIO) in December 2017. Before that, he was chief of the Department's Law Enforcement Bureau. He joined the Department in March 2016 from the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, where he was the Community Corrections and Tactical Operations

lieutenant. Throughout his 17 years with SL county, Sharp served in a variety of operational positions, including Internal Affairs Sergeant and supervisor of the first Security Threat Group Unit in the SL County Jail.

He also has experience in all types of investigations — administrative, criminal and background. He has a deep knowledge of gangs, institutional security intelligence, tactical operations & community corrections programs.

He discussed he has a commitment to keeping drugs and other contraband out of the prison and is committed to making it a safer place for inmates and staff. He states that his focus is SAFETY. This includes cell searches, access control points and over the 10 months he has been in the position, there has been a reduction in contraband and violence is dropping. He is working toward getting consistency between housing units and the two prisons, as lack of consistency has been a problem in the past. His goal is "to blend the process for consistency across the board."

He discussed that clear communication is the key, including between staff, inmates and families. Also that critical incidents will be put on the corrections website. He supports recommendations based on research by the Vera Institute on Restrictive Housing to guide some of the programming being used. He discussed gang issues including Step In, Step Out and programming specifically for that behavior problem. The prison is currently looking at ways to adjust classification policy to lower the score over time to get into general population eventually. This will be addressed on an individual inmate basis. He spoke on the A-B schedule (keeping groups separated using alternate times or facilities) as a method to try to manage the gangs who have a huge influence on the entire prison population.

His goal is to eventually move away from the A-B schedule for restrictive housing and gang members. They are looking to develop a mechanism to ramp down from the gang and give inmates an opportunity for programming, but the strong use of force and tactical response will be applied if necessary. He stressed that EVERYONE has to work together for this to succeed. It is not simply the prison staff, but also the inmates that have to work together to make this work.

Both Director Sharp and Haddon were open to questions and comments from the attendees. UPAN appreciated the opportunity for community members to meet these directors and listen to their perspectives, concerns and goals and Utah's constantly changing prison system moves forward.

"Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success." Swami Sivananda

So many things are possible just as long as you don't know they are impossible. Norton Juster

UTAH'S NEW SUPERVISION LENGTH GUIDELINES
by Faye Jenkins (using language of the Guidelines)

The 2018 State Legislature passed HB 291 which changed the length of community supervision for individuals sentenced to probation by the Courts or parole by the Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP), starting January 1, 2019.

Every individual sentenced to prison and released to parole will be required to complete the maximum length of their felony indeterminate sentence unless terminated earlier by the BOPP. Those with a felony conviction sentenced to probation are required to serve three years, unless they violate the conditions of their probation and are then sentenced to prison.

Previous law required three years of parole for everyone who served a felony conviction in the prison, except sex offenders. Those convicted of a sex offense had the potential to remain on parole thru the full length of their sentence unless terminated earlier by the BOPP.

The new law creates the possibility for individuals to remain under Adult Probation and Parole (AP&P) supervision either for a shorter length or longer than previously required, depending on the type of sentence they have. Release from supervision is dependent on an individual's compliance to supervision rules and restrictions along with their determined risk to public safety. Community supervision cannot extend longer than an individual's maximum sentence length.

HB 291 also required the Sentencing Commission to create supervision length guidelines for the Courts and the BOPP to use when determining when to terminate one's sentence. The legislature identified six purposes for the new guidelines:

1. increase equity in criminal supervision lengths,
2. respond to public comment,
3. relate supervision length to an offender's progress,
4. consider an offender's risk of offending again,
5. relate supervision length to amount of time offender has remained under supervision in community, an
6. enhance the discretion of the sentencing judges while preserving the role of the BOPP.

These new guidelines were unanimously approved during the Sentencing Commission's public meeting on September 18, 2018.

The guidelines give initial supervision length determined by category (General, Sex & Kidnapping, and Homicide) and degree of offense. Specific crime categories are listed in Addendum B of the Adult Sentencing and Release Guidelines.

Initial Termination Mandatory Review

The initial length of probation or parole is the predetermined time when the Courts or the BOPP are required to review an individual's eligibility for terminating their sentence. At the mandatory review hearing, the individual's treatment, risk reduction, compliance and stability are assessed. The Courts or the BOPP will also assess whether the individual has other crimes or violations that need to be addressed, or if the person poses substantial risk to public safety if released from supervision. The Court or the BOPP may either terminate supervision or continue supervision to allow the individual more time to meet the criteria.

If termination of supervision is denied under those circumstances, the Courts or the BOPP is required to explain their reasons for doing so. They may also explain what is necessary for the individual to be eligible when the next opportunity for early termination arises. If the Courts or the BOPP take no action at the initial time of termination, the person's sentence automatically ends.

In the tables below, the first number is the number of months for the initial length of supervision and when a mandatory review is required. The second number is the length served on probation or parole for an early termination review. The guidelines state that for the purposes of parole, in situations with multiple convictions the supervision guideline category is based on the offense conviction with the longest supervision period.

General

1st Degree Person	2nd Degree Person	1st Degree Other	3rd Degree Person	2nd Other/ Specific 3rd	2nd Poss/ 3rd Other	3rd Poss/ Class A (prison)
48 / 24	48 / 24	36 / 18	36 / 18	36 / 18	36 / 18	24 / 12

Sex and Kidnapping

1st Degree Mand. Prison	1st Degree	2nd Degree	3rd Degree	Class A
120 / 60	120 / 60	48 / 24	48 / 24	36 / 18

Homicide

1st Degree Agg. Murder	1st Degree Murder	Attempted Agg. Murder	1st Degree Death	2nd Degree Death	2nd Degree Auto Homicide	3rd Degree Death	Class A Death
168 / 84	168 / 84	168 / 84	168 / 84	60 / 30	60 / 30	60 / 30	36 / 18

Misdemeanor (Probation)

Class A Person / DUI	Class B Person / DUI	Class A Other	Class B DV Other	Class A POCS	Class B	Class C
24 / 12	24 / 12	24 / 12	24 / 12	24 / 12	12 / 6	6 / 0

Early Termination Review

The guidelines require an early termination review halfway through the initial length of probation or parole for those individuals who meet the early termination requirements - treatment, risk reduction, and compliance and stability. The supervising agent does not need to wait until the required time for the early termination review to submit a request. The Court or the BOPP may also set individual criteria for a termination date that is earlier than the guidelines at the time of sentencing or granting parole.

1. Treatment

Completion of ordered assessments and any recommended treatment or programming by a JRI-certified provider. For the purposes of this section, persons voluntarily engaged in ongoing care after having completed ordered treatment shall be considered as having completed treatment. If no treatment is ordered, then this requirement has been met.

2. Risk Reduction

General Criminogenic Risk: Risk reduction as indicated by ANY of the following: 1) Overall reduction of 5 percent or more on LS/RNR or other validated risk assessment. 2) Reduction by one level on LS/RNR or other validated risk assessment (e.g., high to moderate). 3) Maintaining an overall risk level of moderate or low on LS/RNR or other validated risk assessment. 4) Earned compliance credits—reduction credit of 30 days from the person’s initial length of supervision for each month completed without any violation of supervision conditions.

Sex Offender Specific Risk: Risk reduction as indicated by an average or below overall score on a validated sex-offender risk assessment or a risk assessment designated by the Utah Department of Corrections Sex Offender Task Force; and, if ordered by the Court or the Board of Pardons and Parole, the completion of an exit polygraph.

3. Compliance and Stability

The supervising authority shall submit a report with an articulation of whether the person under supervision is stable and compliant that shall include: 1) Response and Incentive Matrix (RIM) History, including both responses and incentives (which is reported by Adult

Probation & Parole); 2) Information on any new criminal conduct; 3) Case Action Plan (CAP) or risk reduction progress; 4) Treatment or programming progress; 5) Restitution payment history; 6) Employment history, residence, any other relevant factors; and 7) A recommendation on the termination of supervision.

If all three criteria are met, the Court or the BOPP must terminate supervision unless (these are the same criteria used when determining whether to terminate supervision for the initial mandatory review):

- 1) There is a new criminal conviction or new criminal conduct;
- 2) The supervising authority has submitted a notice of violations or an order or warrant has been issued for violation proceedings in the present case, or other circumstances exist pursuant to Utah Code sections 76-3-201 or 77-18-1; or
- 3) The person poses a substantial risk to public safety. Substantial risks to public safety include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Per Se Violation of Supervision Conditions: examples include dangerous weapons, fleeing via high speed chase, violent arrest behavior, new person crime allegations, high priority CCC walkaways; or
 - b. Criminal History Dependent: such as sex offender in cycle, repeat DUI violations, person crime absconder, mental health instability that negatively impacts a criminogenic risk factor, repeat domestic violence offender, serious financial crimes.

Other specific details addressed in the guidelines.

The payment of restitution is taken into consideration when determining whether to terminate supervision. If the person under supervision has the ability to pay restitution and fails, the supervising authority will follow the Response and Incentive Matrix and submit a violation report when warranted. The Courts or the BOPP may deny termination if the individual has clear ability to pay and is not paying any restitution. Non-payment of fines or defense fees may not be considered for termination of supervision.

For archaic or unlisted offenses, the BOPP has the authority to determine the category for offenses not listed in the current Sentencing and Release Guidelines

Addendum B. This determination will not impact the individual's maximum sentence length.

The Court or the Board of Pardons and Parole may not impose consecutive probation or parole terms in a single case where there are multiple criminal charges. For parole, the supervision will be consolidated under the longest supervision period according to the guidelines.

For determining the reduction or maintenance of an individual's risk level, the most current risk assessment to the time when supervision began will be used. An administrative or judicial override of supervision level may not be considered for the purpose of risk reduction.

Mental health issues or concerns alone are not sufficient cause to identify as a public safety risk. Mental health issues that create circumstances or exacerbate risk factors that do pose a public safety risk may be considered to the extent they affect those specific criminogenic factors.

Guidelines are not retroactive.

Starting January 1, 2019, the Supervision Length Guidelines in effect at the time of sentencing when given probation by the Courts or when granted parole by the BOPP will govern. These guidelines are not retroactive.

For most offenders, retroactive coverage of the guidelines will not significantly shorten their time of supervision and may potentially increase the time. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) three years ago implemented good time credit where a month of time is removed from probation or parole lengths for each month the individual complies with supervision requirements. However, this credit does not apply to sex offenders currently on parole. There are approximately 1,500 1st and 2nd degree sex offenders whose parole lengths equal the maximum term of their sentence unless the BOPP terminates their sentence earlier. Generally, the BOPP is requiring more time on parole now than is recommend in the new guidelines.

"Let us make our future now. And Let us make today's dreams tomorrow's reality." Malala Yousafzai

Utah Department of Correction's Re-Entry Team & Timeline

by Molly Prince

This article is based on some of the information provided in the September UPAN meeting in which Re-Entry Team Supervisor Bart Mortensen explained USP's Re-Entry Team Services.

The Re-Entry Team has a goal of using close collaboration with partner agencies and the community to effectively manage and assist offenders by providing maximum opportunities to make lasting changes through treatment, education, and positive reinforcement. The Re-Entry Team is part of AP&P.

AP&P and the BOPP are not obligated to schedule an early termination hearing or terminate one's sentence as specified in the guidelines for those who are not included. Regardless, Jim Hudspeth and Dan Chestnut with AP&P both gave verbal assurance that AP&P agents will petition the BOPP for a termination hearing when an individual has met the requirements of completing treatment, maintaining appropriate risk levels, and demonstrating full compliance and stability in the community. It is too early to know or try to anticipate what the BOPP will do in the terms of time limits in terminating sentences for those who are not covered by the guidelines.

Some optimism.

One can be optimistic with the new guidelines in place. They are the results of analyzing the effects of supervision length on public safety, recidivism rates, and restitution recovery. Evidence shows that supervision can do more harm than good if not properly structured for the individual. The Supervision Length Guidelines provide the evidence-based structured model needed to determine the appropriate length of community supervision for each person released from prison. We can hope the BOPP will recognize the same assessments and timing for those not covered by the guidelines as those covered in granting an early release from parole.

Ultimately, the new Supervision Length Guidelines puts the greatest responsibility in determining the length of supervision on the individual him/herself. Public safety is the primary driving force for the length of one's sentence. Individuals have the choice of how they will use their time while supervised. Active involvement in treatment, making conscious choices to change behavior that will lower one's risk of reoffending, and making an effort to fully comply with all rules or restrictions will facilitate lasting changes in behavior and assure the desired safety for the community. Supervision Length Guidelines are a positive change to the criminal justice system in Utah.

ASCENT (Achieving Success through Collaborative Engagement & Navigated Transition)

One aspect of this goal is the ASCENT Program. Through ASCENT, the Re-Entry team connects with community partners to help identify resources for parolees to utilize as they plan for release and after release to help them be successful. This includes employment, education and networking with agencies and advocacy groups and other resources. These networks include state agencies, such as Dept. of Workforce Services, Medicaid, the Board of Pardons &

Parole, various branches of the UDC as well as federal agencies including the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Administration, and advocacy organization such as UPAN, the ACLU refugee support services, and others. Private business and organizations are also involved in ASCENT which include employers, treatment providers, healthcare providers, recovery residences & services, 211 United Way, Pay for Success Initiative, & Invest in Dads Too. UPAN will now have a representative, Sandee Moore, attending the ASCENT meetings on a monthly basis.

Steps the Re-entry Team goes thru for an inmate

Given they have enough notice of an inmate's release date, the steps the Team goes through include:

Assess and address immediate survival needs that the parolee will need immediately upon release: Does the inmate have current identification? What are health issues and needs? Employment needs and housing stability.

Assess and address longer term survival needs which the parolee needs help with. This includes identifying and creating pathways to overcome longer term survival needs and encouragement to participate in risk reduction.

Connect to resources and prepare by engaging in release planning, which includes connecting the inmate to needed resources, anticipating needs for wraparound services in the community and actually do the release planning with the offender.

Inmate releases with a plan. The Team has worked to make sure there are connections with and information provided to the inmate for connecting to specific resources and agencies. If there has been the entire 360-day timeline to prepare, there should be a variety of release services and resources in place for the parolee to connect with as soon as they release.

360 Day Timeline

The sooner the Re-Entry Team is aware of an upcoming parole, the better. They check regularly for inmates who are scheduled to release within 360 days. The longer the Team has to work with the inmate on the re-entry and release plan, the better. The Re-Entry Team works with individuals who are paroling as well as terminating and expiring their sentences.

360 – 180 days is when they can start preparing case files for reentry planning, updating information once they are aware that an individual has a release date of 360 days or less away.

180 – 120 days is the period when the Team screens and assesses the inmate for immediate survival needs upon release. This includes screening the need for Social Security which includes both retirement and disability, making sure the inmate has a social security card; screening for VA needs/benefits; preliminary

identification of desired residence; and any recommendations toward treatment and programming upon release.

120 – 90 days is the period of time the Team evaluates the anticipated needs including programs, anticipates time cuts, adjusts programming recommendations when possible, and discusses behavior if necessary.

90 – 60 days is the scheduling component. The Team will identify wrap around services the parolee may need (if any); make sure the residence address is approved and determine where the parolee will live; schedule appointments for the inmate to make upon release for services; screen for Medicaid.

60 – 0 days prior to release. A community resource list for the inmate will be prepared for the community that the inmate will release to; complete the parole agreement; obtain a medical discharge summary that will be provided to the parolee; complete PATR (Parole Access to Recovery) referral for any needed substance abuse treatment (this is federally funded in each county); complete sex offender registry; schedule any vocational rehab appointment; and the team will do a final outstanding-warrant check.

Day of Release. The inmate will receive their Release Packet which contains 1) copy of Parole Agreement; 2) copy of Release Summary; 3) Medical Discharge Summary; 4) Voc Rehab application; 5) Community Resource List; 6) "My Next Steps"; 7) Treatment appointments; 8) Resumes; 10) any uncompleted steps, etc.

Anyone who has a valid Utah ID or driver's license in their records will be provided with it. Others will be given a temporary ID so that they can later obtain their permanent ID or driver's license. Workers from the Driver's License Division show up at the prison on Tuesdays (release days) so the person can walk out with a paper ID.

The releasing individual will receive a 30-day supply of their medications, if applicable.

Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM)

This is a new program that was put into place this past April as part of Medicaid expansion. Let's hope Utah will continue with Medicaid expansion so TAM can continue. Qualifiers for TAM include individuals who are chronically homeless; individuals involved in the criminal justice system who completed a program while incarcerated.

Assessments

The Re-Entry Team makes sure that all assessments are completed. This includes the LS/RNR (Level of Services Inventory / Risk Needs Responsivity) as well as assessment of financial stability, level of family or other social support, residence, etc. We were encouraged to learn of the progress that the Re-Entry

Team has made in implementing their services over the past year. This is a significant step forward for the UDC in helping to contribute to the success of persons upon release from prison.

Re-Entry Team Supervisor Bart Mortensen welcomes ideas to continue to improve this program. He can be reached at: bmortensen@utah.gov

For the Women of Timpanogos:
***"She made broken look beautiful and strong look invincible.
She walked with the universe on her shoulders and made it look like a pair of wings."***

The Inmate Calling Technical Corrections Act
Sponsored by US Senator Tammy Duckworth, Illinois

<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/>

On March 8, 2018, U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Rob Portman (R-OH), Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced the Inmate Calling Technical Corrections Act to strengthen the nation's criminal justice system by helping families keep in touch with incarcerated family members. It is a well known fact that studies have shown phone calls and contact with families and other support while incarcerated can help reduce recidivism rates which saves taxpayer dollars. This legislation would address long-standing concerns regarding predatory inmate calling rates at prison facilities across the U.S. and would affirm the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) authority to address a market failure to protect family, clergy, and counsel who communicate with prisoners, inmates and detainees. This legislation also makes clear that the obligations of fairness in inmate communications apply to all individuals, including those living with a disability.

It has not yet gone through the legislative process to become law.

Ms. Duckworth has explained in a press release that The Inmate Calling Technical Corrections Act is a technology-neutral legislative solution that provides the FCC with the appropriate authority to regulate inmate communication service providers.

She has stressed that video visitation and phone call services in prisons are often unreasonably expensive and far lower quality than the telecommunications services used by the general public.

Duckworth's press release states that "This commonsense technical fix advances three key goals:

1. Protects consumers: While existing law requires all intra- and interstate inmate calling to be "fair," the U.S. Court of Appeals has found that the term only applies to communications providers, not consumers. This legislation makes clear that ratepayers should also receive just and reasonable charges, drawing on the standard in Section 202 of the Communications Act.

2. Future-proof: When Section 276 of the Communications Act was adopted in 1996, it was written with traditional telephone service and traditional payphones in mind. Today's inmate communications providers

utilize advanced technology to lower their costs, promote the highest security and provide innovative services. This legislation makes clear that the obligations of fairness and just and reasonable rates apply to all inmate communications regardless of technology used, like video visitation services and other advanced communications services. This also ensures that the needs of inmates with disabilities is addressed.

3. Targeted purpose: This legislation is precisely targeted at clarifying existing law in light of the U.S. Court of Appeals decision and to permit the FCC to use its traditional procedures and authority to address unjust and unreasonable rates. Just and reasonable communications rates enhance community safety and security by improving the community connections of inmates that studies have shown to reduce recidivism.

Recent Update

As of August 20, 2018, there was an article on Sen. Duckworth's website titled *FCC COMMISSIONERS AGREE WITH DUCKWORTH: UNJUST PRISON CALL RATES MUST BE ADDRESSED*. It is reprinted here in its entirety.

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] – U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) solidified consensus and received a commitment from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioners Michael O'Rielly, Jessica Rosenworcel, Brendan Carr and Chairman Ajit Pai to help address unjust and unreasonable inmate call rates at last week's U.S. Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee oversight hearing. In March, Duckworth introduced bipartisan legislation with U.S. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Rob Portman (R-OH) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) to address predatory inmate calling rates at correctional and detention facilities across the country and affirm the FCC's authority to address this market failure.

"Helping incarcerated individuals stay in touch with their loved ones improves the odds they will become productive members of society upon their release and avoid returning to prison," Duckworth said. "I'm pleased that Chairman Pai, Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr and

Rosenworcel and Nominee Starks have expressed their opposition to these unjust and unreasonable intrastate inmate call rates, and I look forward to working with them to address this important issue.”

A recent federal court decision ruled that the Communications Act authorizes the FCC to regulate interstate prison calls but does not clearly authorize the FCC to address intrastate inmate telecommunications services. Without this authorization, inmates and their families are forced to rely on a system that often charges unreasonable and unaffordable rates. Chairman Pai has committed to work with Senator Duckworth to address these issues and welcomed Congress providing the FCC with the authority to establish rules for intrastate prison calls. Duckworth and her colleagues are now working to accomplish that.

Duckworth has long been outspoken about the need to reform our criminal justice system. Last year, Duckworth reintroduced the Video Visitation and Inmate Calling in Prisons Act to help families keep in touch with incarcerated family members through video and telecommunication services, something studies have shown can help reduce recidivism rates and thereby save taxpayer dollars. Last year her bill did not make it very far. Hopefully this year’s bill will continue on and become a reality in the coming legislative session.

It won’t hurt to write your own Congressmen / women at the national level about this issue to let them know it is an important issue that should not be taken lightly once it advances to the floor to be voted on.

Summary of UPAN October Meeting

Audrae Rogers spoke briefly about Christmas/Holiday cards to be mailed to inmates and asked for volunteers to mail cards to inmates that don’t receive any holiday greetings during the Christmas season. Entries in the contest have been received and are being judged.

Faye Jenkins talked about supervision length guidelines and how they will affect parole lengths, noting that those currently on parole aren’t covered but there is a standard in place that may also impact them positively. Faye touched on the sex offender registry, sharing ideas discussed in the last UPAN meeting, like

removing the driver’s license requirement and changing the beginning of the time period from when a person ends their sentence to when they leave incarceration.

Also mentioned was that there are other changes in the works, but they haven’t been fully addressed in their meetings yet, like restricted areas incorporating risk levels on the public registry. The balance of the meeting included family issues and attendees’ comments and questions with interaction between all attending including answers to some questions better handled by parolees who were present.

Sometimes the strength within you is not a fiery flame for all to see; It is just a tiny spark that whispers softly, “You got this, keep going.”

“You will continue to suffer if you have an emotional reaction to everything that is said to you.

True power is sitting back and observing things with logic. True power is restraint.

If words control you that means everyone else can control you. Breathe and allow things to pass.”

Wisdom From Warren Buffet, 3rd richest man in the world, highly successful businessman and philanthropist

Supervision Guidelines favoring sincere parolees and a Re-entry Team and a realistic and workable Timeline to help make parole successful – that’s cool. Ed.

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network

P.O. Box 464, Draper, UT 84020

Website: UtahPrisonerAdvocate.org

Email: Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/UtahPrisoner](https://www.facebook.com/UtahPrisoner) (go here to view recent UPAN meetings)

President: Shauna Denos

Past-President & Treasurer: Molly Prince

Vice-president: Unfilled

Secretary: Unfilled

Director of Communications: Shane Severson

Newsletter Editor: Warren Rosenbaum

Inmate Newsletter Volunteer Coord: Deon Corkins

Director of Sex Offender Policy Issues: Faye Jenkins

“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