



**UPAN Newsletter** Volume 10 Number 11 | **NOVEMBER 2023**  
*“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”*

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**Thanksgiving Help for Needy – Advocacy & Gratitude – Picture Program Update**  
**Co-founders Thanksgiving Thoughts – Visiting Update – Words from Directors –**  
**New BOPP Member – UDC Treatment Programs Update – Parole Info – *Dell-Emerald Topics***

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**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 13, 2023 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. **IN PERSON AT** The Other Side Academy (TOSA) **IN PERSON** at 5:30, which will start with TOSA serving us dinner. Then at 6:30 TOSA will give us a presentation and a tour. So whoever cannot make it at 5:30 can show up at 6:30 for the presentation and tour. TOSA is located at 667 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah. Meetings are **FREE** and open to the public.

**Following Monthly Meeting:** **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER –**  
**Monday, January 8, 2024 on Zoom 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** Ian L. Quiel, Postconviction Division Head, Indigent Appellate Defense Division, Utah Indigent Defense Commission. Join at <https://bit.ly/3vqQjiA>

*Unless otherwise stated, UPAN continues virtual meetings. Available on UPAN Facebook Live and on Facebook page afterwards. Use link above or visit UPAN website for link (p. 10), or Utah Prisoner Advocate Facebook Page for link to current monthly meeting. Free to the public.*

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

**For FAMILIES - Crossroads Urban Center’s Thanksgiving Food Giveaway**

Crossroads Urban Center’s Thanksgiving Food Giveaway is coming up on Nov. 22, 2023. They expect to provide meals to over 3,000 households on that day. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> may seem like a long time from now, but it is only a couple pay periods away for a single mom who is already worried about paying the rent for November.

People in need can receive a turkey and some side dishes to help make this year’s Thanksgiving better.

**Where:** Smiths Ballpark Parking Lot, 77 West 1300 South, SLC, Utah

**When:** Wednesday Nov 22, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. First come, first served until supplies run out.

**How it works:** 1) Drive North on West Temple and be directed to an entrance to the parking lot.

2) A volunteer will load a turkey and side dishes into your trunk. One turkey and one bag of side dishes per vehicle. **Walk up options are available.**

Sponsored by Crossroads Urban Center and Harmons Grocery Stores [www.crossroadsurbancenter.org](http://www.crossroadsurbancenter.org)

***“Thank you for all this information. It helps me understand more fully how that prison operates and how to navigate it.” M***

## A Decade of Advocacy and the Power of Gratitude

By Shane Severson, Director of Communications

Dear UPAN Community, This November marks a poignant moment for all of us—a decade since the inception of UPAN. Founded in July 2013 by Molly Prince, Chris Moon, and Heather Fabian, we've come a long way in these ten years. A decade of advocacy, resilience, shared stories, and unyielding hope. As the coolness of November wraps around us, it's a time many of us choose to reflect on what we're grateful for. This year, as we celebrate our tenth anniversary, our hearts brim with gratitude and pride.

In the vast and often tumultuous journey of advocating for incarcerated individuals and their families, there are moments of heartache, but equally, there are moments filled with gratitude, resilience, and hope. I've often found that during the most challenging periods of our advocacy journey, it's gratitude that serves as a compass. It's what keeps us grounded, reminding us that even in the most trying circumstances, there's always something to be thankful for. I'm deeply grateful for every single member of our UPAN community—those who share their personal stories, those who tirelessly work behind the scenes, and those who simply lend a listening ear when others need it most.

For many of us, including myself, we have our own loved ones behind bars. Every letter, call, or visit with them reminds us of the love, strength, and courage that exists even behind prison walls. I draw immense strength from

these connections, and I'm eternally grateful for every moment that reminds me of our shared humanity.

A special mention must be made about the appointment of the new Utah Department of Corrections Executive Director, Brian Redd. Director Redd's leadership has ushered in an era of positive change, fostering greatly increased communication and collaboration. His commitment to partnership with advocates like us at UPAN is unparalleled, and his endeavors to promote the well-being of the incarcerated in Utah have not gone unnoticed. I am profoundly thankful for his dedication and for the corrections officers and administration that work earnestly alongside him to keep our incarcerated loved ones safe. Their role, often underappreciated, is vital in maintaining a system where safety and respect are paramount.

In closing, let me say this: every story shared, every tear shed, and every hand extended in support is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our UPAN community. As we move forward, let's carry the lessons, the memories, and the hopes of the past decade with us. I'm immensely proud to be a part of this journey with all of you, and I am, from the core of my being, thankful.

Warm Regards, Shane Severson  
Director of Communications  
Utah Prisoner Advocate Network

## Updates on The New Picture Program

As of October, the new prison Picture Program has rolled out in both Utah prisons. It is being offered to different housing areas in steps. It began with general population. If you have in-person visiting, it's offered during visitation.

UDC's Maria Shirey, Assistant Deputy Executive Director assured us they expect that all housing areas will have had the opportunity to have their pictures taken and emailed to their loved ones by the end of the year. This includes those in maximum security housing units and those who receive only video visits.

**An unexpected glitch** came to UPAN's attention in October when we were told that an incarcerated person who has no visitors was told he could not have his photo taken in CUCF because he had no approved visitors. This was of concern, as we were under the impression that ALL incarcerated persons would be able to have

their photo taken and sent to their family, regardless of if those family members were on the visiting list.

During the October meeting between UDC administrators and some UPAN and PAG directors, we were told that UDC was identifying recipients of the pictures who were already approved through visiting. UDC chose this method because they had already been vetted as people eligible to be in contact with and visit those in custody.

We were told that UDC is working out how to vet the recipients for inmates without visitors to make sure they are not restricted from having contact with them.

UPAN suggested UDC could use the visiting application process to gather information, barring people not eligible to visit due to a criminal history. If someone is not eligible to visit does not mean they are not eligible to have contact. We are hoping this problem is remedied soon.

## Thanksgiving Thoughts From UPAN Co-Founders

**Chris Moon, Co-Founder, Director, Secretary.** WOW! This year Utah Prisoner Advocate Network had its big 10-year celebration at the Utah State Capitol! I can't express the full amount of gratitude, admiration and surprise. Yes, surprise.

When this all started it was just a few women: an aunt, a daughter, and a mother. We had questions and we wanted answers; we wanted change, and we were ready to ask for it. 10 years later, we still have questions, and

we still want change. And we are realizing progress as we look back on this past decade.

Many colleagues have joined, a few have gone, one even came back! We are here and will continue to advocate for the human rights, health care, resources, rehabilitation, reduced recidivism and many other issues that our Loved Ones need and deserve. I enjoy connecting with you all through Facebook, and I am SO grateful for family and friends and everyone that ADVOCATEs for change in the correctional facilities. It takes a village and we're thankful you are in ours!

**Molly Prince, Co-Founder, Director, Treasurer.** I would never have believed when we organized UPAN in 2013 that it would become the organization it is today. One that is able to work with other advocacy groups as well as the Utah Dept. of Corrections to identify, discuss, and collaborate in working toward solutions to improve various problems in Utah's prison system. As a completely volunteer organization, we are achieving that at a pace now that is more intense than ever.

I'm so thankful for the shift that is taking place within UDC under the leadership of the new Executive Director Brian Redd and his executive team, as well as all the administrators, directors, wardens, deputy wardens, captains, lieutenants, and correctional staff that are joining him in working to create a transformation in the culture of how things are and will be handled in the future within Utah's prison system.

I am grateful that Dir. Steve Gehrke has continued to hold the Stakeholders meetings every month with a wide variety of community organizations with UDC directors and correctional staff. We discuss and address a wide range of issues. We consider potential and some now-realized solutions during and in between these meetings. I have appreciated the diligence of those in the Constituent Services office that work with families and advocates to receive concerns and bring attention to issues throughout the system. These include Kaitlin Felsted (who has moved from UDC to other pursuits),

Liam Truchard, who is now creating podcasts to assist the public in understanding how different areas of Corrections work; and Jade Watkin, who joined that team this summer and is dedicated to tracking and forwarding all of the concerns to the correct division that flow in from constituents (families, advocates, and community organizations) on an hourly basis. She will give us answers within the constraints of her position, otherwise she leaves it to the appropriate correctional staff to address what is submitted. I cannot even imagine the volume of emails and phone calls she gets on dozens of different issues each week.

I am grateful for the transition to having the oversight of Correctional Health Services to Utah's Dept. of Health & Human Services this summer. Working with Dr. Wisner and Dr. Hoffman of DHHS as well as Rebecca Brown, LCSW, who moved from DHHS to become Deputy Executive Director at UDC has been a positive experience these past several months. Those at the executive level have welcomed perspective and insight from UPAN, have been open to receive concerns at an administrative level and have been making steps to improve the delivery of service to incarcerated patients.

I am eternally grateful for all of UPAN's Directors, who give of their time, energy, talents, skills, and financial support to UPAN's cause. They are truly a passionate group of people invested in learning more about how Corrections works, finding solutions to problems, and improving conditions for our incarcerated population.

Finally, I am so appreciative of and thankful for the many volunteers and family members who offer their experiences, support, caring, and guidance to other friends and families on our Family Facebook Group. The fears and frustrations of having an incarcerated loved one cannot be fully described to those who have never experienced this. Those on the UPAN Family Group support and help each other to get through the challenges faced daily. This is vitally important to the well-being of our prison family. Thank you all!

***Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!***

### **Update on Some Visiting Questions & Concerns**

By Molly Prince, LCSW

In the September UPAN meeting, discussion was held regarding the differences between the visiting rules and protocols in USCF and CUCF. Directors Redd and Brown were attentive and committed to look into some of the concerns they did not have answers for. UPAN Directors Shane Severson, Virginia Robertson, and Molly Prince have since had a meeting with Redd and his team so we have a few updates

**Hand holding and hugs.** Families are asking to at least be allowed to hold hands on top of the visiting tables in order to feel closer to loved ones. We do not have an update on that one yet. Prior to COVID (and the last time I personally visited) the rule was both visitors and

incarcerated had to keep their hands on top of the table at all times. We were allowed to hold hands on top of the tables. Brief hugs and kisses are supposed to be allowed by policy at the beginning and end of the in-person contact visit. Research has shown that positive, supportive human touch reduces depression, anxiety, and aggression in prisoners.

**Privileges.** A family member had submitted the questions about visiting privileges. For example, if an incarcerated person has all of their privilege levels why are they not allowed a contact visit. She wrote, "It seems cruel to make our LO's go years without the touch of a loved one. Especially if they have fought to

get their levels back.” We are told that this is a question that can only be answered on a case by case basis, rather than a simple answer across the board.

**UDC wants to reduce concerns about retaliation if family reports a visiting officer.** Director Redd stressed that he will not tolerate retaliation if families report a visiting officer who is rude, harassing, or otherwise causing fear and stress to visitors, particularly children. Please remember when reporting a situation to have all the details, the date, time of visit and name of the officer involved. A specific example was given: The response was that people are encouraged to report officers who are inappropriate, disrespectful, or harassing. This can be done by reporting the visiting officer to one of the following:

### **UPAN Directors’ Thoughts and Appreciation this Thanksgiving** **UPAN’s Directors share their thoughts this Thanksgiving**

**An Bradshaw, Coordinator of Meetings, Volunteers.** I’m grateful UDC has a new director who is responsive to the concerns brought to them by UPAN and other advocacy groups. Change won’t happen overnight, and it will never be all that we want because UDC’s focus has to be on keeping staff and our Loved One’s safe, but we are seeing unprecedented improvements under the new administration.

I also appreciate everyone who works toward improving the lives of the incarcerated. They are powerless and need our voices. The UPAN board members devote more time to this cause than people realize. They all have jobs, families, and other demands on their time, yet they keep focusing year after year on helping inmates and their families.

Finally, I am grateful for those who don’t try to push boundaries or game the system. That may sound ridiculous, but every restriction and inexplicable rule we and our LOs experience is in response to someone trying to get away with something. Can you imagine how fantastic it would be to have visits that are not constrained by all the limitations we have? Or having our LOs not be subjected to strip searches, lockdowns, violence, or paying rent to use the phone or buy commissary, etc.?

I echo the words of Elizabeth Hunt, a defense attorney who spoke to UPAN a few years ago. When her clients receive prison sentences, she tells them, “You’re going to do the time, so make it count.” That’s what I told my loved one as he headed off to prison. He will spend that time in prison, but he can choose if he makes good use of the time and improves himself. Thankfully, he is doing just that, and I’m so grateful that he is choosing to become an even better person.

#### **Deon Corkins, Inmate Newsletter Volunteer**

**Coordinator.** When the incarceration began, I sank into a deep cold gloom. UPAN was a warming sun that cheered both of us. I am grateful for the kindness of an

**At USCF:** Captain Tawnya Nicholes or Lt. Gull  
[tawnyanicholes@utah.gov](mailto:tawnyanicholes@utah.gov) [jgull@utah.gov](mailto:jgull@utah.gov)

**At CUCF:** Captain Anderson is the one you can report concerns to for CUCF. [handerson@utah.gov](mailto:handerson@utah.gov)

When reporting, please be very specific about the officer’s name, the date and time of visit, and specific behavior or words used by the person you are reporting.

Now, with that said, if you still feel uncomfortable going directly to those over the visiting, you can email all the specific details to [utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com) and we can forward the concerns for you.

We will update the ongoing questions and concerns related to visiting in future UPAN newsletters and on the UPAN Family Facebook Group.

unknown inmate in my loved one’s third county jail who shared a copy of the newsletter with him. That gesture started us on a path to knowing there were people who understood what we were experiencing and had helpful information to share. We found the fortitude to face the years ahead of us.

*“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.” — Albert Camus*

Attending UPAN meetings convinced me of this even more. Eventually I volunteered to send out a few newsletters per month. Later, I responded to a request from UPAN for help to coordinate the volunteer efforts to mail out UPAN newsletters to about 400 inmates without family or friends to aid them.

I am so very thankful to these volunteers to donate their time, stamps, paper, printer ink, and envelopes. Their patience in handling the many address changes and mailing rules deserves a round of applause. We get letters from incarcerated people sharing their appreciation for the newsletter. So thank you to everyone who helps get them mailed into their loved ones and others.

#### **Heidi Kubbe, Director of BOPP Issues, Commissary**

**Issues.** What I Am Thankful For: We live in a crazy world and it’s far too easy to only see the negative around us. I am so grateful every time I see someone do a good deed for someone else, even a small gesture can have a huge impact!

It’s easy to get bogged down by society but opening your eyes and seeing the good can make you thankful that there are still good people in the world. This carries over to UDC. I have met officers over the years who have been kind not only to me but to my loved one. Just a kind word or gesture has made my visiting more pleasant.

I am extremely thankful for having a loving family that supports me and my loved one. Remembering good memories helps me maintain a happy mind. Thinking

back about that time that I laughed about something so silly brings a smile to my face. This is something I try to do with my family and my loved one. We can remember these times and share and laugh about them. Most important, no one can take those memories from us.

Looking back through the years I have realized that the greater the challenge I faced, the more I learned, the more supportive people I met, and the stronger I become. For that, I am grateful.

**Devin Prisbrey, Director of Visiting Issues.** I'm thankful for Molly and UPAN for accepting me, the relationships that have been created with the other Directors, and to have been given the opportunity to be the Director of Visiting Issues and be a part of such an amazing group of advocates.

Being a director has allowed my own personal growth, networking, advocating, and helping others who are on this journey of having been affected by incarceration of a loved one. Being able to help so many families, some with random questions that are not related to visiting, some with visiting questions, and others with very complicated visiting issues that have been quite challenging. These interactions have been very rewarding to the families, inmates and myself.

I'm thankful for the experiences that I've had and the opportunity that it has allowed me to build positive relationships and connections with several departments in UDC, USCF and CUCF and most importantly UPAN and what I call the UPAN family.

**Karen Thompson, Director of Special Issues.** A year in UPAN...2023 has been a roller coaster. We have made advancement in some areas, medical, educational opportunities, visitation, war on mosquitoes. All these have been positive. We continued to face obstacles in access to medical, phones, and conflicts.

But most importantly we have increased in hope. The new DOC director has opened communication channels making improvement possible. The world class UPAN directors have stepped up to their volunteer positions.

It's a long road, but UPAN is dedicated to doing all possible to help families and friends of those incarcerated in the Utah Correctional Facilities. It is a pleasure to associate with everyone concerned. Here's to 2024!

**Kelly Bingham, Director of Educational Opportunity.** As I think about this past year (two years of freedom), I am grateful for many things. Spending quality time with family and friends doing so many fun things (34 concerts, many sporting events including the Daytona 500, hunting, and racing quarter horses). Making up for lost time (5 years) has been such a huge blessing in my life.

This was all made possible by something I will always be

grateful for and that is the Salt Lake County Conviction Integrity Unit put together by Sim Gill to help review wrongful incarceration cases that prosecutors should have never prosecuted.

I am thankful for the many people who make up UPAN and work hard every day to make positive change in our prison system. I have seen first-hand many of these changes starting to take place. It warms my heart to know so many people care about our incarcerated loved ones. It gives me hope for those who have made mistakes and find themselves in our jails and prisons.

I am thankful for the progress being made to bring post-secondary education to the prison system with Pell grants and other resources so that one day hopefully everyone who wishes to receive an education while incarcerated will be able to do so.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have to be a small part of the UPAN team helping when I can. May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season and find everything possible to be positive about as one day you too will have freedom once again. Make the best of it!

**Virginia "Ginny" Robertson, MSN, FNP-BC, Director of UPAN Med-Team.** This year I am grateful for the time I had with my son and grandchildren while he was on parole. We had a memory making trip to Disney World and a wonderful summer.

I am so grateful for the willingness of the new DOC Administration to listen and hear our concerns. I feel they are not just listening, but they are starting to institute changes for the better of all incarcerated in so many areas.

I am grateful for all the connections that UPAN has brought in my life. The support from each person has helped me better understand incarceration and the need for a better system. I am hopeful for the new changes and to see lives change for the better.

**Marsha, Health Educator on the Med Team.** I'm grateful for UPAN and its volunteers for sharing wisdom, kindness, and support through my journey with my incarcerated loved one. It has helped me have a better understanding of many things associated with having an incarcerated LO along with learning to become a better advocate. I'm also grateful to have a safe place where others understand and that I'm not alone.

**Maureen Parker, Nurse Practitioner, UPAN Med Team.** I am grateful for the opportunity to make a small difference in the lives of other human beings and use my expertise and experience for a good outcome. It is a privilege to speak up for human rights, especially in this environment.

I am also very grateful to the UPAN founders and volunteers who have given me inspiration. This group offers me a path of compassion and working towards the greater good. Thank you.

## Gov. Cox Appoints Scott Stephenson as New Board of Pardons and Parole member

based on press release posted at

<https://governor.utah.gov/2023/09/29/gov-cox-names-scott-stephenson-to-board-of-pardons-and-parole/>

According to a press release from the Governor's office on Sept. 29, 2023, Scott Stephenson was appointed to fill a spot on Utah's five-member Board of Pardons and Parole. This appointment required approval by the Utah Senate, which occurred the first week of October.

"The decisions made by the Board of Pardons and Parole have tremendous consequences for both individuals as well as public safety," said Gov. Cox. "Scott's knowledge of the criminal justice system, his extensive experience in law enforcement, and his current studies in mental health counseling are the right combination of skills the Board of Pardons and Parole needs. We appreciate his willingness to take on this important role."

Stephenson took the seat vacated by Marshall Thompson, who was slated to take the position of the Chair. Carrie Cochran has moved back into position as a regular Board member, now that Stephenson has joined the Board. Despite being brand new, he is Chairperson of the BOPP.

Prior to moving to the BOPP, Stephenson served in law enforcement for 28 years. Most recently as the executive director for the Utah Fraternal Order of Police. He previously served as the director of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) with the Utah Department of Public Safety, where he oversaw curriculum development, training, and certification of all of Utah's law enforcement including basic and in-service training, police dog handlers, instructors, judges, and canines.

Stephenson was an adjunct professor at Weber State Univ. and currently teaches at Salt Lake Community College in Utah. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business from the Univ. of Utah and a Master of Criminal Justice degree, emphasis on Constitutional Foundation and Behavioral Social Theory. He is currently studying to become a clinical mental health therapist and anticipates graduating with a Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree from Liberty University in 2024.

***"I appreciate your taking the time to read my letter. Your efforts change the lives of many in a positive way." JS***

## Questions Answered about Treatment Programs in UDC

By Molly Prince, LCSW

Questions brought to the September UPAN Meeting have been answered and clarified by various UDC administrators and we now can share current information.

**Substance Use Treatment.** The rumor that the men's substance use treatment (Conquest) was being shut down in USCF is not true. There is no shut down. While the prison continually struggles with a shortage in staffing all therapist positions in all programs to capacity, and despite the recent retirement of the former Substance Use Treatment Director, the program continues at USCF in both the women's and men's housing. We were told that UDC has opened 5 part-time benefit positions for behavioral health providers.

There is hope that if UDC receives a grant they have applied for that would provide more telehealth options in the facilities, that they could expand substance use treatment to more individuals who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in the current programs.

As it stands, there is **Elevate**, which is the Substance Use program in Dell at USCF for women. **Conquest** is in USCF for men. There is **Hope** in CUCF for men.

### **Approved State Inmate Substance Use Programs in County Jails on Contract with UDC**

- Beaver: "Beaver Residential Treatment" (B.R.T.) – Residential Substance Use: 12-18 months – 145 participants

- Cache: "Bear River Addiction Therapy" (B.R.A.T.) – Intensive Outpatient Substance Use: 20 weeks for Safety Level 4 male inmates – 16 participants
- Garfield: "Dare to Soar" – Intensive Outpatient Substance Use: 6-12 months – 42 participants
- Kane: "FOCUS" – Intensive Outpatient Substance Use (SO SUTP and Non-SO SUTP): 6-12 months – 60 participants
- Millard: "R-Hope" – Intensive Outpatient Substance Use: 6-12 months - 18 participants
- Tooele: "Lasting Outreach Treatment & Understanding Sobriety (L.O.T.U.S.) – Intensive Outpatient Substance Use: 20 weeks –12 female participants

**Sex Offense Treatment.** UPAN has reached out to Dr. Candice Waltrip, who is over the Sex Offense Treatment Program (SOTP) after receiving a variety of questions from families and a couple letters from incarcerated persons who need it. The rumor that keeps surfacing every few weeks that SOTP is not up and running is not true. As of the end of summer, three groups completed their programs, and this fall the new groups are running.

SOTP always does risk assessments on people who are ordered to do SO treatment in prison. Since March,

2022, if someone scores as Low Risk for re-offense, then SOTP is notifying the Board of Pardons & Parole of their score and recommend that they are good candidates to be released to do their sex offense programs in the community. That is one way UDC is trying to reduce the number of people in the SOTP programs, so that they use the resources they have in the prison to treat those who are moderate to high risk, and not have those who are scored as low risk take up those spots. This is a step in the right direction in terms of reducing the wait to get into SOTP as well as provide opportunity for people who score Low Risk to have the BOPP consider releasing them to do their treatment in the community.

**Sex Offense Treatment in the prisons includes** Preparing for Change (also called Pre-Treatment); CBI-SO; Relapse Prevention; and Footprints (which is the program for intellectual disabilities).

**CUCF** offers Preparing for Change.

**USCF** offers Preparing for Change, CBI-SO, Relapse Prevention, and Footprints.

**IPP Jails offering Approved Sex Offense Treatment.**

There were questions asked in the September meeting asking which IPP jails offer SOTP that the Board will accept as sufficient when considering if someone has

met their Case Action Plan and treatment requirement. This was not information that Director Redd had easily available at the September meeting, but info can be located on the UDC website at:

<https://corrections.utah.gov/county-jail-program/> click on the orange Jail Programs Booklet button. This booklet was revised January 2023. UPAN verified this info with SOTP Director Dr. Candice Waltrip in October.

- Kane: Pre-Treatment: 26 weeks – 32 participants
- Kane: Sex Offense Therapy Program: 6-9 months CBI-SO – 30 participants
- San Juan: Sex Offense Therapy Program: 6-9 months CBI-SO – 20 participants
- San Juan: Pre-Treatment: 26 weeks – 16 participants
- Sanpete: Sex Offense Therapy: 6-9 months CBI-SO – 22 participants
- Sanpete: Pre-Treatment: 26 weeks – 10 participants

People who would have been placed in Paradigm (low risk men) or the Women's SOTP are referred to the community for treatment. Those who complete prison programs will generally be required to do continued care in the community

## **Basic Information & Resources for Those Releasing to Parole**

By Molly Prince, LCSW

UPAN has received increasing requests for information about what people releasing from Utah's prisons need to know about resources they should access upon returning to the community. This article is intended to assist with some of that information.

UDC has a Re-Entry Division that is supposed to help incarcerated people prepare for their release to the community. That division is headed by Katie Bennett. If you have received a release date and have not been contacted by a re-entry case manager, you can write her in interoffice mail. Re-Entry is part of the Division of Programming located in the UDC administration building. You can write to Katie Bennett, Re-Entry, Division of Programming, 14714 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020. Families can reach Ms. Bennett at [kabennett@utah.gov](mailto:kabennett@utah.gov) or 801-522-7068.

The following in *italics* is taken directly from the UDC Website <https://corrections.utah.gov/reentry-planning/>

### **REENTRY PLANNING**

*The Programming Division believes reentry planning begins on day one of incarceration. The prospect of securing housing, employment, health care, and a myriad of tiny tasks such as obtaining vital documents can be daunting, particularly for those who have been out of the labor market for a number of years.*

*The Programming Reentry Team prepares returning citizens with the skills, connections, and opportunities they will need to successfully reenter their communities. Connecting returning citizens prior to their release with Workforce Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and other community stakeholders provides opportunities to access services while reducing barriers to successful reentry. The Programming Reentry Team collaborates with the AP&P Reentry Team to help provide as many resources as possible to our returning citizens.*

*The Programming Reentry Team also assists returning citizens in securing the following:*

*Medicaid provides comprehensive healthcare as well as behavioral health treatment, such as psycho-therapy and counseling, mental and behavioral health inpatient service, and substance use disorder treatment.*

*Vital documents such as birth certificates and social security cards.*

**There is no specific information posted on the UDC website for what Adult Probation & Parole (A P & P) Re-entry does.** That might be understood by reading through a variety of links and pages on the UDC website.

## **OTHER RE-ENTRY INFORMATION THAT UPAN FEELS IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW**

**Social Security Card.** Do you have, does the prison have, or does anyone in the community have your social security card? If not, or if you do not know where yours is, ask your case manager or the Re-Entry Team to help you apply for it. This is something you should look into long before you get a parole date!

**Families and friends** can go to the UDC website on Re-Entry at [corrections.utah.gov](http://corrections.utah.gov) (Parolees can access this once they have released from prison and have internet access).

**Under the Probation / Parole tab** on the UDC website there is a drop-down box which has a variety of items to choose from:

- There is information about A P & P that it is recommended that all people who are on parole should read.
- There is another link on how to contact A P & P in your area.
- There is an Address Verification Form in this that can be clicked on. The link is [https://utahcorrections.wufoo.com/forms/z1rvpnor0dfm\\_omv/](https://utahcorrections.wufoo.com/forms/z1rvpnor0dfm_omv/) This is what family and support can click on to fill out the address that is being submitted for you to parole to.
- There is a page about the 5 Community Correctional Centers in Utah.
- There is page about resources, but it is extremely limited in terms of what is actually useful to people with criminal histories. It provides a handful of contact information for substance use and mental health resources. Please note it does not include actual treatment facilities for substance use or mental health.
- There is a list of providers of sex offense specific treatment in Utah.
- There is a page that includes various probation /parole agreements used in Utah.
- There is a link to a Success Stories page.
- There is a page that explains about A P & P's Treatment Resource Centers that are located in various offices throughout the state and offer a variety of services and case management <https://corrections.utah.gov/probation-parole/treatment-resource-centers/>
- There is a page that explains the use of Access Corrections to pay supervision and other fees at <https://corrections.utah.gov/probation-parole/where-to-pay-fees/>

**Release Day at USCF for everyone who is able to attend.** The prison is supposed to have every releasing person go to a booth or area set up on release day at USCF. We are told that in addition to anyone that is being transported to a Community Correctional Center early in the morning that might miss it, anyone that releases from anywhere other than USCF will miss it.

We are told that various agencies will come to the Community Correctional Centers (CCC's also known as halfway houses) to share information on resources. Check with the CCC and your shift leader for the days they are scheduled to come so you can be present.

**Check in with Parole Officer.** We are told that on Release Day, individuals releasing to the community (not a CCC) should be able to do an initial check-in with a parole agent (not necessarily your permanent one) and then go into the parole office in your region with an appointment after the day you release. Those details will be available to you on Release Day.

**State ID.** There will be an area on Release Day that is manned by the Driver License Division. They are supposed to give you a temporary ID. Then you can go to the regular DLD near you to get your permanent Utah ID or your driver's license.

**Veteran's Services.** If you are a veteran, contact the VA Medical Center in Salt Lake City about accessing medical benefits when you get out. It is possible the VA could have a service table on Release Day to gather more information.

The Salt Lake VA has a re-entry person for people coming out of prison named Casey Burton. She is available at VA Medical Center 500 Foothill Drive Salt Lake City UT 84148 385-222-0302. Her email is [casey.burton@va.gov](mailto:casey.burton@va.gov). She should be able to direct you regarding how to apply for Medical services and access other services.

The Department of Workforce Services also has a Veteran Specialist to assist those who are veterans and seeking employment. They can help with a resumé and may help pay for tools for certain types of employment that require employees to have their own tools.

You will need your DD214 for any services you apply for or receive through the Veterans Administration.

**Obtaining your DD214.** How to request DD214 per the VA website: *If your home of record upon your release from active-duty service was within the State of Utah, then the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs may have a copy in our archive. Please contact us at 801-894-2372 or at [veterans@utah.gov](mailto:veterans@utah.gov) to request a copy. To search our archive we will need your: Full Name, Date of Birth, Last four digits of your Social Security Number.*

*If your home of record upon your release was not Utah, you can request a copy of your DD-214 from the VA.*

**Department of Workforce Services.** Please be aware that Utah's Dept. of Workforce Services now administers all state government assistance – Medicaid, Financial Aid for people with no income; Food Stamps (SNAP); and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Applications are available online, or you should be able to obtain applications during the Release Day Fair.



There is an Employment Counselor for Justice Involved People (called Offender Employment Specialist) named Oscar Molina located in the Taylorsville DWS office. Contact information is 801-269-4850, [omolina@utah.gov](mailto:omolina@utah.gov). He has experience working with people on probation and parole; helping them develop resumé's and referring them to certain jobs that he is aware of that hire people with felony records.

### **UPAN's Recommendations if Going to a CCC**

**If you release to a halfway house / community correctional center.** There are 6 community correctional / residential treatment centers operated by UDC:  
*Atherton Community Treatment Center*, SLC for women  
*Bonneville Community Correctional Center (BCCC)* in West Valley City serves men  
*Northern Utah CCC (NUCCC)* in Ogden serves men  
*Orange Street CCC (OSCCC)* in SLC serves women  
*Fortitude Treatment Center* in SLC serves men  
*Timpanogos Community Treatment Center* in Utah County serving men - Planned to open in Nov. 2023

**CCC's are also known as halfway houses.** They are intended to provide a place to live and help parolees get on their feet who may not have a place to go when they leave prison. They also have various types of treatment programs for individuals who may need additional treatment as they transition back into the community. Information from <https://corrections.utah.gov/probation-parole/community-correctional-centers/>. That page also has info for families on sponsoring a resident out of CCC.

This writer recommends that when you get to the CCC, ask your shift leader/agent to provide you with a list of resources in the community. It is our understanding that not everyone being transported to a CCC early in the morning on release day has the benefit of going through the Release Day Fair that provides a wide variety of resources, applications for services and contacts that help people get started in the community.

**Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM)** We recommend that you make sure that you apply for Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM) through Utah Medicaid. This is done through the Dept. of Workforce Services. You can apply for that as soon as you are released, and your shift leader / PO in the halfway house will also need to fill out a form verifying you are on parole / justice involved. For assistance with this, you can reach out to the Utah Health Policy Project for guidance on how to apply. <https://www.healthpolicyproject.org/>

Even if you qualify for Medicare (which is insurance for people age 65 and over), you will need the medical coverage offered by TAM while you work to get Medicare going. Many people who spent years in prison have a variety of medical conditions that need attention upon release, including making sure you can get appointments to get prescriptions filled in a timely

manner. Immediately applying for Targeted Adult Medicaid in Utah will help this occur. You need to apply before you get a job or have any sort of income. It will be good for up to 12 months, and has proven a literal life saver for many people who spent decades in prison without quality medical care for chronic conditions.

**There should be community agencies that send representatives to the CCC periodically.** When you get to the halfway house, please ask for information on when various agencies are scheduled to show up to help with accessing various resources and services. Then pay attention to that schedule and try to be available for when they come so that you can receive the applications and information or referrals you might need for various services.

Here are some examples I have been told about:

- Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) has representatives go to the halfway houses every couple of weeks to help people apply for Utah TAM Medicaid. UHPP also has a booth at the prison on Release Day giving information on how to access their services to help in applying for and obtaining Targeted Adult Medicaid for justice involved people. You can call them, phone # is 801-433-2299
- Representatives of the LDS Church will go to CCCs and may provide bus passes or vouchers for clothing. In SLC the LDS Church holds services at what is called the Bonneville Branch in downtown SLC. In Ogden it is called the Watertower Branch.
- Dept. of Workforce Services. DWS now incorporates Utah Medicaid, Employment Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, General Financial Assistance, and SNAP (food stamps). It is my understanding they are also supposed to send representatives to the halfway houses on a regular basis to help residents there access these resources. DWS also should have a service table on Release Day at USCF.

**You will be required to get a job while in the CCC.** Unless you have a medical reason, a disability, or are eligible for Social Security Retirement, be prepared to start looking for a job while in the halfway house.

**Social Security payments.** It is possible things have changed but it is my understanding that you cannot receive social security payments while in a correctional facility. UPAN does not have a director specializing in this area, and several of us have been told that for Social Security purposes, a halfway house / community correctional center is still considered a correctional facility by the Social Security.

UPAN recommends you call the Social Security Office and get the exact information you need in your specific case when you get to the halfway house so you know what you will need to do. It is really challenging these days to get in-person appointments without waiting for weeks, but you can try. And you can set something up a few weeks out and go then.

**UPAN wants to send our congratulations and best wishes** to everyone who is in the process of planning for an upcoming release. This is a positive step. It can raise anxiety due to the uncertainty of what to expect

when moving back into the community, including to a community correctional center after incarceration. Remember to take things one step at a time and reach out to your support system.

*Dell-Emerald Topics* **Update on the Women & Children's Program in UDC and the Correctional Postnatal & Early Childhood Advisory Board**

By Molly Prince, LCSW

In the September UPAN meeting with Directors Redd and Brown, we asked for an update on when the Nursery for Utah's new Women and Children program will be up and running in Dell for pregnant mothers to give birth and be able to spend time with their babies in the nursery. The nursery was included when the new prison was built.

Redd and Brown explained that the process it is now in the hands of an advisory board that was developed subsequent to legislation sponsored by Rep. Candice Pierucci earlier this year. Trisha Reynolds, Intergenerational Coordinator for UDC sits on Utah's Correctional Postnatal and Early Childhood Advisory Board which was created by HB 249, Pregnant & Postpartum Inmate Amendments.

It specifies that if the UDC creates a nursery, the nursery is subject to rules established by the Department of Health and Human Services. It established this advisory board and provides that DHHS will make rules governing any nursery established by UDC, after consulting with the Advisory Board.

This Board is also looking at the diversion programs offered to pregnant women caught up in the criminal justice system by a variety of states in their prison systems.

Trisha Reynolds and her team at UDC have researched other prison systems that have nurseries as well as diversion programs. They visited Washington State to learn about its nursery and diversion programs.

The Advisory Board meeting in October had a representative from New York's system discussing how they manage their nursery and diversion programs. Actually, New York has a pretty sophisticated diversion program that is inspiring to hear about.

Trisha Reynolds began as Intergenerational Coordinator in Dec. 2022 and has been very focused. She's made a lot of connections in order to move forward with these programs. They have ongoing meetings of the Advisory Board and are open to the public. Website: [www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/8223.html](http://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/8223.html)

***"I am happy because I'm grateful. I choose to be grateful. That gratitude allows me to be happy." Will Arnett***

**Newsletter Editor's Thanksgiving Comment**

UPAN has several purposes, helping families thru their prison journey, keeping them and their incarcerated loved ones informed, and seeking improvement in the whole Criminal Justice System. One important improvement includes releasing low-risk offenders. This reunites families and reduces costs of the whole system. Another benefit of returning low-risk offenders to jobs and income-producing efforts: their contribution

to society. In so doing, they are also paying taxes that helps offset the costs of the CJS. A double-whammy benefit! Reuniting families and reducing costs, while protecting society from the really bad guys (aka "incorrigibles"). I am personally rewarded to be a contributing tool in UPAN's efforts. Thank you UPAN and thank you Molly Prince, UPAN Senior Newsletter Editor. Blessings to all,  
Warren Rosenbaum, UPAN Detail Newsletter Editor

**Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh** I was so surprised when the stationery store moved ~~ Parallel lines have so much in common, but it's a shame they'll never meet ~~ Of all the inventions of the last 100 years, the dry-erase board has to be the most remarkable ~~ I love my furniture. My recliner and I go way back.

*This Fall has quickly turned really cold. Really cold ain't cool. But you are. Stay warm and stay cool. Ed.*

**UPAN extends blessings and thanksgiving wishes to all our incarcerated people this season!**

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**"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**