



UPAN Newsletter

Volume 7 Number 11 | NOVEMBER 2020

"Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity"

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COVID Update – Inmates’ Gratitude – COVID Concerns - Innocent Imprisoned – ZOOM Meeting, Join Us

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NO UPAN MEETING in DECEMBER

January 2021 Meeting Location: Virtual - ZOOM Registration Topic: UPAN will discuss the impact of any new laws on the incarcerated, probation, or parole populations and their supporters. No cost for ZOOM meetings and the public is welcome to join us. Live stream on Facebook Live will be available. Virtual Zoom Meeting – Register Here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7115965040544/WN_VF3fFKLrTMCpYMzqkO4ViQ

Two UPAN virtual meetings have been a resounding success. See the November Meeting Summary on pages 9-10 for help with ZOOM equipment. All meetings posted here are free and open to the public.

FOCUS Meeting: Date and time on UPAN website when available. Via a virtual link that will be posted to the UDC website . We hope to see you there (virtually)! **OR: Go to: www.corrections.gov click on Family & Friends tab, scroll down & click on FOCUS Forum and find link to the meeting on that page. (LOL, Ed.)** **Questions** – contact UDC Public Information Officer Kaitlin Felsted at: 801-545-5536 or kefelsted@utah.gov

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

"The heart that gives thanks is a happy one, for we cannot feel thankful and unhappy at the same time." — Douglas Wood ~~~ "On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence." — William Jennings Bryan

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow." — Melody Beattie

"When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup."— Sam Lefkowitz

COVID-19 UPDATES FOR UTAH STATE PRISON SYSTEM

by Molly Prince with information compiled from UDC website

Utah Department of Corrections took action back in March in an attempt to prevent the entry of COVID-19 into Utah State Prison Draper, and Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison. As of March 16, all visiting ended with the exception of legal visits. Volunteers were no longer allowed into the facilities. Movement putting inmates into contact with people in different housing areas was reduced which included religious services and recreational activities.

While the UDC reported that there was enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for officers and staff, prisoners reported to families that not all officers and staff were wearing masks (or wearing them properly covering both mouth and nose) when coming into contact with inmates. UPAN has been in communication with UDC administration about this from the beginning and has repeatedly reported concerns that come to our attention.

Reminder – if you are reporting any problems with correctional staff not wearing masks, social distancing, or otherwise not following protective protocols to reduce the spread in the facility, please make sure you have names of the officers / staff involved, locations and dates (times if possible). The more information available for UDC administration the better able they can investigate and verify what is happening in the housing units.

As of September 25, 2020, Director Mike Haddon discussed with UPAN director Molly Prince about the detection of positive COVID cases within the general population. This same day the UDC website had an announcement about it. At that point, five inmates in the USP Wasatch Baker Block were positive. Anyone who came in contact with these inmates, including the entire Baker Block, were tested at that point.

It was suspected that the COVID-positive inmates could have contracted the virus from a medical care provider who treated several inmates — while wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE), but was not symptomatic. That provider became symptomatic and tested, did not return to USP, and notified the UDC.

As of November 12, 2020 there are 621 active cases of COVID-19 between USP in Draper and (CUCF) in Gunnison. The total positive cases as of Nov. 12 in the two prisons is 926 in Draper and 35 in CUCF. UDC website states, “Outbreaks are currently present in the following areas: Oquirrh 5, Promontory, Lone Peak, Wasatch Dog-Block (USP), Hickory, and Gale (CUCF). Prior to that it had been reported that cases had spread to Wasatch A Block in addition to the Baker Block. Charlie Block was being used as a quarantine block. Any positive cases coming in through the intake housing from county jails are reportedly quarantined as well.

There have been two deaths of individuals who tested positive while housed in Oquirrh 5 who also had other medical problems. As of Nov. 12th there was 103 total confirmed staff cases with 70 of those recovered.

Inmates have contacted family members with concerns and frustrations in not being able to receive over the counter medications to manage the symptoms. They are expected to order things such as Tylenol and OTC medications for colds and flu through commissary. This can be impossible for indigent inmates and has been made more difficult due to interruptions in commissary due to COVID impacting the staff for commissary and lockdowns for testing purposes.

As of October 30th, the spread of the virus in the prisons was referred to as a “second outbreak” at USP. It began in Oquirrh 5 and shortly after, someone in the Promontory Facility tested positive for the virus.

Oquirrh 5 is where Utah’s most medically vulnerable incarcerated individuals are housed. This means those with chronic medical problems and the elderly. It is dorm style with beds only a few feet apart, so the virus can spread easily. Prison administration had assured UPAN repeatedly that they are doing their best to take the highest precautions to keep them safe. However due to the medical issues, UPAN has received reports that individuals are regularly walked (or wheeled) from Oquirrh 5 over to the Wasatch building where the infirmary is if they are to see a doctor, and then come back. These concerns have been brought up to UDC administration.

The Promontory Facility is dormitory-style housing, and the UDC acknowledges that due to the incubation period prior to symptoms arising with COVID, exposure to many inmates could be significant by the time the first case is tested and confirmed.

On October 31st the website COVID updates (Google: Utah Dept. of Corrections COVID Updates) announced, “At this time we have tested all of Oquirrh 5, Promontory, and Lone Peak for COVID-19.” It appears that USP and CUCF will remain on partial lockdowns as they attempt to test and monitor and quarantine positive cases.

As of November 3, 2020 the website posted: “Utah Department of Corrections reported its first outbreak at the Central Utah Correctional Facility (CUCF) in Gunnison today. Late last night an incarcerated person reported COVID-19-related symptoms and was promptly rapid tested. The results came back positive. Staff immediately initiated isolation and quarantine protocols and began larger scale testing. At this time it appears the outbreak is likely due to community spread.”

On November 4, the update states that in Draper testing continued with focused attention on areas of outbreak.

At this time, there are now 137 confirmed cases in Promontory, 59 cases in Oquirrh 5, and 19 cases in Lone Peak. (total 220). Both facilities continued operating on a modified lockdown, meaning that out-of-cell time is greatly limited in areas most impacted by the outbreaks.

The first death in USP related to COVID was reported on November 4, 2020 when the UDC reported an 82-year-old incarcerated individual who had tested positive for COVID-19, but had not complained of symptoms, died in his housing unit. There will be an autopsy to determine actual cause of death. The press release can be read at the link [shown below as #1](#).

Regarding movement during COVID, The UDC website states, "Many things have to be considered when moving an incarcerated individual, including COVID-19 protocols. We continue to work closely with state and local health officials, but our staff have to also consider other criteria for movement of an incarcerated individual including documented safety concerns, gang affiliations, ADA accommodations, and other medical conditions unrelated to COVID-19."

The website further informs that the Department provides on-site medical care through the Clinical Services Bureau, which operates infirmaries at both the Utah State Prison and the Central Utah Correctional Facility. It states the infirmaries offer comprehensive, on-site medical care where medical staff can treat or stabilize inmates needing health care. However, for anyone who has been in the infirmaries will attest, the infirmaries are not what we would consider similar to a hospital with beds to accommodate more than a very small number of inmates who that level of care.

The Clinical Services Bureau does contract with outside hospitals and clinics for treatment of seriously ill inmates who cannot be properly cared for at an infirmary or require evaluation or care from a specialist. The corrections website states, "Any incarcerated individual who exhibits symptoms outside the resources of our medical providers will receive care at a nearby hospital."

UPAN has received concerns from family members whose incarcerated loved ones have contacted them stating that they cannot get the attention of medical staff and that there are not emergency call buttons in all of the housing units (dorms or cells.) UPAN directors have been in contact with UDC administration about these concerns.

There are conflicting reports from folks who have been released from USP in the past month about the conditions in the different housing areas – some reports

are that the staff and medical staff is attentive and other reports indicate that sick inmates are unable to easily access staff or medical personnel during emergencies. UPAN hopes that other inmates can help them get the attention from staff that they need.

Family members have independently done interviews with news media about the concerns they have about the ability of the prison system to adequately treat these outbreaks. It seems the already overloaded medical service in Utah's prison system is not able to efficiently and effectively assist patients in treating and managing the myriad symptoms of COVID. It has been verified by the medical community that there are symptoms ranging from fever and shortness of breath to severe headaches, digestive problems, to full body aches and pains; and other internal organs can be impacted by the COVID-19 virus, UPAN hopes that both USP medical and the Utah Board of Pardons & Parole can expedite recommendations and decisions to release elderly and medically compromised inmates, or at least institute a furlough program that would allow such inmates to furlough to a family member's home for care and quarantine under house arrest until it is safe to return to the prison once the pandemic is under control.

- If you would like to learn more about quarantine and isolation procedures, you are encouraged to go to this document that explains a little more about the different steps for isolation and quarantine. ([Link # 2. below](#))
- To learn more about the CDC recommendations that the UDC is currently following and exceeding (along with following local health officials recommend-dations) see the [link at #3. below](#).
- In October, UDC shared info about the Wasatch outbreak on this FAQ page ([see #4. below](#)):
- See a full update from Utah Dept. of Corrections at a Press Conference on October 15 ([see #5. below](#))

Families can view the current numbers at the UDC website COVID updates. www.corrections.utah.gov . If you have additional questions, please contact the Department's communications director, Kaitlin Felsted at 801-560-7608 or corrections@utah.gov .

Also UPAN's Family Support Group on Facebook is available for family members and friends / supporters of inmates, as well as formerly incarcerated to share info and support for each other during this very difficult time.

Shane Severson, UPAN Communications Director and other UPAN Facebook administrators do their best to keep the UPAN Facebook updated with breaking news about COVID in Utah's correctional centers.

- #1. https://corrections.utah.gov/images/110420_UDC_Reports_First_Possible_COVID-19_Death_fn.pdf
- #2. https://corrections.utah.gov/images/Inmate_handout_full_0407_1.pdf
- #3. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html>
- #4. https://corrections.utah.gov/images/Wasatch_Outbreak_FAQs_1005_fn.pdf
- #5. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=795166127935055>

Gratitude from Our Incarcerated Loved Ones and Friends

Gratitude Comment

from Adam Ure

I am grateful for the many opportunities that have been made available, the opportunity for education, and self-reflection, therapy programs, work and learning to play music. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to share much of what I have learned with others.

I am grateful for the people I've met along the way who see me as I am and as who I can become.

I am grateful for family & friends who share and bear the burden of the uncertainty of indeterminate sentencing by a Board that shuns accountability and oversight.

And I am grateful for those who, despite their own lives' challenges, speak on behalf of those whose voices have lost their efficacy because of past mistakes.

All the best to you at UPAN. Keep being amazing.

Gratitude Poem

by Adam Ure

Gratitude is an attitude
to which we may aspire.

But it takes practice –
A verb that requires action
for it to catch fire.

When practicing gratitude
our lives can be joy filled!

And that can spread to others,
enrich their lives,

who wouldn't be thrilled?

So why not give it a shot and
practice with all the energy you've got
to develop an attitude of gratitude
and enjoy the joy that is brought!

Imagine Prison Being a Gift

by Bret McCammon

Imagine, if you will, prison being a Gift. I was unable to envision it in this manner at first because my perceptions about my loss of freedoms, loss of vain pleasures, the depth of the deprivations I was now facing, and being forced to wear white after Labor Day were all clouding my common sense.

At some point I pulled myself out of this equation and looked at prison from a different perspective. This was a choice on my part. The perspective of what could I gain from prison; since I didn't really want to experience it again. This meant I would have to change what brought me to prison in the first place.

Therefore, prison allowed me to recalibrate what is most important in my life. It has redefined my sense of spirituality and faith. I've gained a new understanding and trust in my body, expanded my vocabulary, met new people, found out who were my true friends, learned to love others at a higher level from my socially solitary lifestyle. I have made choices in prison and now

have unsurpassed vitality, energy, and a healthier lifestyle. I've been challenged, inspired, motivated, and humbled. My life has new meaning peace, healthy serenity and happiness. I have learned I cannot control what comes to me or at me. I can control how I choose to think about it and deal with or work with it.

I didn't lose time by coming to prison, I just used the time available in another pursuit to improve myself. I regret that my perception once clouded the opportunity placed before me or that I expressed ungratefulness for what God gave to me.

I'm not sure others would even want prison, but for me I wouldn't change my experience if I could. For prison has profoundly altered my life in ways I didn't expect and in all the ways I have just explained. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity God has placed before me.

So the next time you're faced with something that's unexpected, unwanted, and uncertain; it may just be a gift offered to you.

A Simple Thank You by R.S.

I want to say thank you. For all the things you have done for me, and all that is done for us. The holiday cards, sending me the newsletter, answering questions. All the work, all the effort, it is a great thing that you do. I am expecting to get out and I have my release plans in place. Once settled I am motivated to do something to give back. To share my story, my experiences, my time, my energy to somehow help others. I am 51. I have a desire to share my thoughts and ideas. I am done with all of this. I know it's a little late in life, to turn around and go the other way. But I have my mind set and believe I have something to offer. For all of that I am grateful.

Using the UPAN Newsletter in Alaska by D.T.

Thank you for continuing to send me a copy of the UPAN Newsletter. I have shared your newsletters with other prisoners. I have sent some of them to Alaska Legislators in hopes that they will see that they can promote positive criminal reforms and conditions in our prisons here in Alaska. Thank you.

My Letter of Gratitude by Jared M.

I am writing to let you know that I am still alive and thinking of you. Thank you for sending (for years now) the UPAN newsletters. It was nice to have the inside scoop on the video visiting. No one on this block had any of the information. Needless to say, after sharing the letter to numerous people they were grateful and appreciative of the time and effort you put forth. Even when things do not work out the way the prison says it will, it is good to get information and know what you are being told.

I was going back through these old years of newsletters and found some satisfaction in how you put the

department on blast for the 1.8 million they made off from kickbacks on phone calls. Classic!! You're a fighter for us folk who need the help. Here is a little prison art (Goku from Dragon Ballz) that is a Japanese character which represents victory. I send it for the victory you achieve with interactions and issues you take head on. 20 years ago I was actually out there in the real world. My girlfriend's little brothers and sisters would watch Cartoon Network and we would watch Dragon Ballz. Goku was all of our hero. It is symbolic to me. This is my letter of gratitude.

An Experience Inspiring Gratitude by Curtis Ellis

After 14 years of incarceration in Utah I was losing my faith in humanity. After being attacked from behind at CUCF by another inmate and waking up in the hospital two days later with minor brain injury and spinal injury, it left me in a really bad place. Yet I found myself in the hospital where the nurses and doctors treated me like a human being. They were so nice and concerned about my well-being and even a couple of the rookie guards charged with watching me 24/7 were understanding and nice. I needed that humanity like the desert needs the rain. This experience has restored my faith in humanity.

People like Lacey Harris and Molly Prince who spend their entire lives devoted to the service of others. You people, the good people of the world, inspire me to find my niche and make me want to spend the rest of my life helping others.

I am grateful that a horrendous incident in prison turned into a wonderful blessing to be surrounded by wonderful and caring people and to be re-inspired to find a path of service like so many at UPAN and PAG have done. Thank you, good people of the world, and thank God!

Gratitude for UPAN By N.Cano

UPAN and its team earned "A" times three for 2020 for their Active Accomplishments and Appreciation in this chaos year. While the whole world closes to standstill, overwhelmed with anxiety, confusion and fearful, UPAN continues proactively gathering vital information for the inmates and their families. When we receive UPAN

Newsletters month after month since COVID-19 was made known in Utah, let us not forget their own struggling with social distancing safely. Yet, you at UPAN still produce while your own challenges no doubt intensify. Thank you for your courage, strength and endurance to provide us the necessities.

A Day of Thanksgiving

by Gary Worthen

As Thanksgiving approaches, my thoughts have turned to being truly grateful and to the real meaning of Thanksgiving. This may sound strange in my present circumstances as an inmate of Draper Prison, but I have never felt more blessed than I do right now. I have more to be truly thankful for than I ever have in my entire life. I am truly blessed, and for that, I am sincerely grateful.

I may be living behind a maze of locked gates and shining ribbons of razor wire, but I am free. The Good Lord in His wisdom has freed me from prison, not the prison of cold steel and restraints, but rather the prison of my own making. The prison of a lost and wandering soul. He has broken the bonds that tethered me and held my very soul captive. At last, I am free! For the first time in my life I am a truly free man in all the things that really matter. To be able to drink in the light of Christ, free from the shackles that once bound me, is the most beautiful and transforming experience of my life.

Mere words tragically fail to describe the feelings of love and gratitude that overflow my heart.

Oh, it would be easy to fall into the trap of perennial ingratitude and incessant complaint because of my circumstances here. I cannot help but reflect on the phrase, "there but for the grace of God, go I." From my vantage point, it is easy to be grateful for what we have. From the vantage point of those about me who choose to wallow in darkness, gratitude does not seem to come easily. They complain. I feel grateful that we even have beds to sleep in and that we are forced to sleep on bare cement floors with no padding and no covering to protect us and keep us warm. Such has been the experience of people I know. They complain about the food: It's too cold, it's slop. and a myriad of other complaints. I am grateful we are fed three meals per day instead of going days on end without being fed and even then having the necessity of picking the cockroaches from our meal

before we could, out of near starvation,, force the meal down. This too has been the fate of people I know.

Others complain that the guards treat them with disdain and disrespect. I am grateful for the respect we are shown and the very fact we need not worry about the possibility of actual physical torture. We need not worry about guards extorting us for protection money. This was an experience of one of my friends.

Even last year's Thanksgiving dinner was a source of complaints: the food was too hot the food was too cold, there wasn't enough of it, there wasn't real turkey, the pumpkin pie didn't have enough whipped cream, and on and on. I had the same meal and found it enjoyable. No, it wasn't the equivalent of a home-cooked meal at Grandma's, but it was very good. Parts of it were

delicious. I was thankful that the prison saw fit to put on a good dinner for the holiday. This was also the first time in recent memory that I left the Thanksgiving table comfortably full instead of painfully stuffed. It's all a matter of perspective. I try to align my perspective with what I believe my Savior would expect from me. I am much happier for my efforts.

In many ways I am like my associates here. I have no desire to remain a guest of the state any longer than is required. I look forward to the day that I can walk away from here free to live the remainder of my life in the service of my Lord and in the arms of my loved ones. Yes, I am truly grateful. I know I will carry my gratitude, love, and appreciation with me.

A Considered Exploration of What I Am Grateful For

By K. Bingham

There are so many things to be grateful for in my life. First and foremost the love and support of my family and friends while I am incarcerated and in spite of the crimes I committed. I see so many inmates who have been disowned by family and have no support. It saddens me to see the lack of compassion and forgiveness in our society.

I am grateful police detectives chose not to prosecute me in 1999 when I reported my crimes to the proper authorities to receive therapy. I am grateful for many wonderful therapists who dedicated their time to ensure I had the support I needed to make the necessary changes in my life.

I am grateful for forgiving and compassionate members of the victims' family who have stood by my side when I didn't deserve it. I am grateful for my three 0-5 consecutive sentences even if my PSI recommended no prison and my evaluation said I am not a risk to society. I sit in prison with many men who made terrible choices and are paying harshly for their mistakes serving upwards of 10 years. My 58-month matrix seems miniscule compared to some.

I am grateful for the recommend I received from therapists stating I do not need further therapy while I am incarcerated and the special attention they have now submitted for me. I am grateful for the time I have had to

reflect on my past mistakes and learned as much as I can. Blessed and thankful to have the financial support to complete a master's degree while incarcerated, and for Sgt. Palmer who is proctoring all my exams.

I am thankful for UPAN who is giving a voice to those incarcerated who are not being treated fairly and whose families are being charged outrageously for the needs of their loved ones while incarcerated. All while taxpayers are charged unnecessarily. Thanks UPAN for your efforts and support. Hopefully there will be some transparency of the justice system exposed to help make things better in the future for those paying the price of bad decisions.

I am grateful for a loving Heavenly Father who leads and guides me each day, thanks to the power of prayer. I am grateful for the hope I have for a magnificent future upon release, working and playing hard to make up for lost time. I am grateful my father's health has held out so I can hopefully be there to care for him in his last days. I am grateful for the opportunity I will have after incarceration to make a difference in my community helping UPAN and / or PrisonEd.

I am thankful for Dr. Don Wright and PrisonEd Foundation. His dedication to inmates is amazing. He has been a savior to me. So much to be grateful for in spite of being incarcerated.

Family and Inmate Concerns about COVID in our Prisons **Much information in this article is compiled from several news reports**

On October 13th several family members held a protest outside of the UDC administration building in Draper after more inmates tested positive for COVID-19. Jessica Miller and Kathy Stephenson of the Salt Lake Tribune reported on the event. Beth Thompson expressed her fears about her husband who has done what he needed to do to be rehabilitated, and has an

autoimmune disease. If he were to become infected with the coronavirus it could become a death sentence.

The Tribune article states, "No matter the mistakes they have made on this Earth, our loved one matters to us," said Beth Thompson, one of several family members who gathered outside the Utah Department of Corrections headquarters on Tuesday calling for

improved safety measures for their incarcerated husbands, fathers and sons.

They carried signs that said "Every Inmate has Rights" and "Keep Prisoners Safe During COVID-19." They cried in frustration and fear. Several relatives who spoke did not want to use their names or the names for their incarcerated family members for fear of retaliation from prison officials.

Mike Haddon, executive director of the Utah Department of Corrections, said in an Oct. 5 video that the coronavirus spreads easily in prisons because people live so closely together, without much flexibility in separating them.

Carrie Knowlton discussed that her husband — an inmate who tested positive — was not getting adequate medical attention. "He's not getting help because no one cares," she said. Knowlton said inmate meals are delivered to their cells in styrofoam containers for safety. "But the styrofoam is piling up and it's dirty," she said, "because inmates are the ones that clean and the prison is on lockdown." It should be noted that other inmates who have either talked to their loved ones or been released from USP also report that the garbage is piling up in housing units and not being removed.

At the October protest, another family member, Kate Kalt is quoted in the Tribune article believing that even before the pandemic, inmate health care was not a priority. Kalt said her husband got a staph infection on his foot and the sores were "oozing for three weeks" before he was allowed to see a doctor. "No one should have to fight for a Band-aid," she said. "The whole system needs major reform."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah sued over the prison's coronavirus response back in April, but the Utah Supreme Court threw out the lawsuit, saying the group didn't have proper legal standing to bring it to court. Sara Wolovick, an ACLU Equal Justice Works fellow, is gathering information about inmate and family concerns. She welcomes inmates to call her but UPAN has been notified that officers are telling inmates not to call her — and some have been told that the Board will be notified if they call her and calling could impact their releases. One inmate was told by a CO that calling the ACLU will result in the Board making them do "dead time." UPAN finds it very frustrating that anyone would share this false information with inmates.

About the rapidly spreading virus within Utah's prisons, Wolovick has stated, "This is the situation that we were afraid of and wanted to avoid. That is why we filed our lawsuit in April before the prison had an outbreak. It's very difficult to deal with once it's actually in the facility." Wolovick said the ACLU of Utah remains concerned that not enough is being done to protect inmates that may be in a section where the virus is spreading, but who have

not yet tested positive for COVID-19. They believe the prison is taking steps to prevent spread, she said, but thinks they could be doing more to keep infected inmates away from those who have not been infected. The ACLU (and UPAN) also want the parole board to speed up its process of releasing inmates early, and get the extra funding to do so, if needed.

On November 8th on ABC4News, former inmate Michael Knowlton spoke to Nicole Neuman about his experience with the conditions in the Draper facility. That report states, "Basically, we all have COVID and it's just circulating in the air." He was granted early release due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He was inside on October 30th when the prison went into a code-red lockdown down due to the potential of a second COVID outbreak. That is when Knowlton himself tested positive.

In the ABC4 broadcast, he explains, "Everybody that had it they moved us to another section, and left people that were just exposed to it, and moved people that were negative into that section with all the people that were exposed. There's a lot of old guys in there, and they're not really getting proper help in there. We don't have gloves. We don't have sanitizer. People have to go get the spray and wash it themselves."

In an interview with KSL after his release, Knowlton reported that despite testing positive in October, he had no symptoms early on but finds himself wheezing a month later. He stated, "I felt bad for all the people around me that are suffering, because they don't really get help or nothing. Everything they put on the news saying that they're doing, they're not doing."

According to the KSL.com report on November 7, Knowlton was released early because he had a parole date within six months. But many who remain incarcerated fear the worst. It is the Board of Pardons & Parole (BOPP) that determines who is released, not the Utah Dept. of Corrections.

A mother, Cathy Linford, was also interviewed in the KSL story. She has spent several months advocating for the early release of her son, but her effort became more urgent after the virus spread to the dormitory-style Promontory section where he lives. "I am so scared because he has really bad asthma," she said. "It's literally gasoline to the fire in there."

Inmates tell family members that the prison is no longer moving people out of the section if they test positive because it has run out of room to do so. The KSL report says the UDC denies this, and states "The department continues to collaborate closely with state and local health officials from both regions on movement and testing, which includes separating negative cases from positive cases," spokeswoman Kaitlin Felsted said. She noted that health concerns are not the only consideration in relocating inmates: gang affiliations, disability

accommodations and other medical or safety concerns also factor in.

There are road blocks to early releases because some incarcerated folks – even those there on probation violations - are required by the BOPP to complete treatment, prior to being given a release date. Classes and treatment have been on hold throughout the past 8 months of the pandemic for different periods of time because therapists and others have been stopped from entering the prison due to the outbreak.

Loved ones have called attention in recent months to lack of inmate access to cleaning supplies, officers who won't wear masks, and retribution for those who complain. UPAN receives continual concerns that many inmates cannot afford to purchase over the counter medications to deal with the headaches and coughs COVID brings and that the prison is not freely offering these medications to inmates who are symptomatic. UPAN has contacted UDC administration about the concerns shared by family members on several occasions. Family members are also frequently contacting UDC Director Mike Haddon, PIO Felsted, Director of Prison Operations (DPO) Director Jeremy Sharp, Director of Clinical Services Tony Washington, and Warden Powell about their concerns.

At the October protest Carrie Knowlton pushed back against statements from corrections officials that each prisoner is receiving adequate care. Her husband and another inmate, who asked his name be withheld for fear of reprisal from corrections officials, said the prison had been shuffling inmates often from one area to the next, a factor they believe played a role in the spread across different sections at the prison in Draper.

Mr. Knowlton told reporters that in the Wasatch facility,

where he was housed and which was the first to record an outbreak in late September that anyone who needed medical help could only summon attention by attempting to flag down an officer who happened to walk by. Knowlton said cockroaches scurried across the hallways as dirty styrofoam dishes and discarded personal protective equipment piled up in the hall.

UPAN gets conflicting information from families and inmates versus what it gets from UDC. UPAN is told that med techs go into housing units regularly, but inmates write that med techs and officers refuse to go into infected areas on a regular basis. That officers only go into infected areas for count, at which time sick inmates must ask the officers to get them medical attention. Some are too disoriented or in pain with the fevers, body aches, or head aches to write out a health care request form.

UPAN asked if housing officers can take temperatures and the response was that officers cannot administer medical attention. It appears that using non-touch thermometers is considered medical attention in USP.

"The governor's office, the Department of Corrections and the Board of Parole needed to be — and needs to be — doing everything in their power to get medically vulnerable people out of harm's way," Wolovick said. "

UPAN understands that there is such a thing as a furlough that has been used in other states to allow incarcerated individuals to furlough to a family member's home and stay there on house arrest and with electronic monitoring for the duration of the pandemic in order to reduce the spread in prisons and protect the more vulnerable from infection in the prison setting. We are unsure why this has not been pursued by the Utah Board of Pardons & Parole and the Utah Department of Corrections.

What Shall We Do About the Innocent People That Are in Prison?

Polygraph Exams May Provide the Answer by Ernie Rogers (Opinions presented are those of the author)

In November of 2006, David H., 45 years old, was charged in Salt Lake County, Utah ⁽¹⁾, with having sexually assaulted two of his sons, ages 9 and 13. At trial, David and his other children claimed the accusations by the two boys were false. He was found guilty. Before sentencing, David managed to obtain a plea deal from the prosecutor—he would plead guilty if the conviction would be reduced to second-degree felonies. In the sentencing process the judge is not always bound by all the details of the plea deal. The judge ordered the two second-degree felony counts to be served consecutively (not concurrently), meaning David could spend up to 30 years in prison. Soon after his conviction, the two boys opened up that their testimonies had been false, but nothing was done about it.

Eight years later, David H. was released to parole and entered society as a registered sex offender. In May 2017, the two alleged victims petitioned the judge to overturn the conviction, admitting that they had lied. The Salt Lake County DA reviewed the case and decided David's conviction should stand. But with help from attorneys his case was overturned on September 6, 2019, thirteen years after he was charged. His name was removed from Utah's sex offender registry.

On September 19, 2019, another Utah man was found innocent after 23 years in the Utah prison system. He, too, had been falsely identified by a rape victim. Lucky for him, the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center found witnesses proving he was not at the crime location. The

Utah Board of Pardons and Parole ordered that his name be removed from Utah's sex offender registry.

These two men were the lucky ones. They said they were innocent. Later, evidence surfaced that set them free. **In the last 30 years, 2,670 people in the United States have been proven innocent after spending a total of 23,950 years in prison.** Again, these were the lucky ones. They had professed their innocence but they were not believed. It has been estimated that maybe 10% of wrongful convictions are ever overturned. What of the others? This is a monumental tragedy! **AND, for each innocent person sent to prison, there are dozens of other innocent people whose lives are shattered.**

There are many innocent people in the Utah prison system today. A recent report in the National Academy of Sciences Proceedings may have the best available estimate of false convictions, indicating as many as 4.1% of people in prison are falsely convicted. That translates to over 250 innocent people in Utah's prison system.⁽²⁾ In Utah, more than 95% of cases are settled by plea bargain.⁽³⁾ Practically, only the innocent in Utah choose to go to trial and most are found guilty.

In Utah, if falsely convicted people claim innocence, their punishment is made worse – they will not be considered for release after the normal prison time “because they do not show remorse.” The Board of Pardons will hold them in prison as long as the law allows, possibly for life, unless they admit guilt or innocence is proved.

Regarding those innocent people in Utah's prison system today, we should ask, is anything being done to help them? What office of state government has this responsibility? A basic tenet of American justice is that a person should only go to prison after guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. May we extend this

concept to, “No one should continue to be held in prison beyond a normal sentence because they may be innocent”? If anyone in prison continues to claim their innocence, do we have a duty to at least listen? Or do we just say that they are not taking responsibility?

A recent study⁽⁴⁾ looked at 215 questionable wrongful convictions in which polygraphs of the convicted persons or others (witnesses, etc.) were available either before trial or after conviction. For 80% of the cases, the prosecutor had polygraph information that clearly indicated the accused was innocent. This information could not be used in the trial, but the prosecutor could have used it as a reason for additional investigation, or to decide not to prosecute.

Polygraphs were taken after conviction in 67 of the 215 cases. All 67 people given polygraphs after conviction were scored as truthful in their claims of innocence. This 100% success rate for innocent people is extraordinary! Research on the Utah Directed Lie Comparison (DLC) Test, the current standard, indicates 92% accuracy when examining a person telling the truth.⁽⁵⁾

The current policy in the Utah justice system is that if an inmate claims he is innocent, he will not be eligible for early parole—he will be kept in prison. A more rational policy would be to administer a polygraph exam to any inmate that asserts his or her innocence; if the polygraph affirms the person is truthful, the report could be a positive factor in a parole decision. (But it would not change his guilt before the law.) The Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons are already using polygraph exams of inmates and parolees to better inform decisions. It would be a simple matter at little extra cost to give an additional polygraph to individuals that claim their innocence. The Utah justice system will make better decisions and save money.

⁽¹⁾ Full details of thousands of wrongful convictions are available on line at the National Registry of Exonerations, an activity of the University of Michigan Law School: <http://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Pages/browse.aspx>

⁽²⁾ Samuel R. Gross et al, “Rate of false conviction of criminal defendants who are sentenced to death” *Proceedings, National Academy of Sciences* (2017) <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/111/20/7230.full.pdf> An extensive review of wrongful conviction studies is here: https://en.everybodywiki.com/Rate_of_wrongful_convictions_in_the_United_States

⁽³⁾ David Leavitt, Utah County Attorney, reports 99% in Utah County, Daily Herald (newspaper) Jan. 19, 2020

⁽⁴⁾ M. Bonpasse, “Polygraphs and 215 Wrongful Conviction Exonerations” *Polygraph*, Vol. 42, no. 2, pages 112-127. (2013). Available on-line: https://www.polygraph.org/assets/docs/APA-Journal.Articles/2013/polygraphs_and_215_wrongful_convictions.pdf

⁽⁵⁾ *Meta-Analytic Survey of Criterion Accuracy of Validated Polygraph Techniques*, The Ad-Hoc Committee on Validated Techniques. Special report (2011). In *Polygraph*, 40(4), pp. 193-305 plus addendum. The referenced polygraph accuracy from table, page 240. Table also shows likelihood of guilty person claiming innocence and passing test is 5%. Thanks to Jared Rockwood, Intermountain Polygraph Services, Orem, Utah, for his assistance on polygraph accuracy and understanding.

Excerpts from KUER 90.1 Radio Website – COVID Virus Nov. 2nd Protest at DOC

By KUER 90.1 | [Emily Means](#) Published November 3, 2020 at 5:00 AM MST

To view the entire article, go to the link at the end of these excerpts.

Two ladies, Debbie Rivera and Stephanie Giles and two children protested with signs at the DOC building on Monday, Nov. 2nd. They represent several hundred others who are concerned about the DOC's handling of COVID outbreaks in Draper and CUCF.

Debbie Rivera and Stephanie Giles are part of a family

support group with Utah Prisoner Advocate Network. They discuss their loved ones' experiences during the COVID-19 outbreaks at the prison. Stephanie Giles said during the first outbreak a couple weeks ago, her fiancé was housed with COVID-19 positive inmates. He wasn't moved until three weeks later. “He ended up catching COVID-19 after a three-week period of being around

other inmates who had caught it," Giles said. "That's one of the biggest concerns that we're here for. We want to make sure they have the proper testing, PPE [personal protective equipment] as well as isolating inmates who are infected, possibly infected, and not infected."

<https://www.kuer.org/health-science-environment/2020-11-03/families-of-inmates-worried-after-new-outbreak-at-utah-state-prison>

November UPAN Meeting, Monday, November 9, 2020 by Warren Rosenbaum

Also some tips on ZOOM meetings and your participation

UPAN's November meeting was a ZOOM virtual (internet) meeting with Shane Severson, UPAN's Director of Communications, leading the meeting. The attendance was shown as 21 connections to ZOOM with more than one person attending at several connections. ZOOM meetings allow interaction (talking and listening) between participants. Readers of this newsletter who have internet access are encouraged to join us at the January ZOOM meeting. No December UPAN meeting.

UPAN's Facebook live-stream service continues but is not interactive. It's more like watching a TV program. So an upgrade to ZOOM participation is encouraged. For more, Google ZOOM meetings, and become familiar with the steps to take to attend via ZOOM. Full interactive participation is free (no cost) but requires a webcam with microphone and hearing devices. Computer speakers are okay but can produce some feedback thru your microphone, so some people use earbuds. While most computers have built in cameras, some do not and will need a webcam attached. Easy to install, the webcam with microphone simply plugs into your computer. (A caution, avoid the cheapies. My first

Families also want ... early release. Debbie Rivera said her daughter is scheduled to be released in April. She applied for early release and was denied. "They should release some of the inmates that aren't a threat to society that are close to getting out," Rivera. "They're like sitting ducks in there."

webcam cost \$27.99 and the microphone made me sound like I was talking in a barrel according to listeners who attended that meeting).

The meeting included some complaints received from inmates about lack of Grievance forms and not being delivered when promised, locked up for extended periods, no meds for some inmates, lack of food at times, and Case Workers not available or seldom following up on requests or concerns. A serious issue discussed was lack of classes, especially the MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy), a required class to complete the Case Action Plan before an inmate can be released.

Deon Corkins expressed her gratitude for the Newsletter Volunteers and their dedication to getting the UPAN newsletter sent to inmates who do not have family out here to do so. In turn, Shane Severson expressed his appreciation for the tremendous work Deon is doing coordinating all of those volunteers.

Other subjects of the UPAN meeting included Audrae Rogers seeking more Christmas Card mailing volunteers, and me reading several gratitude notes from inmates. The meeting concluded with three attendees exchanging comments about complaints they've received from their inmates at both the Draper and CUCF facilities. COVID is a HUGE concern!

One last thing, my new webcam will be wide-angle lens for a wider picture. My one-time used old webcam was a closeup picture only and all the viewers saw of me was my balding forehead and huge nostrils as I leaned back to view my computer screen thru my bifocals. UPAN ZOOM meetings can be fun. Try one, you'll like it.

P. S. Can you handle one more BTW? When Molly reads this meeting summary, she will probably have someone else write up the meeting summaries from now on. To all my inmate friends, stay cool. Ed.

To all my inmate friends, stay cool. Ed.

Thank You UPAN Staff

by Eric D. Green

There are multitudes like me, with no support nor family...

Hurting in our silence, while their blind eyes do not see...

A number sequence has replaced who I used to be...

No longer known by given name, I am four-five-four, dash-three...

Knowingly exiled to drift, a storm-ridden, judicial sea...

Yearning daily to be seen, to be rescued, to be free...

Others stranded here are dying! Charged a fee, to cough and bleed...

Under duress, and sentenced to stress, with gavel banging speed...

Unwanted and oppressed, "strip, and undress!" they yelled to me...

Peering eyes quick with lies all in the name of "safety"...

And if you refuse, the chemicals will come hastily...

Not one report on the evening news, "Who's abusing us daily?"...

Systematic swords fall often swift and heavy...

Torrents of injustice, crash in waves against the levee!

At UPAN your heroics inform us all, now we are ready...

Facing prison Omongers venom, is no small feat to keep us steady...

For UPAN's war, waged against injustice, make our ink pens deadly!

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

~ I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put it down. ~~ Atheism is a non-prophet organization. ~~
~~ Despite the high cost of living, it remains popular. ~~ The rotation of the earth really makes my day. ~~

Hoping the UPAN Newsletter adds some joy and cheer to your day. The best attitude is staying cool. Ed.

* * * * *

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
UPAN Volunteer Coordinator: An Bradshaw
Inmate Newsletter Volunteer Coord: Deon Corkins
Holiday Card Program Coordinator: Audrae Rogers

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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***