



UPAN Newsletter Volume 7 Number 10 | **OCTOBER 2020**

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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**Your Stimulus Pmts Deadline Nov 4th — Successful Parole Tips
 COVID & New Prison Updates – Verbally Access Inmate Health**

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NOVEMBER UPAN MEETNG: MONDAY, November 9, 2020 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual - Zoom Registration **Topic:** UPAN will discuss parole populations

Free and open to the public. Live stream on Facebook Live will be available.

Zoom Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7115965040544/WN_VF3fFKLrTMCpYMzqkO4ViQ

All UPAN Meetings and those posted on this page are free and open to the public.

FOCUS Meeting: Nov. 2, 2020 6 p.m. Go to: www.corrections.gov click on Family & Friends tab, scroll down & click on FOCUS Forum and find link to next the meeting on that page.

Questions – Contact UDC Public Information Officer Kaitlin Felsted at: 801-545-5536 or kefelsted@utah.gov

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Inmates on Gratitude

Thank you for your submissions. Some of them or parts of them will be in the November UPAN Newsletter

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However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results. Winston Churchill

*And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down.
 Without the rain, there would be no rainbow. Gilbert K. Chesterton*

“I can be changed by what happens to me, but I refuse to be reduced by it.” Maya Angelou

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

Stimulus Payments – CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) **Relief Payments Now Approved for Incarcerated People**

This information is from a variety of sources: Equal Justice Society – IRS – Washington Post

In a stunning rebuke, on September 24, 2020, Federal Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ordered the Trump Administration to stop denying pandemic relief funds to incarcerated persons.

A Treasury Department Inspector General report confirms that, as of early May 2020, the IRS had determined that at least 80,000 incarcerated people were eligible for payments that could total over \$100 million. The judge's order will result in desperately needed economic assistance to inmates whose families are also adversely impacted by the pandemic. In many cases of incarceration, it is the families that provide funds to support a loved one during their incarceration. Inmates who work in prison jobs make anywhere from 40 cents to \$1 an hour, and with the many lockdowns and quarantines in prisons across the country due to COVID, they have lost the ability to work inside, just as citizens have lost jobs in the community.

The IRS has now set a November 4, 2020 deadline to allow incarcerated people to submit their claims by paper. If someone has been incarcerated and is now released, or has ability to file electronically while incarcerated, they have until November 21st to file online. <https://equaljusticesociety.org/>

The IRS Economic Impact Payment is available to most individuals including incarcerated people depending on your income and resident status. The payments, also referred to by some as **stimulus payments**, are **automatic for most taxpayers**. **No further action is needed by taxpayers who filed tax returns in 2018 and 2019 and most seniors and retirees**. This link will take you to the [information](#) page for those who filed 2018 or 2019 Federal Income Tax Returns ("Get My Payment") as well as "Non-Filers: Enter Your Payment Info Here." <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

Eligibility requirements for a non-filer's return according to the IRS website:

You are not required to file federal income tax returns for 2018 and 2019 for any reason including:

- Your income is less than \$12,200
- You're married filing jointly and together your income is less than \$24,400
- You have no income

Do not use the non-filer tool if you are required to file a 2018 or 2019 tax return; you should file your return electronically.

You cannot collect the stimulus payment if you can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

Caresactprisoncase.org has information on how to help an incarcerated person file for a stimulus payment

either online or by mailing a paper return. On the site is an FAQ section with directions on where to mail a paper return. There's also a link to a sample Form 1040 with instructions on how incarcerated people should fill out a 2019 return to get a stimulus payment, including where to add the personal corrections number that is given to each prisoner so the payment is sent to the right place.

To File a Claim:

If you filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return or receive Social Security Benefits or Railroad Retirement Board Benefits, you do not need to file a claim. However, if you did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return and your income was below \$12,200 (or \$24,400 if filing jointly) in 2019, then you should file an online claim through the IRS's website, or **if an inmate, file a paper 1040 return**.

How to File – The First Thing You Need To Do is download and print either Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, or, if you are over age 65, Form 1040-SR, U.S. Tax Return for Seniors. **Families can send the form into their incarcerated loved one**. Fill out the form in the following steps:

- **Write "EIP2020"** on the top of your form.

Filing Status Section: Check the filing status that applies to you, enter your name, mailing address, and Social Security number. Also your Offender # or Jail #

Check any of the boxes that apply to you. Remember that if someone else can claim you as a dependent on their taxes, you don't qualify for an Economic Impact Payment. (EIP)

Dependents section: Incarcerated people usually cannot claim dependents. The family members that the children live with claim them on their own returns.

- **Enter \$1 on lines 2b, 7b, and 8b.**
- **Enter \$0.00 on line 11b.**

Leave every other line in this section blank.

Refund section: If you want your payment deposited directly into your bank, put your bank account information in lines 21b through 21d. The account must be in the name of the filer who is receiving the payment. Leave the rest of this section blank. If you want a check sent to you at your facility, do not fill this section out.

Sign Here section:

Sign your name. By signing, you are saying that everything on the form is true, and you will face a penalty if you have lied. If you have an identity protection personal identification number (also called an IP PIN) enter it. These are assigned to people who have had their identity stolen in the past.

In addition, a simplified return filer may enter the identifying information of any third-party designee, if

applicable, at the bottom of page 2 of Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR.

Mail Your Simplified 1040 Tax Return postmarked before November 4, 2020 to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Ogden, UT 84201-0002 Source of info:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../irs-must-send.../>
www.caresactprisoncase.org

COVID-19 Update for Utah State Prison

By Wendy Parmley, UPAN Director of Medical/Mental Health Issues

The last several months have been difficult for our incarcerated loved ones and for those of us who support them. Visiting, volunteer programs, employment and recreational activities have been altered, impacted or discontinued since March 2020 in an effort to protect prisoners from the potential entry of the virus.

Now, the virus has managed to infect a number of incarcerated persons in USP. As a result, commissary, meals, rec time, jobs, and even phone calls have been impacted and disrupted as prison officials try to contain the virus and tackle the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak that began on September 25 in Wasatch Baker Block with 5 individuals who they believe contracted the virus from a medical personnel.

The last few weeks have been especially tense as cases have risen. Current case counts can be found at corrections.utah.gov and updated twice a week reflect 2,486 tested individuals in the system, 332 confirmed positive, and 100 recovered as of the week of October 19.

coronavirus.utah.gov reports 8 outbreaks in prison and jail facilities, although not broken out by facility, during the pandemic, 566 positive cases, 17 hospitalizations (up 1 from last week's 16), and no deaths.

For the UDC's official updates on the ongoing situation, please visit <https://corrections.utah.gov/index.php/home/alerts-2/1237-udc-coronavirus-updates> You can also find additional information at <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>

AUTHORIZATION TO VERBALLY DISCUSS HEALTH INFORMATION

by Molly Prince

This is a revised article based on the June 2015 UPAN Newsletter with some small updates. Due to the current COVID outbreak in USP, it is important that incarcerated persons in our prisons - and families - understand that this document is available and make sure they get it put into place so a designated family member can talk to prison Medical about their loved one's health issues.

After much urging from UPAN, in 2015 the Utah Department of Corrections developed an "Authorization To Verbally Discuss Health Information" form and procedure for inmates to use when they want to give a third-party person permission to speak with the Clinical Services Bureau (Medical) about their health information. What this means is that the third-party person would be a family member or friend outside of prison, not in the medical profession, that the inmate

There were reports of missed meals, missed or late medications, and ongoing lockdowns. Other concerns were shared at UPAN's 10/12/2020 Zoom monthly meeting and were forwarded to Directors Mike Haddon and Jeremy Sharp.

Various prison family groups and prison reform organizations have rallied around this issue. There has been a request submitted to some legislators to conduct an audit of the Covid-19 response. The ACLU organized a rally at the Department of Corrections offices on 10/13/2020 and some UPAN families participated.

News organizations have highlighted the outbreak, and Director Mike Haddon responded with a press conference that was livestreamed on 10/15/2020. He expressed his frustration with rumors that are circulating about how various parts of the prison are handling the pandemic. He said that they are doing everything possible to protect our loved ones who remain incarcerated - in Wasatch A & B in particular. While not all concerns were addressed in the livestream press conference, the fact that there was a press conference so quickly after our UPAN concerns were forwarded gives me hope that the concerns were heard. Those concerns were also shared with the ACLU who remains invested in advocating for our loved ones.

identifies on a form **that has been developed and is supposed to be available** to all residents of CUCF and USP through their Case Managers. (from the June 2015 issue of the UPAN Newsletter)

How The Form Is Accessed

UPAN has been told that the form the inmate needs to use has been posted on the UDC's internal website, where Case Managers are supposed to access it and print it out for inmates to fill out and sign.

Its Use Is Limited To Verbal Discussions

It is to be used ONLY to grant permission for verbal discussions about an inmate's health situation between a Clinical Services Bureau staff member or provider and the identified third party representative (family member

or friend). Only the person listed on the form can talk to Medical about that inmate's health situation.

GRAMA Still Required For Physical Copies

For physical copies of medical records, inmates still need to use the GRAMA form to request them; that form is also available from a Case Manager.

How It Works Internally

There is supposed to be a person at the Clinical Services Bureau to handle the calls from designated family members about an inmate's medical situation.

How It Works For Inmate And Third Party

The process will work like this:

1. Incarcerated individual requests the form from Case Manager, who prints it out for that individual.
2. Inmate fills out form which identifies the name of the third party being designated, including a phone number where they can be reached so the prison could contact them, and returns completed form to case manager.
3. Case Manager is supposed to notarize this form and submit it to the Clinical Services Bureau.
4. A designated staff member at the Clinical Services Bureau is supposed to contact the inmate's designated person to confirm telephone number, set up pass code, and provide telephone number the third-party will use to call for information. The staff member will have authority to either answer questions or get information. UPAN has been told this does not always happen. We recommend that the designated family member contact Clinical Services about a week after their loved one has signed it to make sure it reached the proper person to be placed on file.

***If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces,
never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. Flavia Weedn***

Advice on the Attitude to Help Be Successful on Parole

by Anonymous Contributors

The Source Of This Information

The following article is from thoughts and advice shared with UPAN by individuals who are succeeding on parole, including one who has completed parole and is living a successful life, in a good job, owns a home and is happy.

Attitude – Accept Parole as A Privilege

Successful parole begins with our attitude towards it. First we need to accept the reality of it being a privilege we earned and not a right. It is another step towards being truly free. A step to be taken seriously!

Questions to Ask Yourself

This step is where it shows the truth, are we truly ready to again be part of society? Will we take advantage of parole and use our time wisely and to our advantage to better ourselves, improve our lives and be productive?

5. Each authorization is good for only 90 days. So if an inmate has an ongoing or chronic medical conditions, the inmate would be wise to renew the authorization every 90 days so it is in place in case something comes up. It is the responsibility of the inmate, not the designated third-party representative, to renew the authorization in a timely manner. Please note that over the years UPAN has requested several times for UDC to change the renewal requirement to at least be once a year rather than 4 times a year with the every 90 day requirement. Director of Medical Tony Washington has informed us that is not going to happen. It is important that the incarcerated person keep it updated.

UPAN doesn't know how long it actually takes for the authorization process to occur once the inmate submits the form to the Case Manager. That is why we recommend the family member follow up by calling Medical after waiting at least a week after the inmate submits his signed form to the caseworker.

If the inmate has a problem accessing the form, the inmate can file a grievance. It is also possible (and likely more productive) for the family member to contact the UDC Division of Programming and ask to talk to whomever supervises caseworkers. The Programming department oversees case managers.

We urge incarcerated individuals to get these releases filled out NOW and make sure they renew them every 90 days so if something happens with COVID or any other medical emergency, their families can receive answers about their health and well-being. Without this release, the prison will not disclose information on the health or medical issues of any inmate due to HIPPA laws.

Or will we start down the same path and make the same decisions we did before we landed in prison?

What Kind Of Person Am I? One Who CAN Do It? Or One Who CAN'T?

This is where the rules and stipulations of the parole agreement come into play. They are there for a reason. To be successful, we need to be able to follow and abide by these! Even if we don't think the rules are fair, follow them. They won't last forever. Our willingness to comply with the rules shows one of two things: Are we serious? Or not? Can we walk the talk and live up to the promises we made to ourselves (an our loved ones), before we got out of prison, to live a different kind of life than the one that led to prison?

An example is: Will you abide by the curfew set or will you have an attitude about it? Believe it or not, this is a

big problem for some. Curfews will be lifted in time, but we first have to show we can abide by this stipulation.

Parole is about accepting reality and your new situation and environment you will be living in. The parole officer can show up at your door at any hour. When you are on parole, you will be told what you can and can't do, when to be home and where you can and can't go. If you abide by what you're told and by your parole stipulations it becomes easier.

To Win The Game You Must Know The Rules

Read your parole agreement over and over until you memorize it and know exactly what the rules are that you need to follow. It does not happen overnight. This is a learning process for you and it takes time for the PO to get to know you.

If you are a problem on the PO's caseload, that's how you'll be treated. If you are upfront, straight, and abiding by your stipulations, you'll be treated accordingly. It all comes down to the choices you make and your attitude towards parole.

It is exciting and seems easy at first when you get out. The freedom seems amazing. Then as time goes by, it becomes easier to forget how wonderful it is to be out of prison and to start to complain and resent restrictions you have to live with.

Some Tips To Remember And Think About

Some things to help you remember to appreciate the privilege of parole include: Do you want to be able to open your own door or be buzzed in or out? Do you want a good home cooked meal or are you really that happy with prison food? How about going to a mailbox to pick up your mail instead of it always being opened, read, then given to you at the convenience of others?

How about your own clothes? It is nice to wear what you want, choose the color and style. It's really nice to be able to turn on the heat or the air conditioner and sleep in a comfortable bed. A big issue is to be able to work, to do for myself. That is a really good feeling, as well as being able to purchase things, that no doubt, are only available out here.

Are you content in a cell and a small recreation yard when you're allowed to go to it, or would you like to go outside when you want to, or go for a walk when you choose to? For me, it's great to be able to go outside to watch the dawn, to see the sunset, to look at the stars. To take a walk in the mountains, be in nature.

It's also really nice to see friends and family whenever I want. I can make phone calls and go visit family. I get to have a Christmas and a Birthday with my family instead of getting a card in the mail.

The Bottom Line: Attitude and Mindset To Adapt and Accept Change

Being successful on parole is having the right attitude and mindset to succeed. It comes down to what are you ready to accept and what do you really want to do with your life? Being successful on parole means you have to be able to adapt and accept change.

It is important to be honest with yourself and who you are. If you can be honest with yourself then you can be honest with your support system and make the right choices to be successful in life. If you are being successful in life, making choices that are good for you and those you love, you'll be able to succeed on parole.

The Inevitable: When You Change Parole Officers

Every PO is different and has their own way of doing things and their own beliefs. Each sees rules their own way. This means you need to get to know your PO, discuss what he/she expects. Tell them what you hope to get out of parole. Make goals for yourself on parole.

You will probably have your PO change during your parole, unless you have a very short parole. To succeed you need to accept this and abide by what the new PO advises. It is a learning process for both of you. They don't know you and you don't know them. They are going to be cautious until they get to know you, and this should be understood and accepted.

Their job is to help keep the community safe and to help direct and guide you to be successful as you rebuild your life. Some are more effective and dedicated to this than others. Remembering that you are the only one you can control is important in dealing with changes when on parole. How you choose to deal with rules, changes in rules, and different personalities of your parole officers will make a difference between success and violation/failure.

Don't Complain, Simply Adapt To Change

It is possible that things you were able to do and activities you participated in with one PO could be ended by a new PO, especially while they get to know you, or if you move from one jurisdiction (county) to another. While living by their rules, this is just how it is. If you want to remain on the outside this needs to be accepted. Your actions, behavior, and attitude are very important.

I guess the best way to put this is like if you were playing on a sports team, you play by the teams rules. If you don't play by their rules you get put back on the bench (prison) and they get a new player who accepts the rules. All coaches and teams are different and have rules to be followed. You follow them and you can succeed and move on. You don't follow them and you get put back on the bench until you are able to accept and abide by the rules and stipulations you were advised of.

Avoid Old Haunts And Former "Friends"

Other ways to be successful on parole include making sure that you don't go back to old neighborhoods and old friends who have not changed and are doing the same

things that got you into trouble in the first place. Stay away from areas that lure you back into old habits. Surround yourself with people who are successful. Surround yourself with people who want to see you succeed. Ask their advice and accept their guidance. Build healthy social support systems.

Some Summarizing Comments

“Life becomes easier when you learn to accept the apology you never got.” R. Brault

UPAN October Meeting – Subject: COVID 19

The following report written from notes taken by UPAN’s Volunteer Coordinator Deon Corkins

On Monday, October 12th, UPAN held their monthly meeting using an internet open discussion on ZOOM. Wendy Parmley, UPAN director for Medical/Mental Health issues, and a nurse, led the discussion about the recent COVID-19 outbreaks at the prisons and jails in Utah. At the beginning, all participants were informed that Fox13 received permission to record the meeting.

UPAN online meeting guests who were housed in some Draper sections that suffered an outbreak of COVID-19 and were recently released from prison, shared their thoughts and experiences. Family members also spoke of their impressions from conversations with their incarcerated loved ones. Here’s some of their stories.

A wife mentioned that Promontory was on Soft Resolve, but there were no cases. Counselors were scheduled to return and programming would resume. A mother told about her son having COVID-19 about three weeks ago but remains positive. Her son reported that on some days they were only getting one meal.

Inmates deemed most vulnerable to serious consequences if they caught the virus were moved to Oquirrh 5. A mother reported that her son in A-West was tested, is asymptomatic, but never received a result. Someone stated that there is no emergency button in A-West, prompting the question, how can they get help in a medical emergency? Family members are concerned that air ventilation is poor or doesn’t exist.

In Wasatch A-East, where 95% of inmates are awaiting release, inmates were told they need to quarantine for 14 days. If any one of them tests positive, the quarantine period starts over.

Baker Block is allegedly not being cleaned. Styrofoam trays were being piling up in the hallways. Inmates can’t speak to a caseworker or get forms for medical information release to families. There were complaints of difficulty and delays in getting meds.

Remember, it is your job on parole to show society that people in prison and on parole can be good people who may have found themselves in bad situations, have made bad choices, but now want to show that we can change; that we are good, hardworking, and successful people. And that we can learn from the past and build new lives as contributing, positive members of society

Wendy, UPAN’s discussion leader on this topic, spoke of new groups such as under quarantine, testing negative, testing positive, or recovered, and the guidelines being used to relocate people. One subject Wendy covered was more PPE (personal protective equipment) to be provided for officers to prevent spreading the virus between different areas. And...many inmates have mild symptoms, but some are very sick.

Wendy took notes of the comments with plans to call UDC administration about the concerns expressed. ACLU wants to hear complaints directly from inmates if possible. UPAN recommends contacting your state representatives and senators, which can be looked up by zip code at: le.utah.gov

Another topic was housing: A mother told of her frustrations with finding approved housing for her son. The parole board and AP&P had contradicting views on living conditions. Some housing on a suggested list was available but was disgusting. She finally found a 4-bedroom place being remodeled and intended for felons on the Facebook page - Felon Friendly Housing in Utah. This mother was fortunate enough to be able to pay \$600 down and the first month’s \$600 rent.

Matt H. added information about his experience in locating housing. He spent 15 years at Draper and has been out for three. He was lucky to have a friend help with his housing.

Further discussion covered the following: halfway houses have a limited number of beds and can be very frustrating, quite restrictive, and offer little support. These Community Correction Centers are too often focused on limiting drug use and dealing with people who really aren’t interested in successfully transitioning. Meanwhile, help for the residents who are sincere in moving forward with their lives is lacking. Matt recommends seeking housing from a private owner, rather than from a large company.

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” Albert Pike

“During the deepest darkest night act as if morning has already come. “ The Talmud

Update on the New Utah State Correctional Facility from the September FOCUS Meeting

by Molly Prince

On September 21, 2020, UDC held an online Zoom FOCUS meeting with Director of Special Projects Steve Turley about the new state prison being constructed near

the Salt Lake International Airport. He was joined by Lt. Millward and Lt. Hajibiba. Public Information Officer Kaitlin Felsted hosted the meeting.

There is now a name for the new Utah State Prison being built: Utah State Correctional Facility (USCF). According to Turley, the construction is scheduled to be completed by October of 2021. After that it is likely to take up to six months to get it up and running which includes familiarizing and training staff on the new facility procedures and the direct supervision model. It is anticipated that inmates will be moved there between April and June of 2022. It is likely there will be a lot of lockdowns during the movement period.

Last September (2019) three of us from UPAN took a tour. From the photographs in this presentation, we see a huge amount of progress has been made in one year. Many of the buildings are now in place.

Incarcerated individuals in UCI are involved in manufacturing many of the furnishings for the new prison including lockers, control room desks, benches, and signage. They will also be involved in some of the installation of the fixtures and furniture. Turley shared that inmates influenced the design of the direct supervision stations that will go into the housing units.

Turley briefly discussed that the land at the prison site was stabilized and completed last fall. He explained that hills of dirt equaling the weight of the future building were added to the sites of various buildings and left for 3 – 4 months to measure how much settling or movement the land was experiencing after the stabilization process. He reported to UPAN in September of last year that this process was indicating that the land is stable. That is when the construction of the buildings could begin.

Lt. Millward explained that wick drains were installed every 5 feet prior to compressing the land to manage and monitor the water table and ensure land stability.

The buildings and cells are being constructed off-site by Oldcastle in Ogden. They are a prefabricated type of construction called “tilt wall construction.”

He discussed the various types of housing that the new prison will feature. There are general population 8-man cubicle-style cells which will sleep eight with a table in one room with an attached shower and bathroom contained adjacent to but still within the 8-man cell. There are ADA accommodations in the 8-man cells. There will also be single cells and 2-man cells in general population.

There will be several types of cells and cubicles in medical, as well as break rooms and wellness rooms for staff.

Turley explained what a huge undertaking this project has been. There are 22 miles of conduit, 7 miles of water lines, and 7 miles of sewer lines as part of the infrastructure.

The male general population building was erected in December 2019. By January 2021, the warehouse, medical unit, mental health, and geriatric units will be complete.

Director Turley said that while the housing units in the current USP are named after Utah Mountain Ranges, the facilities in USCF will be named after Utah Rivers..

They are as follows:

Men's Max - Antelope Men's General Pop - Bear
SO/SA Treatment Unit - Green R & O - Freemont
Women's Max - Emerald Women's General Pop - Dell
Medical/Mental Health - Currant

An anecdote - It has been commented by some that have heard of the way the housing units are named that it would be nicer if the Women's GP is named Emerald and Women's Max be Dell, rather than the other way around. But families are not in charge of naming the new prison housing units.

Every person who enters the prison must pass a screening area, including all staff. Drawings were presented that show the layout of the prison grounds.

The presentation showed 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. 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 wide corridor running the length outside a bank of cells that will allow a resident of max to walk around, use the phone, and walk to the shower. This eliminates officers having to escort the person to and from showers in chains.

There will be plenty of classrooms available in the male general population units as well as in the programming and women's areas. 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 in their facility.

Offender Management Reviews (OMR) will be held in rooms right in the housing section.

There are plans to have a Law Library available via computers accessible to all in general population.

A huge infirmary / hospital / geriatric facility is being constructed. 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 but there was no information on a possible hospice program offered at this meeting.

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. The pumpkin program will continue. Other prison jobs will continue as well.

The 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 a space for four women at a time who had babies to live with their babies. This includes beds, cribs and a washer and dryer. It has not yet been determined what the policy for length of time a woman can keep her baby in the prison setting, and the prison is still researching this and looking into what other prisons are doing. With only 4 beds 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 this special area. They will still go to a community hospital to give birth.

There will be a medical clinic in the women’s facility, and it has its own chapel and recreation yard. The women’s unit also will have its own visiting area, programming,

classroom space, rec yards, library, and gym. Everything the men’s general population area has, the women’s will have as well.

The women will hold kitchen jobs to assemble trays for those not in general population and unable to go to dining halls for meals. It is anticipated by UDC that the new facility will accommodate many more jobs for women including in the license plate plant, the juice plant and commissary.

Visiting will consist of contact visits for those inmates who are at a privilege level for contact visits (when those resume), 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. There will be kiosks to accommodate electronic communication including emails.

Fiber optics will be used for the phones and it is anticipated there will be a lot less problems with the phones working appropriately with the new system.

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 their own recreation yards. This building will provide housing, therapy program rooms, a chapel and outdoor space for spiritual services.

There will be a total of seven dining halls. There will be four for the male general population, two for the female general population and one for the therapeutic community housing. Trays will be served to maximum security and those in the medical units.

Lt. Hijibiba discussed the kitchen system in the new facility. There is an industrial kitchen for preparation and there will be three receiving kitchens. One for the men’s general population area, one in the women’s general population and one in the male therapeutic community treatment housing. The method of food preparation was explained to be a “cook – chill” method which is said to offer higher quality of food. It is prepared and then chilled quickly and has no human contact from the cooking to the bagging and chilling to serving. Turley indicated that this allows for more meals to be prepared from scratch.

UPAN asked if there could be a tour for civilians prior to moving inmates to the new facility. The response was “yes.” We appreciate Director Turley and his team taking their time to share this comprehensive update with us.

You cannot open a book without learning something. Confucius

Access to Information – A Major Building Block for Successful Reentry into Society

An opinion/editorial article by Warren Rosenbaum (aka Ed.)

Most people who end up in prison are not true criminals. Upon release, criminals return to crime. The other people don't and won't. They are people who have made some serious mistakes in their lives, got caught-up in the criminal justice system, and could use some help **in redirection**. Almost all the inmates I've received correspondence from (letters, cards, UPAN Writing Exercise) indicate they would welcome an opportunity to return to society and move away from the life they previously led. Of course, doing so would avoid any further contact with the criminal justice system. Halleluiah!

From well-composed letters to struggling writer's correspondence with misspelled words and "lackin'-a-lot-of-grammar-larin'", I read, cherish, and protect every piece I've received. Particularly from those who struggle with spelling and grammar. Those latter inmates reveal a genuine desire to improve their lives and that is what the Department of Corrections (yes, "corrections!") should be working toward with greater focus. Making information accessible to all inmates would be a major step toward the **redirection** I mentioned in paragraph one above.

Information is found in books. Assuming 95% of inmates can read and the other 5% can learn to read if books are available, let's focus on book accessibility by inmates. The largest depository of books (i.e. information) in the world is Amazon (likely exceeding the Library of Congress). Through Amazon's services there are new books and through their contract used book sellers, used books at remarkably low prices. For example, new books priced at over \$20 can often be bought from Amazon's contract used book sellers for 5 bucks or less.

When I mentioned inmates buying books from Amazon, my sister and brother-in-law exploded (BOOM!!), "Oh! You can't let inmates buy books from Amazon because individuals sell their books thru Amazon and the wide-open opportunity to smuggle drugs into the prisons is so obvious." IOW, they're saying to me, "How STUPID can you be???"

Well, let's flip that phrase around to my close family and remind them that Amazon contract used book sellers are companies and not the surreptitious individuals that can smuggle drugs into prison that my close family panicked about. Books shipped from Amazon contracted used book sellers are likely just as remote from drug (or other contraband) smuggling as Amazon itself. To further guarantee no shenanigans are present, I suggest that companies selling to inmates must have been under contract with Amazon for at least 12 months with multiple sales or have sold books to 200 different buyers over any period of time. Those last two criteria (12 months or 200 separate sales) guarantee no collusion between an inmate and a sneaky outside source.

Okay, that solves the source problem. Next, how can inmates search for books they'd like to read and study? How can they order the books they want? There is a solution, but it isn't as simple as solving the source issue. Obviously, computers in prisons linked to the Amazon website, where a person can buy almost anything (weapons, camouflage clothing to make you invisible, decorative doilies for persnickety housekeeper inmates, super-loud whoopie cushions – where, when innocently sat on, the sound reverberates throughout the whole cellblock), is not feasible. BUT... a dedicated computer system linked only to Amazon's books-for-sale (their contract used book sellers), is possible.

The dedicated computer system could be accessible within the Utah prison system AND linked to all the IPP county jails, or we break their IPP contract immediately. If the county and/or sheriff doesn't want to accommodate our information hungry inmates, then we could pull our inmates, it's that simple. After all, who's writing the checks to house and feed those inmates? Taxpayers. Money talks, and it hasn't been speaking loud enough lately. (REMEMBER: this is my opinion and not that of UPAN!)

I've often invested an hour and a half at one sitting, searching Amazon's books by topic and reading about their many offerings, including buyer comments to assess whether a particular book will satisfy my research needs for my writing. How many computers needed? Test one computer per 50 inmates and adjust from there. With that ratio, some inmates may have to wait a day or two before they have access to a computer. Housing areas may show different use patterns. Maybe limit each inmate to an hour if others are waiting to use the computer.

I must add, I've been surprised at some of the subjects that have several books for learning a job skill or simply helping with hope and confidence in one's own abilities. One example, the career of copywriting, writing B2B - business to business, B2C – business to consumer, website writing, sales letters, and numerous other writing opportunities, can make you a very good living, medium 5 or even 6 figures per year. There must be 50 or more books on those income opportunities on Amazon. One online 5-week course on copywriting that I was solicited for and cost about \$400, the online instructor had written a book on his subject about 6 years ago. I found it on Amazon and bought his book (used, but good condition) for \$12 plus shipping of \$3.99 (16 bucks delivered in my mailbox). Read the whole thing (over 600 pages) in about 5 weeks during last June and July. I may use what I learned (when I have time) to bring in some extra cash.

Computers may appear to be a cost problem. As the old song goes, "It ain't necessarily so." Large companies

often upgrade their employees' computers and need to get rid of their old ones. There may be 100 or 200 computers at one company that would be ideal for our purpose. Probably buy them for pennies on the dollar – and a sharp DOC negotiator might even get the company to pay the DOC to haul them away. Give it a try. Or seek them as a free donation that could be tax deductible for the company. Within a year we should have all the computers we need.

Now we need to link them to a common system and then to Amazon BOOKS ONLY and coordinate the necessary ordering and mailing protocols to make ordering and

receiving smooth, no refusals at the mailroom. If the DOC hesitates with funding some common system computer technicians and linking to Amazon, the DOC should buy a couple of computer/network books from Amazon, then let a couple of ambitious inmates learn how to do it. Give them some time off their sentence for good behavior. Think about it. It will work.

Soon the DOC will be filled with brilliant inmates chomping at the bit to get out and go to work, benefiting themselves, their families, and saving the taxpayers about \$30,000 per inmate per year. And as another old song goes, "Who could ask for anything more?"

NOTE: In November 2019, Warden Shane Nelson informed UPAN that inmates can request to order a specialized book through a different vendor than UCI or Barnes & Noble by working with their OMR and getting a Package Authorization / Property Contract to order publications such as text books or self-help books from publishers. It is a long process.

Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance. Confucius

UPAN Writing Exercise – 2nd Year Update

Latest Info To Participants In UPAN's Writing Exercise from Ed.

The UPAN Newsletter may be the primary communication tool (as opposed to mail) to inform those who submitted entries in this year's UPAN Writing Exercise, especially with the COVID pandemic and presumed relocations of several inmates. Here's the latest info. Plans for Appreciation Certificates to be mailed by October fell apart. I've been running about a month or more behind schedule due to too many commitments and priorities that tend to dominate my available discretionary time to devote to the Writing Exercise. Another major stumbling block has been deciding on what to send with the certificates as valued writing lessons or other writing material that will be of interest and helpful (I hope) in your future writing efforts.

As I've zeroed in on some things I think you'd appreciate, other priorities have dominated, like the UPAN Newsletter for September and now October. Reluctantly, I've had to move into those duties first and delay my highly appreciated Writing Exercise participants. Please forgive me for not being able to manage (or refuse to participate in) some activities that seemed manageable at the time I committed to them. FYI, I started a copywriting class with AWAI (American Writers and Artists Institute), a \$200 online course, and planned to finish it by Sept. 15th. Ha! I haven't touched it since mid-August. Too many things dominating my available time. And I'll have to add that my age of 86 is slowing me down. So, hang in there, I won't desert you. I think my additional lessons and writing info will be valuable to you. Thanks to all. Ed.

☺ A Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh ☺

~ I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure. ~~ A termite enters a bar and asks, "Is the bar tender here?~
~~I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it. ~~ How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.~~

My op/ed's include some humor to add a smile to your day. Meanwhile, during COVID, hope you're staying cool. Ed.

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Utah Prisoner Advocate Network

Director, Co-Founder & Treasurer: Molly Prince
Director of Communications: Shane Severson
Director of Sex Offender Policy Issues: Faye Jenkins
Director of Women's Issues: Britnee Webb
Director, Medical/Mental Health Iss: Wendy Parmley
Director, Board of Pardons Issues: Ernie Rogers
Director, Newsletter Editor: Warren Rosenbaum
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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