



**UPAN Newsletter** Volume 6 Number 10 | **OCTOBER 2019**

*“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”*

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# New Warden – Meet Legislators – New Prison Update

**NOVEMBER UPAN MEETING:** Monday, NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, SLC

**Topic:** Attorney Elizabeth Hunt presents: *Preparing for Board Hearings to Get Out of Prison "Faster and Stronger"*  
**No Meeting in December**

**JANUARY UPAN MEETING:** Monday, January 13, 2020 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** TBA in Nov & Dec Newsletters

**Topic:** Viewing and discussion of S O registration documentary movie *Untouchables*  
**All UPAN Meetings are free and open to the public.**

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

### **Robert Powell Is New USP Draper Warden**

Taken directly from Public Information Office Announcement, October 2, 2019

UDC Executive Director Mike Haddon announced on October 2, 2019 that Robert Powell has been named the new warden at the Utah State Prison in Draper. He replaces Larry Benzon, who was recently promoted to Deputy Director in the Division of Prison Operations. Powell has served with the Utah Department of Corrections since 1986, when he began his career as a correctional officer at the prison. He has had the opportunity to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders on behalf of diverse populations. During his career he has served in positions of leadership from

sergeant through lieutenant, captain and deputy warden. He accepted the appointment to associate warden in October 2014. He has been involved in opening buildings, the implementation of restrictive housing, transition O-track, enhanced recognition of female offenders and committed to the development of staff. Powell has worked tirelessly with tomorrow’s leaders to continue a legacy of enduring professionalism, hard work, relationships, respect for others, and finding the inner passions for personal development that people possess.

## Utah County Diversion Program Topic of September 2019 Meeting

by Molly Prince

Chief Deputy Utah County Attorney Loren (Larry) Weiss was the guest speaker at UPAN's September meeting. He spoke on the new Diversion Program Utah County created and implemented over the past nine months as of July 2019. He spoke on behalf of County Attorney David Leavitt who was unable to attend.

Mr. Weiss spent his long career as a criminal defense attorney defending primarily white-collar cases with big firms. He also taught prosecution at BYU. According to attorney Elizabeth Hunt, a colleague of Weiss, he has integrity and deeply cares about what he is doing. She shared that he does a lot of giving of his time in volunteer and leadership roles. "He worked hard his whole adult life and instead of taking a well-earned retirement, he chose to take this job as Chief Deputy County Attorney in Utah county to make differences that will improve the criminal justice system in Utah for years to come." Weiss loves to teach and share his wisdom. He has a very strong wife who is beautiful through and through and together they raised a "great kid." He is fearless in trials and believes more cases should be tried so our justice system actually works. He loves to solve criminal justice problems in smart new ways. Which is exactly what he is doing in his new position.

County Attorney David Leavitt has been in the limelight for his new ideas on how to restructure the way the office deals with low-level offenders. He is the first County Attorney elected in 70 years not from the prosecutor's office. Leavitt was a student of Weiss at BYU over 30 years ago. Leavitt's goals for Utah County prosecutor's office are based on what Weiss taught in his classes all those years ago. When Leavitt took over as County Attorney, he reached out to Weiss multiple times asking him to come on board to help him create a new approach to handling low level criminal cases in Utah County. Weiss stated that after multiple pleas to get him to agree to take the job, he did. His retirement is on hold for now.

**Goal: to create a redemptive justice environment.** Weiss discussed the importance of thinking outside the traditional methods of handling and prosecuting cases. The Diversion Program, which was up and running in July, has no state or county funding. It is a pre-filing program meaning that individuals who would normally be charged are contacted prior to filing charges and given the opportunity to participate. It is based on a sliding fee scale so that everyone can participate. Interestingly, they do not use the terms "defendant" or "victim." Instead they refer to those who are facing charges as "participants."

**Participants are invited prior to ever having charges officially filed against them.** According to an April 7, 2019 Salt Lake Tribune article quoting County Attorney

Leavitt, "Getting charged with a crime can disrupt a person's life for years, making it hard to find a job or a place to live" Leavitt said. Under the diversion program, people get the chance to make amends without overwhelming the criminal justice system." In this type of diversion program for certain types of low-level crimes, prosecutors would be allowed to divert the case before charges are filed. The suspect offender is required to get into counseling or treatment, complete community service, and could be required to pay restitution. If they don't follow the stipulations, the case would then be prosecuted as normal.

Using a diversion program such as this provides the criminal justice system an additional tool that allows a person who committed a crime to salvage their life after they go through the diversion process successfully – without having the stigma of being a criminal.

**How participants are identified.** Rather than coming up with lengthy criteria of what qualifies someone to be invited to participate in the diversion program, it was simpler to identify who is not a candidate for the program. Those who are NOT included are individuals who were involved in DUI, crimes of violence including white collar financial crimes, sex offenses (including non-hands on) and crimes involving weapons.

**Volunteers provide programming.** All counselors and program directors are volunteers. There are a variety of classes that include drug classes, financial management, and programs to understand how their criminal behavior was inappropriate and affected themselves and others, including long range consequences. The goal is to identify the needs of the participant and address them through these courses. At this point the program does not have a face to face victim / offender restorative justice type of meeting.

There are 80 people who have been enrolled in the Diversion program in the past 60 days. While it is too early to tell how well it is working, and there is not much data, Weiss said that it seems to be having a positive impact. Currently there are more volunteers for the program than participants. We are sure that will change in the coming weeks.

**Various courts are involved:** Mental Health Court is involved. Utah County's Drug Court is involved. Right now there are only 60 slots available in drug court with 240 on the waiting list, so this diversion program could assist with that. Weiss said, "It is harder to get into Utah County Drug Court than it is to get into Harvard." Veterans Court – has 18 slots, will expand to 60 people. The diversion program could also assist with that. There is no Domestic Violence Court in Utah County.

**A private probation company** contracts with Utah county to oversee participants in the diversion program.

**Challenges of changing the way the County Attorney's office thinks about prosecution.** Weiss said that there have been challenges in introducing the concept of diversion versus punishment in the County Attorney's office. He is hoping that this program will divert that office's caseload by 10 to 20%. He said they

currently have 35 deputy county attorneys in the office who may handle as many as 400 open cases each. The American Bar Association recommends no more than 150 open cases per attorney. He is also hoping to increase the number of attorneys in the office to 50. This, coupled with the diversion program reducing the size of caseloads, will hopefully assist the office in more effectively managing and addressing individual cases in a more informed, effective and efficient manner.

*"Listen to the whispers that something is wrong before it becomes a problem, then crisis, then disaster." Oprah*

### **Meet Your Legislator Night – Monday October 14, 2019**

*Topics discussed in this 2-hour event include the elimination of the A/B schedule for STG and impact on inmates and families; IPP issues; medical issues; need for a long term medical and hospice care in USP; challenges for inmates to get into programming quickly, PREA, prison education; and other concerns.*

UPAN's 2019 Meet Your Legislator Night was held on Monday October 14, 2019 at the Marmalade Library. There was a turnout of at least 50 who signed in and an additional dozen who did not. Several elected legislators attended including:

**Rep. Carol Spackman-Moss**, (D) District 27 including Holladay and Murray. She is on many committees and subcommittees including the Executive & Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee which includes appropriations for criminal justice issues, and the Administrative Rules Review Committee which includes oversight of Administrative Rules for criminal justice issues and the Board of Pardons & Parole. She spoke about her interest in criminal justice issues resulting from knowing people involved in the criminal justice system. She sponsored a good Samaritan bill and a Naloxone bill that passed last session. She and Sen. Weiler started looking into jail deaths and now she is part of a working committee on deaths, health, and mental health in our county jails. She is working on a bill for Screening Requirements in County Jails for the upcoming session. She is also working on a bill that would create an Insanity Defense in Utah for a very small number of individuals who would qualify for that. Among her numerous community awards, she received the Community Advocacy Award from the Disability Law Center, a UPAN partner.

**Rep. Jennifer Daily-Provost** (D) District 24 since 2018, which includes Downtown SLC and the Marmalade district where this event was held. She welcomed us to her district and stated, "There are many of us who are very, very passionate about reform in the criminal justice system." She serves on several committees including the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee, House Government Operations Committee, and House Health and Human Services Committee. She ran a bill last year and will run again this year to require jails and prisons to provide women prisoners with the option of continuing any medically prescribed method of contraception because "this is a population that experiences unintended pregnancies at a rate of 90%." This can

impede a woman's ability to succeed upon release. Another bill will change the requirement that parents of minors incarcerated currently must pay child support for the child's stay in a detention center. She expressed appreciation for this evening full of issues and concerns. She said she came away with a better understanding of more changes that need to be made. She recognizes that it takes "a total paradigm shift in the conversation." She understands there is a reason people serve their time but wants to get away from the idea that people must serve their time for the rest of their lives.

**Rep. Mark Wheatley** (D) District 35 (areas of Murray and South Salt Lake) since 2004. He is on many committees including the House Ethics Committee, House Judiciary Committee, Business and Labor Interim Committee, Judiciary Interim Committee, Administrative Rules Review Committee, and Criminal Code Evaluation Task Force. He served as Education Director for Salt Lake Community College at the Draper Prison years ago. He agrees with speakers that the system is broken. He shared appreciation to the speakers for their powerful stories. He said his experience is that good directors and administrators in corrections get moved around and there is no consistency or full funding. He encouraged talking to the appropriation chairs to make sure there is money available for the programs the prison needs. He suggested that if the legislators make sure that the Speaker of the House (Brad Wilson, R) and President of the Senate (Stuart Adams, R) make this a priority, maybe it will be accomplished.

**Rep. Sandra Hollins** (D) District 23, the northwest side of SLC including Rose Park and the Fairpark areas. She is the first African-American woman elected to the Utah Legislature. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and she has worked with homeless and in substance abuse and mental health therapy. She is now the Director of Social Services at One Voice Recovery. She has run legislation around supporting individuals who were formerly incarcerated and had the Ban the Box bill passed as well as running a bill on the

School-to-Prison Pipeline and how to keep our kids out of the system. She is working now with A P & P to try to create a pilot program around individuals who have been released and providing a program with peer-to-peer counselling and mentors. She is not sure if it will be ready for upcoming session but is "in the works."

**Rep. Marsha Judkins** (R) District 61 which includes west Provo and southwest Orem. She expressed her appreciation for being invited by a constituent who was formerly incarcerated. She thanked the speakers for their bravery in sharing their stories in this meeting to bring these issues to the attention of lawmakers and the public. She hopes that as more people share their stories and contact their State representatives so that these things can change. She encouraged the audience to contact their representatives if families cannot get responses from the prison warden. She is currently working on a bill to create oversight and data collection in prosecutors' offices to identify and then appropriately address the real problems in that arena.

**Michael McAinsh** organized this event and secured the venue and invited all of Utah's legislators. He also arranged with the LDS Church across the street to accommodate overflow parking. The Marmalade Library has no parking lot and limited street parking.

**Shane Severson** and his brother set up all audio-visual equipment and streamed on Facebook Live as well as captured it on a higher quality video. The WiFi (wireless connection) was not good at this location which impacted the quality of the live stream.

**Presentations:** The night was filled with talks presented by a cross-section of individuals involved with the criminal justice system in a variety of roles.

**Need for Hospice NOW.** **Molly Prince** opened and moderated the event. Ms. Prince briefly addressed the desperate need for Utah State Prison Medical Unit to implement a full chronic care / hospice program now, rather than wait until the new prison is ready to be opened in 2022 or later. She briefly reviewed few of the points that were published in the Hospice article in the September 2019 UPAN newsletter.

**Continuing IPP issues.** Ms. Prince then spent the bulk of her time discussing the ongoing issues that inmates and families experience when they are caught up in the Inmate Placement Program. UPAN has identified fourteen major areas of concern which will be addressed in a separate article in the future. IPP Director James Chipp was made aware of most of UPAN's concerns several years ago when he became the Director. While at least one concern appears to have been adequately addressed regarding having inmate funds transferred electronically to the receiving facility immediately upon the inmate's transfer, many other concerns have not been resolved and more have developed over the years, particularly with the addition

of Tooele County Jail which does not seem at all equipped to house long-term state inmates.

**Medical concerns from the incarcerated.** UPAN received over 24 pages of handwritten letters from state inmates regarding problems with medical care with the request that these concerns be shared directly with our State representatives and senators. Since the UPAN meeting was limited in time, it was not possible to read each letter fully to the audience. Packets with copies of the letters from these individuals were provided directly to the legislators present to read. These packets were not shared with the public or other attendees.

Two of the concerns repeatedly cited are the high cost of medical care to those in the custody of the state in Utah's prison system, particularly the challenge of how Inmate Accounting will take up to 60% of money on an inmate's books to pay these costs, and the high cost of copays. Since 2009 the legislature authorized the prison to charge inmates \$5 for each doctor, physician assistant, dental, or optometrist visit; \$2 for each 30-day or less supply of prescribed medication; and \$1 for each health care request submitted to Medical, Mental Health, Optical, or Dental. If an inmate puts in one health care request with a request for more than one medical condition, then inmates are charged \$1 for each type of condition needing attention. There is reportedly no co-pay for psychiatrist, psychologist or mental health therapist visits. The prison also charges inmates to "rent" medical equipment at \$5 a month for wheelchairs, oxygen concentrators, CPAP machines and other equipment valued over \$200. There is a 50% charge to the inmate patient for special medical supplies like shoes, pillows, braces or prosthetics.

There are additional costs for medical procedures provided outside of the prison at a hospital or clinic. All charges for outside care are billed at 10% to the prisoner of what the prison is charged with a maximum of \$2,000 per year. If an inmate is unable to work and is considered "indigent", the prison will not deny medical care, but will recoup the co-pays and equipment fees by garnishing up to 60% of the funds on an inmates books even if those funds were deposited by family members in the community so the inmate can buy over the counter remedies such as Tylenol and hygiene items. There needs to be a policy that restricts USP from taking funds from an inmate that were deposited from an outside source rather than the inmate's employment. A complete list of copay charges will be published for families who are not familiar with the high costs in a future newsletter.

**Sex Offenders over Matrix.** This topic was discussed by **Laurie C.** She expressed frustration and concern about the length of time it is taking for individuals required to do SOTP to get into pre-treatment and then into regular programming. She also noted the problem with having state inmates in county jails even when they are supposed to be there for treatment when they are

moved sometimes months prior to being able to enter a program. This has been a serious concern from multiple sources who have shared with UPAN that an inmate has been moved to a county jail, months prior to being admitted into a treatment program - which results in losing employment, skills classes, and volunteer work they had in the prisons to make their time productive and meaningful.

**High Cost of Phone Calls in Utah's Jails for IPP Inmates** was discussed from the personal experience of **Michael F** who told of his five years of incarceration. All (but six months) was completed in the IPP program. He was housed in Kane County, San Juan County, Purgatory, and Millard County Jails with six months in Gunnison and returned to Draper one day before his parole release. He shared his prison journey in a powerful manner. It included trying to stay in contact through very expensive phone calls from county jails with his son and his terminally ill father, who died while he was inside. He stated that, aside from his commitment to the treatment programs he participated in, the most important factor in his success was contact with his family, particularly his son. He said, "I needed those calls to maintain the hope I needed to make it through and come out." He described living for, and working every time he could, so he could afford phone calls to his son. His father was terminally ill when Michael went to prison so could not afford to pay for calls from Michael. Mike paid \$15 for 15 minutes in Kane county; in San Juan it was \$8 for 15-minutes. In Millard it was down to \$5 for 15-minutes so he was able to work only one day to have a phone call with his son.

**Parole Success** was briefly touched on by Michael F. He believes his success on parole is due to the support and involvement of his outpatient therapist and parole officer. He is fortunate enough to have the same parole officer for the entire 2½ years of his parole. He realizes this is the exception and not the rule. The turnover in parole officers is high and he said he may be different than others but he looks forward to discussing what is happening in his life with his PO. He wants his PO to have the time with him to accurately assess his progress and success as well as his risk. He discussed the caseloads of parole officers and the increase over the past few years due to shortages in the UDC. This is often due to POs leaving Corrections to go to higher paying jobs with county sheriffs and police departments. He urged lawmakers to allocate more funding to AP&P specifically to hire more agents and train them to adequately and effectively supervise their caseloads.

**Recommendation the Sex Offender Registry Be Renamed the Sex Offense Registry.** Michael also discussed that the choices he made that resulted in his incarceration were terrible choices. But they also were in his past and he has worked for the past 7 years to change himself and how he lives so he is no longer the person he was when he committed his offense. His offense is in the past but being on the Sex Offender

Registry is a label that suggests to the public that he is currently involved in that behavior. He recommends that to facilitate supporting rebuilding lives of individuals who offended sexually in the past, the Registry should be changed to the Sex Offense Registry. Like the Child Abuse Registry (which is not named the Child Abuser), it registers those who have committed that crime but does not imply that they are still involved in that behavior.

**Mark Hugentobler**, former Principal of Central Utah Academy, the education program in Central Utah Correctional Facility spoke about the challenges and opportunities to create a meaningful education program in our prisons. He has written a book which will be published later in 2019. The forward to his book will be published in an article in November UPAN news.

**Fears and Concerns About the Change in the STG A/B Schedules.** Addressed by **Nina M. and Cecilia G.** They shared the concerns many prisoners and families are experiencing related to the news that the UDC is doing away with the A / B recreation schedule for gang related inmates. Nina explained how the A / B rec schedules have worked over the past several years. While there were drawbacks, it kept rival gang members relatively safe from violence. Dangerous situations were discussed by both presenters. A more comprehensive, separate article on this serious concern is being prepared for the November newsletter.

**Impact of Being Deprived of Visitation On Children.** **Faye Jenkins** spoke of the heartbreak of children of incarcerated parents as it relates to the challenges in having ongoing contact and visitation. She addressed the difficulty of barrier visits and the policies UDC has that thwarts consistent visits with S O inmates and their children when their children were not primary victims. She discussed her own experience with this and the challenge to help keep her children emotionally healthy as they go through their prison journey.

**Prison Impact on Families & Inmates, and IPP Idleness.** **Darlene L.** encouraged the legislators to "not forget this meeting." She addressed the need to make correctional officers, phone calling services, and commissaries be responsible for what they are doing to inmates and families. She stressed problems with IPP and the need for Utah's county jails to be accountable to the needs of IPP prisoners. Also, provide something productive for all inmates housed in ALL county jails.

**Timpanogos Comments & Marginalized Children.** **Gayle Dawes** shared the accomplishments and successes of her daughter, housed in Timpanogos over the years, and the difficulty inmates face to make changes in our current prison system. She talked of her daughter's desire to help other children avoid the mistakes she made. Gayle referred to the school-to-prison pipeline, citing how marginalized children end up in prison, sharing from her own family's experience.

She stressed the need for more funding for prison education programs.

**Facing Facts About PREA.** Turner Bitton and Liliana Olvera-Arbon teamed up to speak about **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance.** Turner is on the Board of the Harm Reduction Project and on the Utah Communities Connect Steering Committee for digital inclusion. He is the former Executive Director of Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA). Liliana is Manager of Advocacy Services at UCASA. Utah is one of two states in the nation that has not fully complied with the federal PREA requirements. Turner noted that prison sexual harassment and assault is a topic often overlooked. He stated, "We do not get to choose where it's OK to rape and not OK to rape." He noted the high level of violence in prison and detention centers. He referred us to Just Detention International which seeks to end sexual violence against prisoners, provides information and advocacy on prisoners' sexual abuse and exploitation. Turner stated it is important to change prison policy completely around sexual assault because "rape is never a part of the penalty." Liliana spoke about the mission of UCASA and its interest in eliminating rape and sexual assault in Utah's prisons and jails. The goal of pulling Utah's prisons in to full PREA compliance is threefold:

1) It includes being strict and enforcing policies of PREA. Turner noted that there is a new bill in the works (we believe sponsored by Angela Romero) to require Utah to come into full compliance.

2) Requires resources for incarcerated victims of sexual assault including confidential and free services that are independent of the correctional facility. This would include a fully confidential helpline and community advocates / counselors going into the facility to speak with the victim.

3) Educate everyone involved in the system on the policies and how to support compliance at every level throughout the prison system.

**NOTE:** UCASA and Mr. Bitton are seeking stories and a list of individuals who have suffered from sexual assault in our prison and jail systems. Liliana at UCASA 284 W 400 N, Salt Lake City, UT 84103

**BOPP Ignoring Pre-Sentence Matrix.** Merilee V. spoke to the challenges of the Board of Pardons having full control over the sentences of inmates, despite what the pre-sentence matrix indicates should be the expected length of stay.

**Need for Inmate Representation In Prisons and Jails.** This was the topic of Jenny G. whose sister is incarcerated. She stated that legislators are the only ones in a unique position to make changes in the system. She told of problems her sister experienced beginning in the adjudication process with misinformation about her case to the problems inside the prison with the prison's medical service. USP's medical approach has resulted in exacerbation of health issues her sister was experiencing prior to incarceration. Jenny also addressed the problem in USP's substance abuse treatment program requiring inmates to tell on each other and report each other in order to maintain their own good standing. This results in frivolous complaints where one inmate tells on another for things as simple as having too much crafting materials in their possession, which can result in write-ups that impact the inmate's future. It pits the program participants against each other rather than helping them form a supportive bond through their therapeutic process.

**Prison Sentences Too Long, Focus should be on rehabilitation.** Warren Rosenbaum, UPAN Newsletter Editor, read excerpts from two inmates writing submissions and letters. One stated, I've been locked up from age 16, since 1996. Warren asked the assembled group, "Where were you in 1996? Stating, that's a LONG time ago". A second inmate wrote, "No length of incarceration has ever proven to help families or victims heal." Warren also spoke on S O recidivism rate of 3% to 5%, IPP expensive visiting video kiosks and phone rates, lack of jobs and late caseworker responses (like 2 months). He endorses a major paradigm shift (radical change) in our system. His opinion paper to the Sentencing Commission recommends changing YEARS to MONTHS, with focused therapy to return offenders to society, using evidence-based Risk Assessment Evaluations to confirm their monitored release.

***Supporting the truth, even when it is unpopular, shows the capacity for honesty and integrity. Steve Brunkhorst***

### **UDC Adds Re-Entry Fair to Release Day Services**

<https://corrections.utah.gov/index.php/home/alerts-2/1222-udc-launches-release-and-reentry-fair>

Each Tuesday, Utah Department of Corrections agents and support staff take over the gymnasium at the Fred House Training Academy, located on the grounds of the UDC Administration Office. But there is no game being played at this gymnasium. No sides being chosen. In fact, just the opposite. Agents are trying to get everyone on the same team.

Welcome to the UDC's new release day fair and orientation. It brings together those being released from incarceration and their loved ones with agents and community providers in an effort to improve the chances of a successful transition out of prison. The goal is to provide detailed information about available resources and parole conditions to former

offenders – and their support network. The hope is, with everyone informed and on board, they will work as a team to reduce reentry obstacles and setbacks.

“Without community providers offering their support, many individuals returning to the community would continue to struggle and may not be successful in transitioning back into the community,” according to Asst. Regional Administrator Eric Barker, who oversees the AP&P Release and Reentry unit.

The fair happens every Tuesday. While offenders inside the prison get identification cards and sign up for programs like Medicaid, AP&P provides a family orientation class at Fred House. The class details what to expect after release and how agents can help assist those on supervision.

Once the class and in-prison process are completed, inmates are transported to the fair. There, they and their families visit booths staffed by a variety of state and county agencies – including employment and recovery providers – plus community groups. The booths allow formerly incarcerated individuals the opportunity to connect with services that best fit their needs. They also do a video check-in with parole agents, eliminating the requirement to make an initial office visit that day.

***“There are moments that define our lives and moments that divide our lives. Incidents that separate us in to two people – who we were before and who we will be after. Forever.” Max on Roswell TV Series Season 1***

## **Update on New Utah State Prison**

by Molly Prince

On September 3, 2019, only a day after Channel 5 news did an update on the new Utah State Prison, UPAN representatives met with Director of Special Projects Steve Turley and had a tour and briefing on construction of the new prison site. UPAN continues to hear rumors about unstable land, failure of progress in building, etc. We were assured that the infrastructure (grand stabilizing, underground utilities, storm drains, roads, etc.) have been established and construction is moving forward.

According to Turley, the new USP will be ready to start operations by the summer of 2022. While he did not discuss financial issues specifically, he did explain that the reduction of 400 beds from the originally designed 4000 beds to 3600 beds was accomplished by simply eliminating one housing unit in general population.

**Land is stabilized.** Dir. Turley assured us that the long process of stabilization of the land at the new site is completed. During a drive-through tour of the area, he pointed out remaining hills of dirt equaling the weight of the future building that has been added to the sites of various buildings and left for 3 – 4 months to measure how much settling or movement the land may still be

“I like that there are resources available,” said fair attendee Natalie, who was picking up a loved one. She said up to that point, she felt there was a lack of knowledge and awareness about what was available, forcing her to do a lot of navigating on her own. I don’t know if they all apply to my loved one,” she said while looking around the gathering at Fred House, “but there is a discussion going on. That’s a positive.”

Those that staff the booths also said the new process has been beneficial. Bethany Shaffer, a rehabilitation technician with the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, said 100 percent of those who signed up for an office visit during one of the previous fairs made it to the appointment. She says having the former inmate’s support staff participating deserves some of the credit. “Their families encourage them to come,” she said. “They’re involved.” Molly Prince encourages all inmates to sign up for Medicaid on release day.

The new release process began in July, with the expanded fair and video check-in services being added in September. AP&P Release and Reentry Supervisor Katie Bennett – who along with Barker does the orientation – said the program is working but will keep evolving. “We’ve been getting tons of feedback and we’re adding agents,” she said. “We’re improving the process and making it smoother.”

experiencing after the stabilization process. He reports that this process is indicating that the land is stable.

**Construction of structures has begun.** We watched as a pre-formed cell was lowered by a massive crane and set into place within the erected outer walls of a maximum-security unit. We toured a mock-up of a general population 8-man cubicle-style cell which has bed frames for eight and a table in one room with an attached shower and bathroom contained adjacent to but still within the 8-man cell. There will also be single cells and 2-man cells in general population.

Construction has also begun on the foundation of a warehouse which will be outside the perimeter fence. We reviewed the layout of the new prison, which Dir. Turley introduced to UPAN families at the April 2018 meeting. Please refer to the April 2018 UPAN newsletter for an in-depth description of the new facility and the programs they are intending to incorporate.

**A new design for restrictive housing (maximum security).** Dir. Turley discussed the design of the new super-max and max facility. Despite USP’s attempts to reduce the use of restrictive housing, there will still be some inmates who may never integrate into general

population. He discussed that the cell structure will be such that they will have their own cells, but there will be what is called a “sub-dayroom” which is a six foot corridor running the length outside a bank of cells that will allow an inmate to walk around, use the phone, and walk to the shower. This eliminates officers having to escort the offender to and from showers in chains.

**Plenty of classrooms and accommodations for therapy groups.** Both Turley and Correctional Administrator II Bryan Taylor spoke about the educational and programming opportunities as well as religious services and chapels. The layout includes a huge building for men’s general population that will house two full-size basketball courts, 20 classrooms, and two chapels with yards on each side for Native talking circles and lodges. There will be chapels in each building that houses inmates, except for max. This includes the hospital / geriatric area, the Conquest / Resolve programming facility, and women’s facility.

**General population will eat in a common culinary dining room.** All male and female prisoners (except those in max) will eat in a culinary dining room.

**A huge infirmary / hospital / geriatric facility** is planned. This includes a 96-bed geriatric unit within this building to be close to medical services. This is where a long-term care / palliative/ hospice community can be put into place. Turley describes the size of this building as “bigger than a super-Walmart.” Inmates will still be taken out to local hospitals for surgeries and specialty care, but the new medical facility will be much more effective in meeting the medical and mental health needs of the large prison population in this facility. This will be a significant improvement over the tiny infirmary currently housed in Wasatch in Draper.

**R & O (Receiving & Orientation)** will be situated with a medical unit to allow incoming offenders to receive their intake and medical assessments and receive medications upon entry into the prison in one area.

**Utah Correctional Industries (UCI) opportunities will continue.** The UCI facilities will all be located in the same area. The greenhouse program will continue with

a garden area for growing flowers sold to the community. Other prison jobs will continue as well.

**Women’s facility** is self-contained. The housing units will be cell and cubicle style. It will include its own culinary, programming rooms, and UCI. It will house the canine program. There will be four rooms for women who had babies to live with their babies. It has not yet been determined what the policy for length of time a woman can keep her baby in the prison setting. With only 4 rooms to accommodate women and their babies, if there are more than four women giving birth during any particular time period, there will need to be a policy developed for the amount of time one can spend in these special rooms. They will still go to a community hospital to give birth. There will be a medical unit in the women’s facility, it has its own chapel and recreation yard.

**Visiting** will consist of contact visits for those inmates who are at a privilege level for contact visits, accommodations for barrier visits, and accommodations for video visits for individuals who either need that level of visitation for security reasons or who have family members unable to travel to the prison who would choose video visitation as an option. There will be one central visiting building for the entire facility.

**Specialized Programming** has a unit of its own. One building will house Conquest (substance abuse treatment programming) and Resolve (sex offender treatment programming). We were assured the housing units will be separated and they each have recreation yards. This building will provide housing, therapy program rooms, and a chapel.

We were encouraged in speaking with Director Turley and Correctional Administrator Bryan Taylor regarding programs in the new prison. It is reassuring to know things are moving forward. UPAN believes we need to continue to communicate and once it is time to put the new prison in operation, there needs to be funding to make sure all programs will be fully staffed and the prison can be used to its maximum usefulness for the benefit and rehabilitation of all those in state custody who are housed there.

***“Outcome is not in your control. What’s in your control is your effort and your intentions.”***  
***– Amit Sood***

## **Fresh Start Ventures Receives Mentor Family Accessory Dwelling Units Award** **Announcement from FreshStartVentures.org**

*Based in Utah County, Fresh Start Ventures is a community of support to help ex-offenders successfully reintegrate into society by addressing core needs to reduce recidivism.*

**Mentor Family Tiny Home Program.** Fresh Start Ventures provides housing and mentors to those who are struggling and coming out of incarceration. Our Mentor Family Tiny Home Program allows residents to live in a tiny home on foundations (also known as

Accessory Dwelling Unit or ADU) provided by Fresh Start Ventures, in a mentor family’s backyard. Residents live in the ADU for three to five years. At the end of three to five years participant is then gifted 80% of rents paid toward the purchase of a home. This is a

pathway to home ownership for many. We also believe in helping people make healthy connections through mentor families, one on one mentors, and peer mentors. The mentor family keeps the ADU as a thank you gift and can re-elect to continue the program or use it as supplemental income.

**Environmentally Friendly.** In June of this year, Fresh Start Ventures was selected to be the recipient of an architectural designed ADU that is a net positive energy source. This design will be completed and installed in a mentor family's back yard in Utah County by the fall of 2020. This structure will be the first of its kind in the State of Utah that will have the highest level of the Certified Living Building Challenge (LBC) Design. This is a unique type of LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The existence of this structure will actually offer a net positive energy source. This is a unique partnership on an international level. Participants will attend an education course

offered by Fresh Start Ventures on how to maintain a home of this type.

In addition to the LBC design, this home will incorporate biophilic design. Biophilic design is incorporating living spaces with that of the natural terrain and environment. Biophilic design is an environmentally conscious design allowing residents to make further connections as a part of their healing process.

**Become a Mentor Family – or learn how to add income to your property.** If you are interested in becoming a mentor family and having an ADU on your property, please contact us. If you are NOT interested in being a mentor family but would still like an ADU, please contact us. We offer seminars on how to add additional income to your property and more information on how we will build these units for you. Our prices are below industry standards, and installation time is above any other. We help employ others through sober work crews. For more info: [linda@freshstartventures.org](mailto:linda@freshstartventures.org)

***“Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over.” —Guy Finley***

### **PrisonEd Foundation Provides Free Education to Utah Prisoners**

<https://www.prisonedfoundation.org/>

*UPAN regularly receives letters from inmates asking for lists of correspondence courses available to Utah inmates. While we do not have such a list (and would love to have some volunteers research and compile such a list), we do recommend PrisonEd for any incarcerated individuals who are interested in improving themselves through education. PrisonEd was founded by Donald L Wright, PhD, is its president and author of Freedom Behind Bars. PrisonEd is free to inmates but it also does not provide college credit. What it does is provide a wealth of information and educational opportunities to challenge minds and encourage independent and critical thinking. Therefore, we thought it is time to again share information about PrisonEd since it has been at least a couple of years since we have written about it. The following information is taken completely from the PrisonEd website.*

**PrisonEd's Philosophy.** PrisonEd does not believe recidivism occurs because of the intrinsic depravity of inmates, but rather because they do not have the tools to help them stay out of prison. We do not believe people are disposable, but rather they are redeemable.

95% of prison inmates will someday return to society. Rather than warehousing them while in prison, we believe the objective of prison must be rehabilitation, which includes educational classes and opportunities for growth and change. That way, when released, they will be successful citizens and good neighbors. We think societal needs and our responsibility to humanity prompt us to assist in the efforts of prison rehabilitation to prevent further recidivism.

PrisonEd believes prison education is the answer to incarceration and recidivism. PrisonEd's mission is to provide education opportunities to the 6,700+ inmates housed in Utah prisons and jails. This education gives new hope to prisoners, in addition to tools to help them break old patterns and end the cycle of recidivism. We hope you'll take part in our vision.

**How does it work?** PrisonEd provides students with free textbooks and assignment packets to complete for each course. The student completes the assignments in specified intervals before sending it back to PrisonEd. From there, students are paired with a tutor who gives feedback and assists them in successfully completing each course, all through mail correspondence. Once they have finished the work, the students will receive a course completion certificate. Inmates who want to be involved in PrisonEd must take the class Freedom Behind Bars first. After completing that class, students can then select courses they want to take from the list of offered courses.

**Is there a fee to participate in PrisonEd?** There is no enrollment charge to our students. Books, materials, and tutoring services are all free of charge as well. The only expense that inmates are expected to pay is the cost of postage to mail assignments to PrisonEd.

**How does PrisonEd receive funding?** PrisonEd operates on a volunteer basis. PrisonEd does not receive funding from state or federal governments. It asks for, and sincerely appreciates donations.

**Do students receive credit for courses?** No college credit is awarded. However, PrisonEd does provide a certificate of completion for students who successfully finish a course. Students can use their certificate of course completion demonstrating they spent their time productively and have improved not only in their skills, whether academic or professional, but also in their confidence to succeed upon release from prison. The course completion certificate also provides the parole board with evidence that the prisoner has made efforts to improve their lives and has prepared for jobs and college success upon release.

**What kind of course help does PrisonEd provide?**

Most courses have qualified tutors to provide help and feedback along the way. Some of our courses are independent study courses with a book and course assignments. Refer to PrisonEd course list for more.

**How do prisoners communicate with PrisonEd?**

Communication between PrisonEd and its students takes place via U.S. Mail. The address is PrisonEd Foundation P.O. Box 382 Spanish Fork, UT 84660. Volunteers receive students' assignments from PrisonEd and they send the reviewed assignments back to the PrisonEd address. PrisonEd then forwards the assignments back to students in their respective locations. This means that all communication goes through PrisonEd.

**What if a student wants to study subjects not listed in the PrisonEd course list?** We do offer an indepen-

dent study course which allows students to select their own topic of study. This type of course is available only for students who have already completed other courses with PrisonEd.

Send us any questions you have about independent study through mail. Students should identify interests, background in the area, and related goals when inquiring. Our course list is always growing and your interest could help spur new courses beyond the ones we are currently working on.

**Can books be shared?** Yes, we encourage the sharing of books according to each facility's regulations. If a facility allows for a mini-library for PrisonEd books to be set up, we encourage students to donate used books for that purpose.

**Is PrisonEd available in the Central Utah Correctional Facility?** PrisonEd does not provide services to inmates in the Central Utah Correctional Facility, located in Gunnison, Utah. The CUCF policy is that prisoner education be provided by and through UPREP, another prison education program offering introductory college courses and career-focused courses to inmates.

PrisonEd encourages Gunnison inmates to contact UPREP if they want access to prisoner education. Sometimes inmates are moved to Draper or jails after being in CUCF. If so, students can seek involvement with PrisonEd.

***“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela***

**UPAN Writing Exercise and Christmas Card Design Contest Updates** – The mailing of Writing Exercise certificates is delayed, enclosures are being added (I think you'll like). Xmas Card Contest closed on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Evaluations now in progress. Ed.

**A Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh**

Why did the chicken leave the broken playground equipment? To get to the other slide.  
Worrying works: 90% of the things I worry about never happen.  
I don't mind coming to work, it's the 8-hour wait to go home that I don't like.

Winter's here with cold temperatures. Cold ain't cool. During winter, I'll close with "smooth" or "warm." That's cool. Ed.

**Utah Prisoner Advocate Network**

President: Shauna Denos  
Past-President & Treasurer: Molly Prince  
Director of Communications: Shane Severson  
Inmate Newsletter Volunteer Coord: Deon Corkins  
Director of Sex Offender Policy Issues: Faye Jenkins  
Director of Women's Issues: Britnee Webb  
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(Note: go there to view recent UPAN meetings)

***“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***