



UPAN Newsletter Volume 10 Number 9 | **SEPTEMBER 2023**
“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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**Fourteen Articles Arranged for Easy Reading: First Five are Current News –
 Next: Release Day Part 1: Release Fair, Orientation, Information –
 Five on Education – Last Three About UDC Administration Changes**

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Next Meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm on Zoom. **Guest Speaker:** UDC Executive Director Brian Redd. Please submit any questions for him to utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com by September 3
Meeting Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting – link <https://bit.ly/3vqQjiA> Meetings are **FREE** and open to the public.

Following Monthly Meeting: Monday, October 9, 2023 on Zoom. **Guest Speaker:** The Other Side Academy.

UPAN continues virtual meetings. Also 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.

<u>In This Issue:</u> Meeting Announcements, UPAN Newsletter contents in this issue and UPAN Disclaimer	Page 1
» Updates on Additional Phones and Mosquito Management at USCF by Molly Prince, LCSW	Pgs. 1-2
» UDC Implements New Picture Program (For Inmates and Family Visiting) by Molly Prince LCSW	Pgs. 2-3
» Video Visiting Begins at Fremont Housing (aka R & O) by Molly Prince, LCSW	Page 3
» Inaugural Sweat Lodge Ceremony held at Green, USCF in August Adapted from Corrections website	Page 4
» If you Received a Medical Bill from a Hospital by Molly Prince, LCSW	Page 4
» Release Day for Families and Friends Part 1 - Release Day Fair, Orientation, and Information	Pgs. 5-6
» UPAN Congratulates High School Graduates at CUCF from UDC website by Kaitlin Felsted	Page 6
» 23 Students Graduate from SLCC Prison Education Program at USCF by A. Langton UDC PIO	Pgs. 6-7
» South Park Academy at USCF Has New Name: Sky View Academy from Corrections website A. Langton	Pgs. 7-8
» UDC Celebrates First Graduation Ceremony of Sex Offense Treatment Program from Corr. Website	Page 8
» <i>Dell-Emerald Topics</i> USCF Adds Technology Programs for Women by Molly Prince, LCSW	Page 8
» Changes in Leadership at Utah Department of Corrections from Corrections website	Page 9
» Jim Hudspeth Retires as UDC Deputy Executive Director by Roni Wilcox (PAG) & Molly Prince UPAN	Pgs. 9-10
» Kaitlin Felsted, Communications Director Will Leave UDC by Molly Prince, LCSW	Page 10
Couple of Smiles & Maybe a Laugh plus UPAN contact information and Facebook info	Page 10

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

Updates on Additional Phones and Mosquito Management in USCF

By Molly Prince, LCSW

UDC recognizes the need for additional phones in USCF. UPAN has been a squeaky wheel about having enough phones in every housing unit at the new prison since before USCF opened. In a meeting UPAN directors Shane Severson, Virginia Robertson, and Molly Prince had with Director Brian Redd and his executive

team on July 17th, we were updated that this administration is currently pursuing it.

They recognize that it will benefit everyone from incarcerated people to families to staff. When people can communicate with their families and support systems in the community, they’re less likely to struggle

with irritability, anxiety, or other problems in the institution. When families can hear from their loved ones, it reduces the constant worry experienced by having a loved one in prison. More phones allowing more phone calls will reduce emails and phone calls to the prison asking about possible lockdowns or other events preventing residents from calling home.

We were told that UDC recognizes the need for additional phones in the housing units in USCF. We were told in July they were ordering them and were waiting on the contract with the phone equipment provider. We do not have specifics on how many additional phones will go in each particular housing unit. Hopefully, we will get that information once they've worked out the details with the vendor providing the phone equipment.

Mosquito Management: Insect repellent to be available to all, free of charge. The most recent update from UDC Administration as of August 16th regarding their efforts to manage the mosquitoes and other biting insects at USCF includes their ongoing partnership with Salt Lake Mosquito Abatement District which is monitoring the mosquito population within the prison area and outside of the prison campus. SLMAD has installed traps in various locations in the prison. Two prison officials have been trained on administering larvicide into storm drains or standing water on the property to kill larvae. Other mitigation efforts include spraying.

“A (big) shout out to everyone making progress that no one recognizes because you never let anyone see your darkest moments. You’ve been silently winning battles and transforming yourself. Be proud of every step you’re making in the right direction.” Unknown

UDC Implements a Picture Program!

By Molly Prince, LCSW

After years and many administrations denying the requests from correctional staff and advocates, there is now a Picture Program that is being implemented in both USCF and CUCF.

Captain Tawnya Nicholes has been advocating for a picture program that could be administered through Visiting for almost two decades. UPAN has been asking for a picture program to bring Utah's prisons into the 21st century for 10 years. Through several administrations, this request has either fallen on deaf ears or been outright denied.

The stars aligned. This summer, the timing was right, the stars aligned, and a Picture Program is born. It is our understanding that Cpt. Nicholes saw an opportunity to once again request the development of a picture program upon the move to the new prison and the appointment of a new UDC executive director.

UPAN's volunteer Evelyn Matue did research on what other prisons in the US are doing with their Picture Programs and teamed up with UPAN Director Molly

It is reported that this year the count of mosquitoes within the prison boundaries is lower than it is outside the prison boundaries.

Insect repellent was made available for inmates eligible to purchase on commissary for those who can afford it earlier this year. That was not adequate, in UPAN's opinion. We expressed our concerns to Dir. Redd, who tackled this issue upon taking his position as the new Executive Director.

UDC is now providing plant-based, Deet-free insect repellent throughout USCF through the use of dispensing stations similar to hand sanitizer dispensers. We are told that the insect repellent is already available in the various housing sections, and there is not a firm timeline as to when the dispensing stations will be installed. UCI has been tasked to design and manufacture the dispensers that will hold and dispense quart jugs of repellent. Once they're installed, we are told that every incarcerated person and staff will have access to the repellent free of charge.

UPAN continues to seek other perspectives and approaches to management and mitigation. Karen Thompson, Heidi Kubbe, and Molly Prince have met with Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment (UPHE) regarding other protections that could augment the measures taken so far. These three UPAN directors also went on an educational tour of the SLMAD on July 26 to further educate ourselves on management and mitigation efforts.

Prince to submit a written request to Steve Gehrke, Director of Operational Excellence at UDC and PIO Jade Watkin. The June 5th document included not only a list of 12 states with picture programs, but reasons that having a Picture Program is important to children prison families, as well as prisoners themselves.

Gehrke quickly responded that there was a lot of interest and this idea was being considered. I had mentioned it to Brian Redd, who became the Executive Director of UDC on May 15, 2023 and he could understand the importance to families, and particularly children, for having current photos of their incarcerated parent. He was open to the idea from the beginning. The timing was finally perfect!

In only 3 months since Redd took the helm, the Picture Program has become a reality. The roll-out will be in increments. Lt. James Gull, over USCF Visiting, shared this exciting announcement in the August 16, 2023 Stakeholders Group. Stakeholders is a monthly meeting held online between various UDC administrators, UDC staff, and community agencies and prisoner advocates.

Starting in USCF contact visits in mid-August, the first pictures were scheduled to be taken in the in-person visiting facilities, starting with the main visiting room for men and in the women's prison. As the roll-out continues, it will include Currant and Green housing facilities. Photos are taken during in-person visits on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Photos taken in the contact visiting can include the incarcerated person and their loved ones visiting in that visit.

Includes inmates in barrier or video visits. In addition to those in-person visiting, any prisoner who has contact visiting privilege and uses video visits rather than in-person will be eligible to have their photo taken and sent out to their family. Those who are eligible for these types of visits can have a photo taken every six months or upon a life changing event (such as a birth of a child).

Inmates with non-contact visiting privileges can have one photo taken per year and sent to their designated loved one.

Delivery of the pictures will be through email from the prison to an email address that is verified as valid and approved through visiting.

There is no cost to inmates or families. While some prisons charge \$1 per photo, Utah has made the decision to make these photographs free of charge since they will not be printed on-site but will be emailed to the recipient family members / visitors.

CUCF will be next. CUCF will be implementing a Picture Program in the Gunnison facility when they receive all their equipment. We were told that Captain

Nicholes has provided Captain Anderson, over Visiting in CUCF, with all the information she has and what USCF has done.

It may seem to many not involved in the prison journey that making the ability to have photographs of our loved ones such a big deal is not as important as other issues. But anyone who has had a loved one – friend or family member – in prison can appreciate just how important this step is for Utah's prisons, inmates, and their friends and families. So many are thrilled that this is starting!

The next step... Evelyn Matue, Trisha Reynolds (Intergenerational Coordinator for UDC), and I (Molly Prince) met to discuss a variety of topics. One was the Picture Program. The three of us agree that the next step could be to train and employ incarcerated people with high enough privilege levels to take the photos for this program. That is another conversation... But the possibility exists.

Gratitude to UDC for having the vision and heart to take this step. Evelyn Matue, I, and the UPAN directors want to express our gratitude to all those in Corrections that we are aware of who are working hard to make this program happen. We know there are others behind the scenes that we have not met or do not know about.

Thanks to Dir. Brian Redd, Dir. Steve Gehrke, Executive Assistant Deputy Director Maria Peterson, Visiting Captain Tawnya Nicholes, Lt. Gull, Trisha Reynolds, and all the others who have participated in the discussions and development of this program or are otherwise instrumental in making the Picture Program a reality!

“You have a prepaid call from”... six words that are guaranteed to bring a prison family joy.”

Video Visiting Begins in FREMONT Housing Unit, Otherwise Known as R & O

by Molly Prince, LCSW

Another piece of progress at USCF under the direction of Dir. Brian Redd.

We are happy to announce that as of September 1, 2023, Visiting at USCF will expand to include Fremont at USCF. Fremont is in a restricted area building along with Antelope.

UPAN's Molly Prince and Dir. Redd discussed this in July due to the extended length of time individuals entering the prison system are currently spending in R & O due to limitations in housing and reduced staffing in Utah's prisons.

Dir. Redd understands UPAN's position that it is important for people entering prison to have connection

with their loved ones and support system as they adjust to being in prison. R & O has never allowed visiting in any form prior to this, so it is a significant step in the right direction.

According to an article on the UDC website, <https://corrections.utah.gov/2023/08/16/visiting-expands-to-fremont-housing-unit/> “It will be open to those who have received and maintained a “B” level privilege and are classified,” said Capt. Tawnya Nicholes, who supervises visiting at USCF. “This classification usually happens within three weeks.”

The B-level permits one visit per month. For Fremont, these will be on Tuesday mornings.

Visiting... You are always responsible for how you act. No matter how you feel. Anonymous

“The difference between a Master and a Beginner: The master has failed more times than the beginner has ever tried.” Yoda

Inaugural Sweat Lodge Ceremony held at Green, USCF in August

Source - <https://corrections.utah.gov/2023/08/14/inaugural-sweat-lodge-ceremony-at-green/> August 14, 2023

Thanks to the help of volunteers and incarcerated individuals, the Green housing unit at the Utah State Correctional Facility held its first sweat lodge ceremony recently.

A sweat lodge is a ceremonial structure used by various indigenous cultures for spiritual and healing purposes. It is typically a dome-shaped structure made from natural materials like wood and covered with blankets, skins, or other insulating materials. The primary purpose is to create a sacred space where participants can engage in a ritualized sweat ceremony, involving physical and spiritual purification.

“To me, the way I was raised, this is our way of life,” said volunteer Stephen Todachiny who helped gather the materials and led the ceremony. “Other denominations have their services and prayers, and this is our service and prayers.” About how it benefits First Nations inmates, Todachiny said, “I think it’s a very important part of their spirituality. To maintain balance. A lot have drifted away from the “Red Road” (a balanced life path) and are looking to get back to that.”

The frame is usually constructed using flexible young saplings, in this case willow. They were bent into shape and anchored into the ground. Prior to the ceremony,

participants used blankets and tarps to cover the structure.

Volunteers, including Todachiny and “Xochi,” built a fire to heat rocks, which were eventually placed in a pit in the center of the lodge. Water was poured over the heated rocks to create steam. Participants first gathered in a prayer circle, expressing themselves to the group. They then proceeded into the lodge.

For many indigenous communities, participating in these ceremonies helps to maintain cultural traditions, strengthen communal bonds, and pass down teachings from one generation to the next.

Julie Hauser, Ethnic Minority Resource Sergeant at USCF, noted that such services are heavily dependent on volunteers such as Todachiny. “Our volunteers for the Native American religious services play a vital role in preserving cultural and spiritual connections, fostering a sense of identity and community, and contributing to inmates’ overall well-being and rehabilitation,” she said.

UPAN Note: Steve Todachiny is one of the spiritual leaders (among several from various faiths) that assisted in the cleansings, blessings, prayers, and ceremonies outside and around every housing building at the old Utah State Prison in Draper before demolition began.

If You Received a Medical Bill from a Hospital or other Outside Medical Provider

By Molly Prince, LCSW

UPAN has received letters from inmates and emails from families about the problems being experienced this year in which incarcerated patients are receiving bills with significantly high balances from the hospital they were sent to by the prison for medical procedures. These bills should have been sent to the prison, not inmates.

Several months ago we reached out and were told that there was a problem that resulted in the hospitals sending the bills directly to incarcerated patients instead of the prison and that Inmate Accounting should be able to take care of the problems. However, the problem persists and this new information suggests the previous information we received was not correct.

Patients have been asking med techs and others in Correctional Health Services about these bills with extremely high balances. They have been told to provide the bills to Medical. However, Medical cannot actually do anything about this problem, so funds continue to be taken out of inmate accounts who are not responsible for paying. The bills keep stacking up. In August, a UPAN family member reached out to Jade Watkin about this issue and shared the response with UPAN.

What inmate patients should do. According to Ms. Watkin, patients who receive medical bills that are incorrect should send a kite addressed to the Co-pay Administrator for the Utah Department of Corrections. In that kite, explain the situation and provide a copy of the bill. Then give the Co-pay Administrator a few weeks to resolve the problem.

Apparently, that is the only way the Co-pay Administrator is made aware of any problems that patients have with their medical bills. Then it is up to the Co-pay Administrator to look into these accounts on a case by case basis and determine how the problem should be addressed and resolved. Once the Co-pay Administrator has determined what needs to be done in each case, they are supposed to work with Inmate Accounting to correct the information.

Follow up. If, after a month, the incarcerated patient has not had his/her accounts corrected, UPAN recommends that the patients being charged for any medical costs that should be covered by the prison should follow up on this with the Co-pay Administrator and Inmate Accounting.

Paraphrased: “Courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. The brave person can feel afraid but succeeds in conquering that fear.” Nelson Mandela.

For Family and Friends: Release Day Fair, Orientation, and Information

Adapted by Molly Prince, LCSW from <https://corrections.utah.gov/release-day/> and other sources.

Is your friend or loved one scheduled to release from prison soon? This information might help you figure out how things work and how to prepare for that day. There are two parts to understand and then plan to attend.

Release Orientation Class for Family / Friends & Loved Ones If you are going to pick up your loved one the day they are released, please go to the website listed above and read everything including the PDF fliers about Release Day. This article does not answer every single question. For more answers to questions you have, email udc-prereleaseoffice@utah.gov

Arrive at USCF by 8 a.m. at Utah State Correctional Facility, 1480 N. 8000 W Salt Lake City, UT 84116 on Release Day with the clothing you are bringing for the person you will be picking up.

Please bring the releasing person the following clothing items: one (1) shirt and one (1) pair of pants. All other clothing items such as shoes, belts, hats, gloves, etc. must remain in your vehicle until the parolee is released.

Check In. You will drive onto the prison property and go through the gate check station where you will need to show ID for everyone in the vehicle.

Then you will need to check in at the Northeast corner of the Stephen Anderson Building. You can ask for directions to that building when you check in at the gate. You will need to provide your ID and inform the UDC staff member which releasing person you are picking up.

Families / Friends are encouraged to attend the Release Day Family / Loved Ones Orientation Class. This begins at 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday. (Tuesdays are Parole Release Days for state inmates). The classes are in the Stephen Anderson Building.

Plan to be there on time and the class will last about one hour. Then individuals who are scheduled for release from prison will be reunited with their family members to attend the Release Day Fair.

Release Day Fair Booths with information will be set up from several state government, county governments, nonprofit and faith-based agencies, organizations, and providers. These booths allow individuals releasing to the community from incarceration the opportunity to connect with service providers and establish services they provide in a central area. UPAN recommends that you and your loved one collect all applications and information from these booths.

Dept. of Workforce Services (DWS) administers the major programs (except treatment / therapy programs) that are funded by the State. This includes SNAP (food stamps); general financial assistance which is generally for someone who is temporarily disabled as verified by a

medical professional; employment counseling and support in finding a job; The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and Medicaid health insurance.

Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM). The releasing person may apply for Utah Targeted Adult Medicaid through DWS. TAM is Medicaid coverage specifically for people on probation or parole. It is really important to pick up these applications and learn what is expected. Everyone who is justice involved is eligible for TAM for up to 12 months, if they apply prior to employment.

Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) is an agency that assists people in finding affordable healthcare in Utah. This includes justice involved people who are navigating the application for Targeted Adult Medicaid. Gather information and learn how to make an appointment to receive assistance in applying for TAM before you leave the fair. If for any reason a person is not eligible for TAM, UHPP counselors can assist in finding affordable healthcare through the Marketplace and getting started before the open enrollment period of the year.

Various private and non-profit organizations with programs and resources to assist returning citizens also are present at the Fair.

A P & P Check In. At this time, those releasing from incarceration will be conducting their first "office check in" with Adult Probation and Parole after completion of the release fair. The individual releasing will meet with a member from the Adult Probation and Parole Release and Reentry Team in conjunction with their Adult Probation and Parole Field Supervision Agent through video conference to review the next steps of parole supervision.

The purpose of doing the first check in at Release Day is to help reduce the immense time commitment family members and those releasing are facing by having to travel long distances to pick up their loved one from prison and additionally drive back to their local Adult Probation and Parole office to report to their field agent.

Details you need to know when picking someone up on Release Day.

- 1) Limit of 2 adults (plus children) when picking up your loved one. UDC instructs on the website, "When picking up the offender we ask that you limit the number of family members to two adults (children are welcome).
- 2) *You will need to have a valid driver's license for the driver and IDs for all other adults in the vehicle.*
- 3) *Individuals on parole or probation are not allowed on property.*
- 4) *Only one vehicle per releasing offender will be allowed on facility property.*
- 5) Do not bring your pets. *Animals are prohibited from being left in your vehicle. If your pet is a registered*

service animal you will be asked to provide documentation.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: When and where does a person get released from the Utah State Correctional Facility? A:

Releases/Paroles are processed every Tuesday. Most releases are processed and completed at the Northeast corner of the Stephen Anderson building (1480 N. 8000 W Salt Lake City, UT 84116).

Refer to the Offender Search tab to verify a Parole/Release date or go to bop.utah.gov.

Q: My loved one is being paroled to a Community Correctional Center (CCC/Halfway House), what do I need to do?

A: Nothing is required from you. Department of Corrections staff will transport the parolee to the designated CCC on their release day.

Q: My loved one is housed in a County Jail. How do I know if he or she will be releasing from the Draper Prison or the County Jail?

To all the Prison Families: It's not easy. There may be some rough days. Some people just won't understand your reasons. It will require patience, unconditional love, and faith. Phone calls and letters become golden. Occasionally, you may have sleepless nights. Loving / supporting someone incarcerated is not easy. But it's worth it. Leaving them there, after each visit, is the hardest thing. Hope for the future is what keeps us going. Stay Strong!

UPAN Congratulates High School Graduates at CUCF: 1st High School Grad Ceremony Since June 2020

Adapted from June 16, 2023 article posted on the UDC Website Archives by Kaitlin Felsted

The first high school graduation ceremony since 2020 was held in June at the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison. Officials from the Central Utah Academy celebrated 29 graduates from the Class of 2023. They also took the time to highlight the 14 graduates from 2021 and the 16 from 2022.

Prison officials noted that the COVID pandemic brought many challenges but students overcame them to be where they were on their graduation day – wearing graduation regalia and accepting diplomas.

“This is a testament to your fortitude,” said Ralph Squire, Superintendent of the South Sanpete School District, which operates Central Utah Academy.

During his speech, Guy Gabaldon, 49, challenged his fellow graduates to “never stop learning. This is just the

23 Students Graduate from Salt Lake Community College Prison Education Program at USCF

<https://corrections.utah.gov/2023/07/12/salt-lake-community-colleges-prison-education-graduates-earn-associates-degrees/>

This article is taken directly from the above press release article posted on July 12, 2023 by A. Langton, UDC PIO

On July 10, 2023, 23 students proudly graduated from Salt Lake Community College's (SLCC) Prison Education Program at the Utah State Correctional Facility. Sixteen received an Associate's Degree, all but one in General Studies, and seven received a Certificate of Completion for General Education.

A: The release team will not have that information until the Monday before the scheduled release day. To verify this information **PLEASE EMAIL UDC** at udc-prereleaseoffice@utah.gov.

Q: I am unable to pick up my loved one on release day, is transportation provided?

A: A member of the UDC release team will take those people who are releasing from prison who do not have rides on release day to a UTA Trax station near the Utah State Correctional Facility (additional details will be provided on a case-by-case basis). Those who do not have a ride will be released last. It is suggested you contact udc-prereleaseoffice@utah.gov about this.

Please go to the Utah Department of Corrections website to find the form to submit an address to be approved in plenty of time prior to your loved ones release date. We recommend that you read all materials about release and parole on the website to make sure you understand how everything will work.

Hopefully this information will assist in making Release Day as stress free as possible!

beginning to a new chapter in our lives,” he added. “Good luck to you all.”

Anthony Blauer, a counselor at the Academy, read the graduates a poem about wreckers and builders, stating that he saw those gathered this day were the latter. “You guys have all shown to me that you're a builder,” he said. “You're building your own lives.”

UPAN extends CONGRATULATIONS to all incarcerated students for accomplishing this milestone!

UPAN wants to acknowledge that it takes a lot of staff on various levels that encourage inmates and make getting a high school education possible for incarcerated students. UPAN also appreciates Central Utah Academy and everything it does to provide opportunity for them to pursue education while in prison.

“As these individuals are released from prison and become our neighbors, they often face a tough transition. SLCC is happy to be helping them gain the skills and education they need to find meaningful employment,” said SLCC President Deneece G. Huftalin. “This allows them to support their families, possibly end

cycles of poverty and incarceration, and become productive members in their communities.”

In the past year, more than 220 students, men and women, have participated in SLCC classes offered at the Utah State Correctional Facility. The community college anticipates around 300 students to register next fall for classes.

The SLCC prison education program (PEP) is one of the few in-person options available for students to take classes that can lead to a college degree. Currently, SLCC is the only school in the Utah Correctional Facility to offer an Associate’s Degree. Davis Tech has been offering technical education there since 2010.

“Providing education in the prison makes so much sense on both a practical level and a human level. It transforms individuals, strengthens families, and ultimately benefits society,” said David Bokovoy, Director of SLCC’s Prison Education Program. He pointed out that access to education significantly reduces recidivism. “Our students leave prison with hope, a belief in their potential, and a plan to find a job and sometimes pursue more education.”

“All lasting happiness in life is based by our capacity for truth, love, and connection. Suffering is a consequence of the lack thereof.” TheOthersideAcademy.com

South Park Academy at USCF Has New Name: Sky View Academy

Taken from July 10 post at <https://corrections.utah.gov/2023/07/10/south-park-academy-renamed-as-sky-view-academy-a-fresh-start-for-incarcerated-students/> by A. Langton

This summer, South Park Academy held its first high school graduation ceremony in the new Utah State Correctional Facility which opened in July 2022. It was also the last South Park graduating class in Utah’s prison system. With the move to the new prison, The Salt Lake City School District has changed the name to one that seems more fitting for the new facility.

The Salt Lake City School District announced the school board approved a change of name on June 6, 2023 to Sky View Academy. South Park offered high school courses to incarcerated students at the Utah State Prison from 1955 to 2022. It was initially under the supervision of the Jordan School District before moving to the Canyons School District in 2009.

So why the change? In 1955, the name South Park was compatible with the location of the Utah State Prison in Draper, at the south end of the Salt Lake Valley. At that time, it was not associated with the cable television show that, to put it politely, does not reflect the image the school district is striving to put forth at USCF.

The proposal to change the name states, “Students within correctional facilities are often marginalized and are rarely afforded opportunities to change how they are viewed...With the current school’s name, several references within pop culture can be made that reinforce negative stereotypes of bad behavior and continue to stigmatize our students long after they pay their debt to

SLCC’s prison program started as a pilot in 2017 with funding from the Utah State legislature. It began with 40 students (men and women) in seven classes. Now, SLCC offers 20 classes that can lead to six Associate’s Degrees: Anthropology, Business, Criminal Justice, General Studies, History and Paralegal Studies. More than two dozen SLCC faculty members teach in the Prison Education Program.

The program’s class completion rates are high, with a 92% rate for women and 66% men. (Men are more often moved to other facilities interrupting class attendance and completion).

“The opportunity SLCC provides for the students is really immeasurable. For most of our students, it is the first time they have been exposed to post-secondary education, and the first time they realize that they can succeed at this,” said Brian Fauver, Dept of Corrections, Education Coordinator. “Education is valuable to any human. It’s not only about opening up economic opportunities, but it is also about expanding our identity and reaching our fullest potential as human beings.”

society and re-enter their communities when they produce proof of graduation through transcripts or diplomas.” It continues, “South Park Academy students and stakeholders deserve a name that instills hope and

pride for all associated with the program.”

“Sky View” was selected based on a survey of students and stakeholders – highlighting the wide-open spaces surrounding USCF. It topped Sliver Lake Academy (which went with the water theme at the facility) and Bayside Academy (a nod to the Great Salt Lake sitting just a few miles away). The groups also selected Eagles as the mascot and a color scheme of purple and silver.

The Supervisor / Administrator of Sky View Academy Christopher Sullivan is pleased with the new name that represents the new location. He also supports their choice of “a mascot that has great significance and symbolism when it comes to our students’ livelihoods” while there. He stated, “I couldn’t think of a better school name and mascot for our students as they soar to new heights and strive for a better future while they keep hope alive.”

Ferosa Bluff, who earned her Associate’s Degree in General Education was one of a handful of students who spoke at the graduation ceremony. She spoke about how education had lifted up students’ self-esteem, self-confidence, and began to help them find purpose.

“Education has allowed us to learn, grow, and change as human beings.”

75 year old Salt Lake Community College is Utah’s largest two-year college, proudly educating the state’s

most diverse student body in 8 areas of study at 10 locations and online. The majority of SLCC graduates transfer to four-year institutions, and thousands more are trained in direct-to-workforce programs.

UDC Celebrates the First Graduation Ceremony of the Sex Offense Treatment Program: Honoring Efforts Toward Rehabilitation – adapted from Corrections website from August 21, 2023.

<https://corrections.utah.gov/2023/08/21/celebrates-inaugural-graduation-of-sex-offense-treatment-program-honoring-efforts-toward-rehabilitation/>

Over 200 individuals have graduated SOTP since February 2022. This is the first ceremony at USCF.

USCF recently held its inaugural graduation for those who have completed the Sex Offense Treatment Program, commonly known as SOTP. There were a dozen or so men gathered in the visiting area of the Utah State Correctional Center as they waited for the ceremony to begin. They carried with them, however, the accomplishments of hundreds more who didn’t get the chance to be recognized.

“We have over 200 individuals who have graduated since February 2022,” said Dr. Candice Waltrip, Supervising Psychologist with the UDC’s Programming Division and Director of SOTP. “This is the first chance we have had to celebrate since being in the new prison.”

Approximately 35 percent of the incarcerated individuals in Utah’s prison system are serving time for a sexual offense. The Department’s treatment program is primarily housed at the Salt Lake City facility. (There is also treatment provided in some county jails in Utah for those on IPP). SOTP is ordered by the Utah Board of

Pardons and Parole as a condition for parole consideration.

Treatment takes approximately 17 months, depending on the individual’s identified behavioral stability, progress in treatment and overall risk level. Progress is measured by more than the completion of assignments or time spent in therapy. How hard an individual works, how motivated they are, and their willingness to incorporate changes freely to show commitment toward rehabilitation without exhibiting defensiveness are also considered.

It is this commitment and work that makes the recent commencement exercise at USCF so important. “It allows them to experience the real accomplishment of completing the program,” said Capt. Matt Huber, who oversaw the graduation services. “It’s an acknowledgement of the hard work they have put forth.”

UPAN wants to extend congratulations to everyone who has completed this program. It is an accomplishment!

“Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.” — Bryan Stevenson,

**“Teacher, what does it mean to work on yourself?” – “It is to stop waiting for the others to change.”
Conduit for Change**

Dell-Emerald Topics

USCF Adds Technology Programs for Women by Molly Prince, LCSW

The Utah Department of Corrections has announced there will be three new programs offered for women in Dell at USCF.

These programs are offered by Davis Technical College as a result of legislation sponsored by Rep. Melissa Ballard in an effort to provide more educational opportunities for women in the care and custody of UDC. The goal, to bring them up to the same scope of options available to the men. This will assist incarcerated females with an opportunity to learn skills so they can more successfully re-enter the community upon release.

Certification Programs being added include Automation & Robotics, Information Technology, and Web &

Graphic Design. These have been added to the currently offered certifications in Culinary Arts and Business Technology.

According to a newscast and online article on ABC4 on August 25, 2023, Davis Technical College president Darin Brush stated that DTC has wanted to increase choices of programs for women inmates for a long time. He states, “Now more students there can benefit from short-term training that leads directly to high-demand careers in our community, which helps all of us.” In the same newscast, Dan Powers, Director of Rehabilitative Programs for DTC states that over the last three years, 78% of graduates of these technical programs have not returned to prison.

***“You will never be able to escape from your heart. So it is better to listen to what it has to say.”
Paulo Coelho The Alchemist***

“Your journey is not the same as mine, and my journey is not yours. But if you meet me on a certain path, may we encourage each other.” Unknown

Changes in Leadership at Utah Department of Corrections (In the Words of UDC)

Quoted directly from the UDC Department Update of August 17, 2023

Strengthening Leadership at the Utah Department of Corrections Welcoming New Appointments and Recognizing Dedication

The Utah Department of Corrections is proud to announce strategic appointments that underscore our commitment to fostering excellence and innovation within our team. The Department is excited to introduce the following individuals to key leadership roles:

Rebecca Brown – Deputy Executive Director: Bringing a wealth of experience from her tenure at the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, including her recent role as Assistant Deputy Director, Rebecca Brown joins us as Deputy Executive Director. Her involvement with a local community non-profit organization, which included significant work at the Salt Lake County Jail, demonstrates her deep commitment to our mission. Rebecca will officially assume her responsibilities on September 5, 2023.

Jared Garcia – Deputy Executive Director: With over two decades of public safety service, including leadership positions within the Department of Public Safety and his most recent role as Chief of Police in Moab, Jared Garcia is appointed as Deputy Executive Director. Jared's extensive background in law enforcement positions him well to contribute to our goals. His official start date is October 1, 2023.

Glen Mills – Director of Communications and Government Relations: Drawing from a distinguished career as a main news anchor, chief political correspondent, and host of Inside Utah Politics with ABC4, Glen Mills assumes the role of Director of

Communications and Government Relations. His expertise in communications and public affairs, developed over more than twenty years, will play a pivotal role in advancing our department's visibility and outreach. Glen will officially begin on September 5, 2023.

Eric Hutchings – Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy: With a robust legislative background, having served in the Utah State House of Representatives from 2001 to 2020, Eric Hutchings steps into the role of Director of Legislative Affairs and Policy. His extensive involvement in committees, related to criminal justice and corrections, positions him as a valuable asset in shaping policies that drive positive change. Eric's official start date is August 28, 2023.

"These appointments mark a significant step towards our continued growth and excellence. Each individual brings unique skills and insights that will undoubtedly contribute to the success of our mission," said UDC Executive Director, Brian Redd.

"We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jim Hudspeth and Chyleen Richey for their exemplary service as Deputy Executive Directors. We congratulate Jim on his well-earned retirement and express our appreciation for Chyleen's impactful contributions within our department and the criminal justice system. Chyleen and our leadership will engage in ongoing discussions about her evolving role within the organization."

Jim Hudspeth Will Be Missed As He Retires From Position of Deputy Executive Director of UDC

by Roni Wilcox (PAG) and Molly Prince (UPAN) with background information from UDC Website

James Hudspeth has spent the past five years in the position of Deputy Executive Director for Utah Dept. of Corrections. His position provided oversight to the Department's entire Adult Probation and Parole throughout the state; Programming provided by UDC in all facilities that housed or supervised state inmates; and the Division of Prison Operations which oversees both prisons and the Inmate Placement Program. He was appointed by then Exec Dir Mike Haddon for this position in July 2018.

Career in public service. Hudspeth started his 35-year-career in public service when he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1983 where he attained the rank of sergeant. In 1992 he became a police officer with the Honolulu Police Department. He joined the Utah Department of Corrections in 1997 as a correctional officer at the Bonneville Community Corrections Center.

Throughout his 25-year career in Corrections, Hudspeth has served as a correctional officer, probation and

parole agent, investigator, investigations supervisor, Adult Probation and Parole regional administrator, and law enforcement bureau chief before being appointed director of AP&P in March 2016, where he remained until moving into the Deputy Executive Director position.

Deputy Director Hudspeth served during some challenging times that saw an increase in issues related to safety and security within Utah's prisons. His tenure also experienced the duration of the COVID pandemic and the planning and move from the old Utah State Prison to the new Utah State Correctional Facility.

Heartfelt sentiments directly from Roni at PAG. Prisoner Advocate Group (PAG) was able to build a positive, working, professional relationship with Hudspeth after the department discontinued the A / B recreation schedules in 2019 for those inmates classified as STG that had been in place for years.

From our first phone conversation with Jim, it was

apparent he was going to be supportive of our goals. It would be close to a year before ever meeting in person and he was as kind and compassionate as he had proven to be over the phone.

Within the corrections community we often experienced some jaded individuals. Jim, on the other hand, was different. He had dedicated his 25+ year corrections career to his community. He still cares enormously about the well-being of inmates, families, colleagues.

He has a great sense of humor and is always up for a laugh.

I know when I say this, I speak for all of us at Prisoner Advocate Group and UPAN that it was a pleasure working with you Jim, and we credit much of our success to you and your guidance.

We wish you and your family much love and happiness. Enjoy your retirement and know that you are, and will be, missed. Sincerely, *The PAG Squad and the UPAN Crew*

“You never change your life until you step out of your comfort zone; change begins at the end of your comfort zone.”—Roy T. Bennett.

Kaitlin Felsted, Communications Director Will Leave UDC

By Molly Prince, LCSW

Five years have flown by. As one of the UPAN directors who met with Kaitlin Felsted when she first took the position of Public Information Officer for UDC, I have had many positive experiences working with her on the challenges related to Utah’s prison system. I have mixed feelings anticipating yet another change.

This has been a rough five years for everyone! Kaitlin reached out to UPAN when she took the position and met with UPAN Communications Director Shane Severson, then UPAN president Shauna Denos, and myself. We discussed the variety of concerns that we most frequently contacted the PIO about and got to know each other professionally.

Over the years, Kaitlin showed her concern about the wellbeing of the people housed in Utah’s prisons and did what she could to keep us informed about a variety of issues. While she could only give us information that came from the various divisions and departments within UDC to answer our questions and concerns, she always made sure we got some sort of an answer.

The pandemic arrived and she was eventually able to get some assistance in answering the questions and concerns of prison families and prison advocates. She moved to the position of Director of Communications a couple of years ago and continued to work to keep improving the methods used to inform the public, answer the questions of the media, and oversee the concerns

and questions of advocates and families during that challenging time.

Then the move from USP to USCF occurred. Her office was very busy trying to keep everyone up to date on the latest plans and processes. Liam Truchard joined her team sometime during those tumultuous times, answering questions and finding information for families. This year, Jade Watkin stepped in as the Public Information Specialist to answer questions of families and advocates.

While there were times that Kaitlin and UPAN approached issues from different perspectives, my experience working with her was one of respect and willingness on both of our parts to understand the other’s position, regardless if we could agree. Kaitlin had a knack for letting someone know they were being heard. That makes all the difference to a family member or advocate who is full of anxiety and confusion.

Kaitlin will be moving into a new opportunity outside of the UDC. UPAN directors will miss working with her. We are pleased that we have been able to develop a positive relationship with Jade Watkin, Public Information Specialist assigned to work with advocates and families.

Glen Mills, a former news anchor, will be taking on the role of Director of Communications. We look forward to working with him. (See article on Changes in Leadership on page 9 in this newsletter.)

Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese ~~ Feeling pretty proud of myself. The picture puzzle I bought said 3-5 years, but I finished it in 6 months ~~ I struggle with Roman numerals until I get to 159, then it just CLIX. ~~ Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year ~~ Inspecting mirrors is a job I could really see myself doing.

Optimism is like a happiness magnet – look for the good in bad things and you will attract good things. That’s cool! Ed.

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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