



UPAN Newsletter Volume 7 Number 2 | FEBRUARY 2020

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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Day of Empathy Help Needed – Valentines Month Special Help Your Loved One – Pending Legislation – IPP Audit

MEXT UPAN MEETING: Monday, MARCH 9th, 2020 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, SLC
Topic: Mark Hugentobler, former Principal of Central Utah Academy, presenting.

DAY OF EMPATHY: Wednesday, March 25th 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: State Capitol, East side of the Senate Building, Aspen Room

APRIL UPAN MEETING: Monday, April 13th, 2020 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, SLC
Topic: Recap of legislation related to prison and CJ in Utah. And family meeting.

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.***

Day of Empathy Coming March 25th. Speakers & Volunteers Needed

by Molly Prince

Britnee Webb is once again organizing and chairing the #Day of Empathy. It will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 in the Aspen Room of the Senate Building on the East side of the Capitol campus from 6 to 8 p.m. This year’s national topic is People. Power. Policy.

Volunteers needed: Our audio/visual communications director Shane Severson needs help hauling the equipment from the parking lot to the Aspen room and help to set up and take down and carry back out at the end. You may volunteer for the beginning or end or both. We

will be starting set up at 4 p.m. If you are willing to help take down then plan to be there until 8:30 to 9 p.m.

We need volunteers to simply help us make sure the room is set up efficiently and comfortably with the chair spacing, the refreshments table and information tables. The times we will need your help for setting up the room are between 4 and 5 p.m.

We need volunteers willing to stay by the east doors of the Senate building for periods of time after the building automatically locks to let people in and out for our event. The more that volunteer the less time you spend away from the event. The total times needed to be covered for

this are 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please email UPAN **at the email address below** to volunteer and state specifically what you are volunteering for and share your phone for call / text purposes. We will forward your information to Shane or Britnee to further coordinate with you.

Speakers invited: If you wish to speak at this event on the stated topic of People, Power, Policy. (PEOPLE have the POWER to change POLICY), please contact Britnee Webb via UPAN at our email address below and let her know the focus of your talk and she can let you know the allotted time. Generally, it's about 5 minutes, depending upon the number of speakers. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

utahprisoneradvocatenetwork@gmail.com



Paul Hansen has passed away, but his legacy lives on through his gift to UPAN by Michael McAinsh

Paul Hansen spent ten years in prison. He never fully understood why he was there. He expired his sentence December 22, 2015 – just a little over four years ago. A prison guard drove him to the Draper TRAX station and left him there. In

the months before his release, the prison did nothing to prepare the 70-year-old man for life on the outside. It was winter, but he was left on the station platform in only his sweatshirt and sweatpants as clothing; no one in the prison system even gave him a coat.

Once he reached the Old Greektown station, a couple of homeless men took Paul under their wing, and got him clothing appropriate for cold weather, including a winter coat. These men encouraged Paul to look into his Social Security retirement benefits. He had no idea that he was entitled to those benefits after ten years in prison! When he found out how much money he had coming at 70 years of age, the possibility of a life devoid of hardship replaced Paul's fear of the future. He rented a room at the Rio Grande Hotel and bought a gently-used red Ford pick-up truck with a matching camper shell I teasingly called "Paul's Red Chariot."

Ostensibly, Paul was sent to prison for a sex offense. Paul didn't like to talk about this, but I've heard the story

from others in the prison system; prosecutors over-charge an arrestee, and when their case begins to crumble for lack of evidence, a deal is struck. "Plead guilty to two 3rd degree felonies, and we'll drop all the other charges, and you'll go home on time served." The only problem is that the judges almost never go along with this deal; the charges are stacked and the convicted are sent to prison.

Paul never got the chance to do SOTP, and he doesn't know why he wasn't flagged for the program. I inferred from our conversations that, when asked if he were guilty of the crimes that sent him to prison, Paul answered truthfully that he was not. Paul was a simple soul and he didn't understand the nuances in questions of this nature. He did most of his 10 years at the Sanpete County Jail.

Two things stood out in Paul's mind in his brief time of freedom after prison—the care that he received from the doctors and nurses at the Fourth Street Clinic, and the affirmation that he received, after giving a speech at UPAN's second "Meet Your Legislators" event at the public library about his days of freedom immediately after his stint in prison. As he lay dying, Paul asked me to be the executor of his will. He divided up his sizable cash reserves into thirds, and gave one-third to his church, a third to the Fourth Street Clinic, and the final third to UPAN. It is with gratitude that UPAN accepts this donation, and the money that we have received will go toward furthering our commitment to a future where justice, tinged with compassion, is the norm in Corrections.

"Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you." Shannon Alder

"So many people from your past know a version of you that does not exist anymore." Journey2Motivate

Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue. Dilbert

Thriving or Surviving – Building a Relationship With Your Inmate

adapted from January 31 PrisonConnect blog

February is the month with Valentine's Day. UPAN families know how challenging it can be to keep the relationship on a positive note and keep growing. Here is a realistic and useful article on how to stay connected and adjust to the changing type of relationship we have with our incarcerated loved ones.

Staying connected to an inmate is important for many reasons. Whether you maintain the connection through written letters, emails, or phone calls, this communication keeps your incarcerated loved one from feeling disconnected from the outside world. It helps for them to have someone on the "outside" to keep the feeling of isolation as low as possible. It can help to brighten their spirits and keep them out of trouble.

Growing Through It. For someone whose inmate is their spouse or significant other, it can feel like the relationship instantly goes into "survival" mode – just trying to make it from one day to the next. It may seem like the relationship has been put on hold, only to be resumed when the incarceration period is over. But with a little creativity and effort, it doesn't have to be this way. You can choose to go through it, or GROW through it – to survive or THRIVE.

You can make the most of your phone calls and letters by strengthening your connection to your loved one and growing in the relationship!

Finding the Best Method for You and Your Inmate

In any relationship, the best way to bond and grow closer is to find common ground – find things that you're both interested in and make them a topic of conversation. Just this alone can help steer at least a part of every phone conversation away from the negativity of the situation. To take this a step further, you can do a little research and find a book that your inmate would really enjoy reading (if the facility will allow books to be sent in). Offer to get two copies: one to be sent to the inmate, and one for you to keep. Determine the pace of reading that works for both of you and make one conversation or letter each week only about what you've read. Or perhaps apply the same method to an inexpensive magazine subscription for each of you – something that really engages your loved one.

Another option: find a relationship book that's written for both partners to read and answer questions about themselves, their partner, and the relationship. Maybe read a chapter a week, answer the questions honestly, and then discuss the answers during a phone call, a letter, or during an in-person visit on visitation day. If you both share a similar spiritual view, the book could even be written from a religious perspective, incorporating that into strengthening the relationship.

"If someone is facing a difficult time, one of the kindest things you can do for him or her is to say, 'I'm going to love you through this.' — Molly Friedenfeld

"Loving someone you don't see every day is not a bad thing. It is just proof that love is not in the sight but in the heart."

Be Creative! There are many ways to create a stronger connection with your incarcerated loved one. Of course, it is vital to keep up the connection with them. And as their spouse or significant other, you probably know them better than many others in their life. Take some time to think about what they're interested in. Think outside of the current situation and remember the things that they enjoy reading or learning about. Use your creativity to find ways to make this a part of the connection you have with them. It will help to provide something positive for them to do with their time, act as fuel for conversation between the two of you, and keep the relationship from becoming stagnant. Not only will this help your inmate, but it will help you as well – now, and when your incarcerated loved one returns!

Providing Perspective. Another way to strengthen and help one another during such a difficult time is to be a sounding board for one another. Your inmate is encountering situations you can't imagine. On the other hand, you are going through your own unique set of challenges. However, the fact that you are not together, experiencing the same problems, can allow you to be of benefit to each other! You each can offer a different perspective on the current problem or issue, because you aren't being affected by the drama it has created. You are each able to consider the situation without the emotions it has evoked in the partner it is happening to. Learn to take the other person's perspective into consideration. Working together to face individual challenges can create a greater sense of partnership, making your bond with your loved one even stronger!

Summary: Ways to Start Thriving and Stop Surviving

Think of topics to discuss that your loved one is interested in, not related to the incarceration.

- Get two copies of a book and read it at the same pace, generating positive conversation.
- Get two magazine subscriptions and read the articles separately, generating lots of interesting conversation.
- Choose a relationship book with questions that you can complete separately and discuss to bring you closer.
- Select a relationship book with a spiritual element if this appeals to you and your loved one.
- Be creative and find the way that works best for you and your inmate.
- Offer your perspective or ask for their perspective during times of trouble to work as partners.

Ways to Help Your Loved One be Successful after Prison

by Molly Prince, LCSW

Re-entry is hard and it is incredibly challenging for anyone who has to change their entire lifestyle after prison from what it was prior to prison, or even in prison. Following the various parole stipulations can be challenging on its own. Recovering alcoholics or addicts are often learning how to be responsible adults for the first time in their lives while on parole. If they have been gone for several years, the changes in society can be intimidating and make them feel awkward and not capable of adjusting. In addition, people with addictions not only adjust to life on the outside but must work every day to fight whatever their addiction is. Substance use / abuse can be a contributing factor to reoffending.

One of the biggest predictors of success is to have a solid support system. Recidivism rates are high and if you can be connected to your loved one throughout their incarceration you will learn what they are doing to change. If you are staying connected with your incarcerated loved one, then you will be involved in that change process and learn what role you have in being a support to them so they do not relapse into old addictions or behaviors once released. Staying connected helps you know what they are going through but also it shows your inmate that there is someone who cares and who has not given up on them. They need to know they have support and things to look forward to when they return to the community. While this concept is simple, it is not easy and can be complicated. If you remain strong, it will help your loved one to be strong.

Deciding to stay clean and sober begins in prison

There is plenty of access to illegal and prescription drugs in prison. For many addicts, drugs are a way to cope with their problems and their lives on the outside. So when they get to prison it is no surprise that they will use to forget about their surroundings and mentally escape the often unbearable conditions they find themselves in while incarcerated. There are substance abuse treatment programs in Utah prisons, but these substance abuse classes and programs may not be available until the person has been in prison for months or years. Also, the substance abuse treatment programs offered in correctional facilities can be a one size fits all paramilitary type of structured program. Participants in these programs do not always receive the individualized therapy necessary to work through issues from their personal histories that have contributed to their addictions. To change, human beings need to feel safe to try something new and different and then stick with it. Prison is not always the safe place to do that. But until Utah decides to increase funding for residential treatment centers, prison is where many will begin their journey of recovery.

Prison does not provide an environment for inmates to make a lot of decisions for themselves about how their days will go, where they will work, when they will eat,

recreate, shower, or participate in classes or programs. There is a constant threat of violence and more and more frequently, actual violence occurring. There is mental and emotional abuse by other inmates and officers. This creates incredible stress for everyone in prison – inmates and staff alike. It's not an environment where discussing past trauma, that has perhaps led to various addictions and drug use, feels safe.

If inmates decide to change their lifestyle or to get clean and sober in prison and make a decision that they want to remain that way upon release, it takes a lot of work on their part as well as support and resources to maintain their recovery once they parole. You, as their friends and family, can contribute to that success.

Releasing to the community. It is common knowledge that there are four very important, basic needs that contribute to the formerly incarcerated person's success. Without any one of these four things, stress can develop causing a relapse to prior, maladaptive coping behaviors including alcohol or drug use. This increases the chance of committing another crime. These four things are 1) employment, 2) safe place to live, 3) family and friend support, 4) counseling and peer group support.

These four things are relatively easy for those of us who have not been separated from society for months or years to achieve. Your loved one, however, is not used to navigating life in the community. They also carry the label of being a felon. Then, depending on the type of felony they committed, there are more layers to those labels that separate them from resources they need.

It is also important to realize that they have to check in with their parole officer on a regular basis and no excuses are accepted for missing a check-in date. While many parole agents do their best to work with the parolee to schedule appointments around work schedules, that is not always possible and the parolee needs to be willing to talk to their boss about taking time off work to check in with their PO. It helps if you help your loved one figure out how to balance this versus contributing to their frustration with the system by criticizing the PO or the parole stipulations. If you can help the ex-felon focus on solutions rather than staying stuck in the problem, you will help them learn how to cope and balance their life with less stress.

What you can do to provide supportive help

Help your loved one network and arrange job interviews with anyone you know who may be hiring. There are companies in Utah willing to hire former inmates. There are tax breaks companies can receive for hiring felons. Provide a place to live even if it's only temporary. A bedroom of their own is perfect. If they cannot live with you, then help them secure a room in a rooming house or a sober living home. They can move to a more

desirable residence once they have saved enough money through employment and figured out how to budget their money to afford it.

Provide financial help, even if it's a loan. Find things he/she can do to help around the house and pay them until they find their own job. This provides them with a bit of spending money but also helps them feel good about themselves so they are not feeling guilty for accepting the help. Finding meaning in life is a huge predictor of sobriety and success and feeling useful and productive contributes to that.

Offer rides to job interviews, therapy, peer or support group meetings. Help the former felon to not have the additional stress about how they will get to where they need to go. You can also help them buy a bus pass and show them how to use the bus route apps on a smart phone or pick up paper bus schedules they need. Help the person connect with family and friends who can also support him. You'll need support too. Take care of yourself and have a good support group for yourself to process the challenges of release that you are experiencing with your loved one. Sometimes this planning needs to happen long before release day. In some cases, Adult Probation & Parole will have a list

of resources that will be useful for your releasing loved one. Utah Dept. of Corrections has a Release Day Fair in Draper every Tuesday (release day) that offers a variety of resource materials to releasing individuals. It is important your inmate attends this event on release day and applies for everything they may need - from Vocational Rehabilitation services to Medicaid to gathering resource lists for the area they are paroling to.

Starting over is hard, but it's possible with a plan, perseverance and support. To make this happen it is important to connect with your loved one while they are in prison to start making a plan for when they are released. Your support and encouragement can help their ability to resist urges and temptations both inside the facility as well as in the community.

There are thousands of success stories of individuals who have used their prison journeys to begin their change process and have continued it successfully once released. The key is having the unconditional love and healthy support from family and friends who can balance being there for them and giving them the space they need to move forward and grow. Your love and support will make all the difference in the world if they have made the decision to remain healthy, clean, and sober.

H.B. 344 Sex Offender Restrictions Amendment Will Add Additional Restrictions For All Sex Offender Registrants With Crimes Against Minors

Since 2007, Utah has had a Protected Area law that applies to those who have been convicted of a sex offense are required to register under Title 77 Chapter 41, Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry. The existing law restricts all registrants with crimes against minors, whether on probation, parole, or finished with their sentence, from going to day cares, schools, public swimming pools/waterparks, public parks, playgrounds or other places children recreate.

Rep. Val K. Potter, R-North Logan, has introduced a bill (House Bill 344) which would add a provision that limits individuals with offenses against minors who are required to register from acting as a coach or trainer for children.

The original bill had a variety of additional restrictions which included "a sex offender may not instruct, supervise, or care for a minor in a professional capacity; or accept a minor into the sex offender's home." This last one was of serious concern because it would restrict registered offenders with crimes against anyone under 18 from interacting with their own family members or living in their home with their own children regardless of their offense.

UPAN's Director of Sex Offense Issues Faye Jenkins and Wendy Parmley met with Rep. Potter, Rep. Dunnigan, Rep. Daw, and Rep. Gibson on Feb 19th and the bill is now being amended to only add the coaching

restrictions with the understanding that Rep. Potter's intent is not to limit parents from being around their own children or participating with their own children's sporting events or a neighborhood gathering where the kids are playing a ballgame or at family reunions (as examples). He does not want this to negatively impact registrants or families.

UPAN's position on any additional restrictions to the sex offender registration laws should include a requirement that all sex offenders in Utah be classified according to risk to re-offend through clinical assessments done by qualified licensed therapists who are Approved Providers of Sex Offender Treatment in Utah. A fiscal note should be attached to pay for these assessments so the financial burden of assessment does not fall on the offender, who already pays a yearly fee of \$100 to be on the registry.

There is already a debate going on that is erroneously classifying every sex offender as a "pedophile." Not every individual who offended sexually is a pedophile. The clinical definition of a pedophile is a person whose primary sexual attraction is to pre-pubescent children. Utah has many, many individuals with a past sex offense who are not pedophiles. All legislation needs to be very carefully considered for the greater good of all of society. We'll keep you posted. To read the bill go to: <https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/hbillint/HB0344.pdf>

A Short List of Proposed Utah Bills Related to Criminal Justice this Legislative Session

H.B. 38 Substance Use & Health Care Amendments sponsored by Rep. Brad Daw passed the House on January 31. It is in the process in the Utah Senate. This bill directs the Department of Health to apply for a Federal waiver under the state Medicaid plan to offer a program to provide Medicaid coverage to certain inmates during the 30 days before release from a correctional facility; creates a refundable tax credit for certain practitioners who provide substance use disorder treatment or mental health therapy in a correctional facility or the Utah State Hospital; creates a substance use and mental health telehealth pilot program to be conducted in one or more county jails. Approximately 3,100 recipients would pay Medicaid co-pays and other related costs beginning in FY 2021 in exchange for expanded services. Approximately 200 taxpayers could be eligible for a \$10,000 refundable credit for aggregate savings of \$2.0 million. County governments may see savings of \$5 million in FY 2021 and \$11 million ongoing beginning in FY 2022 for newly eligible inmates for Medicaid to cover more medical costs. Enactment of this legislation may increase federal funding to Utah for it by \$7.7 million in FY 2021, \$15.6 million in FY 2022, and \$16.0 million ongoing beginning in FY 2023. <https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/HB0038.html>

Comments on HB 38: With the implementation of Targeted Adult Medicaid two years ago, the ability for people paroling from a correctional facility to access up to 12 months of Medicaid, we have seen improvement of ability for people with chronic medical problems, mental illness or substance abuse disorders to succeed in the community. Currently, Utah State Prison no longer provides 30 days of medications to people with medical or mental health conditions. It often takes two weeks or more for former offenders to have their application for TAM approved and receive their card so treatment and medical care providers will accept them as patients. This presents a serious problem for those who need continuity of care in order to be successful in life and on parole. This bill will allow for the vitally necessary continuation of care between jail or prison and the community.

H.B. 110 Inmate Expenses Amendments – requires correctional facilities to disclose potential policies or practices regarding inmate commissary accounts. This is sponsored by Rep. Kyle Anderson (R) District 7 of North Ogden. The drafting attorney is Chelsea Grant. They can be reached at Utah House of Representatives

350 North State, Suite 350 PO Box 145030 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 The current text as of January 6, 2020 states: "Commissary account" means an account from which an inmate may withdraw money, deposited by the inmate or another individual, to purchase discretionary items for sale by a correctional facility. "Commissary purchase" means a transaction initiated by an inmate by which the inmate obtains an item or items offered for sale by the correctional facility in exchange for money withdrawn from the inmate's commissary account. "Correctional facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 34 77-16b-102. "Inmate" means an individual in the custody of a correctional facility for criminal charges or a criminal conviction. A correctional facility that employs a policy or practice by which the correctional facility withdraws money from an inmate's commissary account, for any purpose other than a commissary purchase, must disclose that policy or practice to the inmate or any other individual seeking to make a deposit of money into the inmate's commissary account before the correctional facility may accept and deposit the money into the inmate's commissary account. This bill may be found and tracked at <https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/HB0110.html>

Comments on HB 110: UPAN has always believed disclosure and transparency on the part of correctional facilities is vital. On the surface this appears to be a reasonable bill that requires disclosure by the correctional facility to depositors and inmates about what they will take out of the account (such as medical fees, child support, fines, etc.). It is possible this process could delay the ability for families to deposit funds. The current version of the bill shows that there is a fiscal note of \$4000 and it states, "Enactment of this bill could cost the Department of Corrections \$4,000 one-time in FY 2021 from the General Fund to notify individuals who deposit funds into a commissary account about certain policies and practices." UPAN families believe the bill should include a requirement that the families and inmates should NOT be financially responsible for the cost of notification. The inmate and family should NOT have an increased deposit fee added to the already high deposit fees to reimburse Corrections for this legislative requirement. For comments or input on this bill, contact Rep. Anderson, let your Representative and Senator know this is a reasonable bill and should be supported. It passed out of committee on Friday February 7th so should move forward through the House and then the Senate.

The following proposed bills may be of interest. None have passed yet:

H.B. 115 Dangerous Weapon Custodian Liability – provides for circumstances under which a firearm custodian can be liable for damage caused by another individual's use of the firearm custodian's firearm. <https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/HB0115.html>

H.B. 117 Controlled Substance Database Amendments – Expands access of law enforcement's access to Controlled Substance Database. <https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/HB0117.html>

H.B. 104 911 Responsibilities in an Emergency – The Good Samaritan Law –Makes it illegal if you see a crime and don't call 911.
<https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/HB0104.html>

S.B. 32 Parole Revocation Amendments sponsored by Senator Karen Mayne. Adds and removes certain crimes from the list of offenses that qualify certain inmates to be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

This is specifically for people who are in the custody of Utah DOC at the time of the new offense. "Serving a sentence" means a prisoner is sentenced and committed to DOC custody, the sentence has not been terminated or voided, and the prisoner: (a) has not been paroled; or (b) is in custody after arrest for a parole violation.

"The most memorable people in life will be the friends who loved you when you weren't very lovable." Aidan Chambers

State Auditor Released Audit of UDC Inmate Placement Program (IPP) on January 23, 2020

On January 23, 2020 the Office of the State Auditor released a Performance Audit of the Utah Department of Corrections Inmate Placement Program. The Inmate Placement Program (IPP) houses State Inmates at County Jails on contracts with the counties. Nineteen counties contract with UDC to house state inmates under the supervision of IPP. Individual county contracts range from 10 to 396 beds and IPP oversees over 20% of total inmates in State custody.

Primary Focus of Audit Limited to Two Jails.

The audit focused solely on issues resulting from problems in two county jails the state contracted with: Daggett County Jail and Beaver County Jail. The issues raised related to the multiple abuses of state inmates at Daggett County Jail by officers which occurred between May 2015 and February 2017 and resulted in the February 2017 UDC termination of its Daggett contract with the 80-bed jail and removing all state inmates. Consequently, the jail closed and the officers involved in the abuse and the cover up prosecuted.

The other focus had to do with two successful escapes and one attempted unsuccessful escape from Beaver County Jail during an 11-year period between 2007 and 2018. The finding in this case was, had UDC learned and had the jail sufficiently increased security after the first escape, the other two incidents would not likely have occurred.

The audit resulted in six major findings.

1. UDC did not adequately learn from the inappropriate activities that occurred at the Daggett County Jail. Utah's Law Enforcement Bureau (LEB) conducted an investigation of the Daggett County Jail and found over 20 inappropriate activities that occurred

<https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/SB0032.html>

S.B. 34 Sex Offender Registry Amendments sponsored by Senator Todd Weiler. Requires the DOC to remove an individual from the Sex and Kidnap Offender Registry if the individual is on the registry for an offense that's no longer a registerable offense. (This was detailed in Jan. 2020 UPAN newsletter by Faye Jenkins)
<https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/SB0034.html>

Inmate Telephone Call Bill has not been introduced as of the writing of this article. Rep. Cheryl Acton and Sen. Derek Kitchen have each said they will be sponsoring bills to allow free phone calls for inmates in Utah's jails and prisons. While UPAN readers are excited to learn more, no bills about this topic have been introduced as of February 9, 2020.

over the 1½ year period that involved actions of both jail staff and state inmates. These include:

- a) abuse of state inmates by jail staff including assaulting, tasing, threatening, hazing, and choking inmates; wrestling and boxing with inmates and forcing inmates to be bitten by dogs.
- b) Jail staff failing responsibilities by watching TV, sleeping, and playing video games on duty as well as forging and creating false documents.
- c) Facility concerns which allowed fire alarms and security cameras to remain inoperable for long periods of time.
- d) Jail staff and inmates exchanging favors for writing letters to probation and parole board, arranging and paying for a rental car for a deputy, cleaning, working on and refinishing staff's personal cars and furniture.

According to the Audit report, the LEB only minimally briefed IPP management on some of the inappropriate activities so that left IPP administrators unaware of some of the activities occurring in Daggett County Jail. While IPP implemented some measures to prevent falsification of logs, it did not implement additional controls to prevent inmate abuse or inappropriate relationships between staff and inmates. It further found that UDC management failed to provide the report of the Daggett County Jail investigation to IPP, which left them unaware of the majority of issues that occurred. When the IPP director requested the full report from the LEB so that he could become aware and check other jails for similar problems, the LEB denied the request.

2. UDC's monitoring of contract jails is inadequate. Because the LEB did not adequately share the findings of its 2017 report with IPP, it was "unable to ensure the contract housing state inmates is safe, secure and has sound operational practices." The response that IPP did

focus on was security operations, meaning enhanced monitoring which the audit found “is insufficient to detect and prevent many of the inappropriate issues” that occurred in Daggett County Jail. The audit also found that IPP personnel lack the skills to adequately assess security risks. The report states, “UDC’s deficiency in this area are the two successful and one attempted but unsuccessful inmate escapes that occurred at the same contract jail.” This jail was Beaver County Jail.

The audit recommends that direct observation should be supplemented with additional monitoring methods which means they need to optimize utilization of video reviews.

The findings state, “IPP conducts inadequate interviews of state inmates and jail staff.” UDC policy states that monitors may use interviews with jail staff and inmates to verify operational practices. The audit found that there are “relatively few interviews” and with those, they “do not document who was interviewed nor what was discussed.” It was also noted that contract monitors from IPP conducted interviews in public areas such as hallways, cellblocks, cells and other places where other

inmates and staff could overhear the conversations. IPP staff told the auditors that “interviews have never generated information worth documenting.” UPAN finds this hard to believe. This audit found that despite it being more than 2½ years since the investigation of Daggett County Jail abuses, UDC has “not improved its interviewing practices with regards to monitoring.”

The National Institute of Corrections recommends that interviews with inmates and staff be conducted in privacy and comfort so that people are more likely to be forthcoming with information. It is also important to interview a wide variety of staff and inmates and document the interviews and comments made. UDC is told in the audit to “ensure that monitors know how to properly conduct and document interviews,” and that UDC should be “performing meaningful interviews.”

3. IPP does not adequately track and resolve concerns identified at contract jails. The audit found that, “Although IPP observes and documents some security and operational issues occurring at contract jails, IPP has failed to provide reasonable assurance that the issues have been resolved. IPP lacks communication and coordination between IPP staff involved with monitoring the contract jails.” It further states that UDC management has failed to ensure that reports on serious deficiencies in jail security and operations are shared with IPP. UDC is encouraged by auditors to establish a process for tracking, following up on, communicating and resolving security and operational issues identified at these jails. It further recommends that UDC impellent procedures to ensure effective communication and coordination within IPP as well as with different UDC divisions. Contract monitors and compliance evaluators need to have all the necessary information and ensure contract jails have

resolved the deficiencies before issuing a full-compliance rating.

4. UDC operated without jail standards. The report found that “after experiencing significant problems, UDC started requiring contract jails to comply with jail standards. However as of January 2019, UDC stopped inspecting jails to check for compliance with jail standards.” UDC should ensure contract jails are provided with an effective set of standards. NIC states that proper jail standards are necessary to limit risks of violence, medical issues, inadequate services, contraband, security failures and inadequate emergency responses. NIC also recommends using jail standards to “Maintain a balance between restricting individual liberties and operating a safe and secure jail,” and “bring consistency and fairness to the governmental function of locking people up.” UDC discontinued their contract with a company that offered Minimum Jail Standards on December 31, 2018. As of July 2019 it contracted with a new company but as of this audit date UDC was still in the process of implementing the new standards, so effectively not complying with any jail standards for the county jails contracted with the IPP program.

5. UDC cannot adequately judge how effective IPP is at accomplishing its mission. The audit finds that IPP lacks a mission goal and strategic priorities. It lacks performance measures, goals, and objectives. It states “IPP and its DPO (Division of Prison Operations) supervision failed to articulate any performance measures and acknowledged that IPP does not have performance goals. One manager told the auditors that “it is hard to answer the question about goals because the goals keep changing.” The audit recommends that IPP establish consistent goals, objectives and performance measures and collect and use necessary data to accurately measure the performance of the program as a whole.

6. UDC Internal Audit Bureau does not prioritize IPP’s significant risks. Utah Dept. of Corrections has its own Internal Audit Bureau (IAB) which does not prioritize IPP’s most significant risks for review. IAB has failed in its responsibility to conduct internal audits of IPP. Since 2008 IAB has only conducted two audits of IPP. It provided both audits to UDC in 2016. One audit related to medical co-payments and the other related to the caloric content of the lunches provided to the work crews. The Legislative auditors have concerns that the significant events that have occurred in IPP over the past decade including inmate escapes, inmate abuse, and inappropriate relationships between staff and inmates in county jails, have not triggered an audit or other IPP review except UDC’s IAB. It gives the appearance that IAB has skewed priorities.

IPP has a budget of over \$31 million to house over 20% of state inmates on contracts with county jails. The auditors have a concern that IAB has been deficient in its duties pertaining to IPP. The audit recommends that

the UDC conduct risk-based audits of IPP and evaluate IPP's operational activities and deficiencies and identify factors that could improve the program's performance.

State Auditor John Dougall commented, "Significant issues with UDC's Inmate Placement Program had previously been identified over the past couple of decades. Unfortunately, UDC did not adequately learn from these issues and improve its oversight of IPP and IPP did not adequately improve monitoring contracted

facilities. It is essential for UDC to properly assess IPP's performance and prioritize needed improvements with contract jail monitoring."

The full report is on the auditor.utah.gov website at: <https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0151K000003dkZDQAY> Director Haddon's response is included in a long letter in Appendix C. He said he appreciates the auditors efforts and their work will be a guideline for improved monitoring of IPP.

February 2020 UPAN Meeting – Re-Entry Tablet Program

by Molly Prince

The Feb. 10th UPAN meeting had over 30 attendees. Our guest speakers were from the Utah Dept of Corrections Adult Probation & Parole Release & Re-Entry Team. Speakers included Eric Barker, Asst. Regional Administrator of the Release & Re-Entry Unit; Katie Bennett, Supervisor over the AP&P R&RE Team; Lauren Guido with the R&RE Tablet Program Coordinator; Alicen Kettenring, Institutional Programming Caseworker with R&RE; and Scott Stevens, Senior Agent, AP&P Release and Re-Entry Unit.

Despite the fact the Release & Re-Entry team did this presentation at the UDC December FOCUS meeting, it had been scheduled for six months. With a different, larger audience at UPAN than FOCUS meetings, we are grateful the Team was willing to repeat this info to reach more families and community stakeholders.

Tablet Program use limited to USP, CUCF and AP&P

Lauren Guido has been with the Tablet Program since its inception and implementation in October 2017. She explained the Tablet Program's evolution in the Prison. There are currently 390 tablets used in this program. It began in the D Block of Wasatch and has expanded to Lone Peak in Draper. It is now going to begin in one of the housing units in the Women's Timpanogos in Draper and will be introduced in Ironwood in Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison.

This program is not included in county jails contracted with UDC for the Inmate Placement Program. County Jails that offer tablets are NOT this program. They capitalize on the inmate and families – charging the inmates to use them. Tablets in county jails and are not regulated by the UDC and are not geared toward self-improvement or helping to prepare for release.

The UDC tablet program is completely funded by UDC with no cost to the user. The tablets are loaded with Ted Talks (video presentations by experts in various fields of self-help, education, inspiration, and entertainment), information about jobs, education, and resources for felons that the UDC has loaded onto it, over 300 books offered through the National Corrections Library. and self-help types of curriculums. It has REAL Transition loaded onto it. The tablets and Pokket apps also include lists of general community resources, information about

Social Security, Disability and SSI, Driver and CDL handbooks, and felon friendly housing.

Community use upon release. In the community there is a group of parolees who are using the 500 Pokket Apps with programs useful for parolees installed. This program is also administered by the Release & Re-Entry Unit. It was also mentioned that when released, the parolee can upload and then access their medical records to the cloud via the Pokket App. It was discussed that goals and milestone management can be easily monitored by the parolee and agent. The former inmate can interact with Dept. of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, therapists, and their agents via the Pokket App.

Investment in a safer society in the future. There has been a lot of use on 390 tablets in the past 27 months. The Team shared that there have been 45,870 logins from Dog Block, 23,836 from Lone Peak. There also have been 4, 586 logins from the pilot program occurring with a small group of parolees in the community or in community correctional centers.

There have been 30,239 views of Ted Talks. Video clips shown of UDC inmates sharing their experiences using the tablets were encouraging and exciting to see. We hope that this program can evolve and continue. As with everything else, it will need more funding. UPAN hopes that UDC includes increasing budget requests to continue to expand this program throughout the entire prison system. Personally, I can see positive use of it in restricted housing units where the residents are not allowed out for treatment or programming as needed.

Caseworker Alicen Kettenring is one of two caseworkers hired by UDC for this program who is not a correctional officer. She deals with approximately 130 inmates daily and fields emails from inmates that she is not able to see in person. The tablet program enables prisoners to communicate with her via email about things that are not necessary to meet in person about, which enables her to answer these questions quickly freeing her time for more serious discussions in person. This allows her to serve a larger number of people more efficiently. In this program there have been 13,300 messages sent to case managers or field agents.

Goal: Same Case Manager, Entry to Exit. Another new development in USP is having case managers assigned to an inmate from entry to exit. In the past, if an inmate was moved to different housing within the prison, the caseworker changed since caseworkers were assigned to housing units not people. Now they're assigned to people. Of course, this only works with inmates / caseworkers who remain in the same prison throughout their incarceration. It does not apply to those sent to county jails in IPP. The idea is that the case

manager will get to know their assigned people and see their changes and evolution through their prison journeys. If this works, caseworkers can affirm the information in the prisoner's electronic file is accurate and current, a problem in the past.

There was a significant amount of other information shared and a question and answer period. These will be covered in the March edition of UPAN News.

UPAN Writing Exercise – More Info

UPAN Writing Exercise has started. Limited space in this newsletter prevents more details now. Refer to January's issue and in March I'll give you lyrics to our theme song (again) for you to sing, hum, or ignore. Your choice, Ed.

"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page ["year"] book. Write a good one." — Brad Paisley

10 Fun Facts:

1. You can't see your ears without a mirror.
2. You can't count your hair.
3. You can't breathe through your nose with your tongue out.
4. You just tried #3.
6. When you did #3 you realized that it is possible, only you look like a dog.
7. You are smiling right now because you were fooled.
8. You skipped #5
9. You just checked to see if there is a #5.
10. Share this with others so they can have some fun too! Have a great day!

A Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh

How does a dog stop a video recording? By hitting the paw button.
People think "icy" is the easiest word to spell. Come to think of it, I see why.
What's a balloon's least favorite type of music? Pop.

"Open When" Letter Ideas – for Inmates and Family Members Alike by Molly Prince

It is very challenging to have disagreements or get through hard times of loneliness, grief or loss when incarcerated – or when loving someone who is in prison. Here are some ideas of letters to write and send to your loved one to "Open When" these situations come up.

'Open When' we're fighting, 'Open When' you're having a hard day, 'Open When' you're feeling lonely – the list goes on and on. Sending your loved one a letter to open when you're arguing, or when they want or need to feel extra loved gives them the opportunity to have

something from you that they can open whenever the mood/feeling strikes.

Write a letter for a specific topic, and put it in an envelope that has what it's about on the outside. (Example: Open When You're Feeling Lonely) Fill a large envelope with all of your 'Open When' letters and send them to the beloved person in your life.

NOTE: Utah's prison mail policy will require you send each one separately and you can write "open when..." on the folded letter.

Ladies and gentlemen, guests of the UTAH Dept. of Corrections, you're doing great. Stay cool – and keep warm,
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