



UPAN Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 6 | JUNE 2016

"Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity"

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NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM

TOPIC: Sex Offender Issues – Outpatient Treatment, Aftercare, Parole Conditions

Location: Ruth Vine Tyler Library 8041 South Wood Street (55 West) Midvale

THERE WILL NOT BE A UPAN MEETING IN JULY

NEXT FOCUS MEETING: MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016 6-8 PM TOPIC: TBA

Location: Adult Probation and Parole Office, 36 W. Fremont Avenue, Salt Lake City UT 84101

(FOCUS meetings are held every other month on the first Monday of the month)

SPECIAL NOTICE: Everyone attending **FOCUS meetings**, needs to get there **BEFORE 6 PM.**

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Contact Info for: PrisonEd Foundation: Box 900693 Sandy, UT 84090 Email: prisonedfoundation@gmail.com

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

Words of Wisdom: "Our voice is our sword, wield it wisely." P. Leishman

"Our dreams are big... our hopes high... our goals long-term... and the path is difficult. But the only failure is not to try!" former President Jimmy Carter

"Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing." Muhammad Ali January 17, 1942 – June 3, 2016

WHAT IS UPAN ?

By Molly Prince, President

We receive a lot of mail from inmates and calls from families of inmates assuming UPAN can intervene in and solve all problems related to the court process, legal system, board issues, etc. We cannot. I would like to clarify what UPAN actually is and does.

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network is a non-profit organization that is made up of all volunteers. We are a group of concerned friends and family members of individuals incarcerated as inmates in the custody of the State of Utah's Department of Corrections. We do not have an office. We do the bulk of our work for UPAN out of our homes, our cars, and via computer, email, and mail. We do our UPAN work in addition to our regular jobs, families, our own incarcerated loved ones, and in what used to be our "spare" time.

We do our best to accomplish the following objectives and goals:

1. Provide a safe and understanding place for families and friends of incarcerated individuals to connect with each other, share their challenges and receive support and information to help them more effectively cope on their prison journey. We hold meetings the 2nd Monday of each month with the exception of July and December. These meetings are held in various public library locations in the Salt Lake County area.
2. Offer support and assistance to incarcerated individuals by identifying challenges and problems faced by inmates as they serve their sentences, and to communicate with prison officials and the Utah Department of Corrections administration in an attempt to address and resolve these problems.
3. Provide education and information to family and friends of inmates as well as the general public, including our lawmakers, for the purpose of improving the level of understanding of what happens in the prison system and how things work which ultimately impact prisoners, their families and support systems, as well as the community at large. This is accomplished through our newsletters, our monthly meetings, as well as our website, Facebook page, and Twitter account.
4. We hope sometime in the future to have a committee that will compile a resource directory for resources available to families and ex-offenders once they are released from the institution to community to assist the parolee to rebuild their lives in a pro-social manner.

Ways We Accomplish These Objectives:

Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (except July and December) around the Salt

Lake Valley in various public libraries. Sometimes these are family meetings where we simply discuss the situations and frustrations prison families' experience. Other times we invite guest speakers, hold panel discussions, or hold open forums where we discuss criminal justice issues with legislators and other policy makers. These meetings are open to the public and we welcome anyone who needs support or is interested in helping our cause.

Monthly Newsletter is written and sent out discussing current issues and developments concerning anything related to the Utah Criminal Justice System as it pertains to State Prison issues. We send this out via our email list. Families on our email list can print out and mail into their loved one behind bars. We have volunteers that print and mail in physical newsletters to inmates who have no family or friends on the outside to do this for them.

Email Address: utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com
An **email list** we use to disseminate information or notices about issues and upcoming events related to prison and the criminal justice system in Utah. We send our newsletter out via email as well.

UPAN Website www.utahprisoneradvocate.org We post information about upcoming meetings, events and other issues relevant to criminal justice in Utah. UPAN newsletter is also posted on our website.

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network Facebook page posts current events in the criminal justice system in Utah and nationwide, as well as reminders about our meetings and upcoming events.

Listening Ear And Guidance for family and friends of inmates is accomplished through our meetings as well as via email to help provide guidance on how families can find answers or address issues they and their inmate encounter in their prison journey. We attempt to guide them on who to contact in the prison system to address their specific concerns.

Address Inmate Concerns. Inmates write to UPAN with concerns, ideas, or information. We will research and attempt to answer concerns through newsletters whenever possible, as we cannot guarantee personal response to each and every letter. **We receive a high volume of letters.** When inmates have issues that need to be addressed with the prison directly, we do not typically get involved unless there is no family or outside support to help the inmate. Even then, we can't help with many issues that inmates write us about.

Provide A Forum for UPAN participants / families to share problems and concerns with elected officials and

policy makers, as part of educating the public about prison issues.

UPAN Works With Other Agencies to further its goals. UPAN has partnered with the ACLU and a variety of community agencies as part of People Not Prisons. UPAN has helped to sponsor the Faith in Reform conferences for the past two years. UPAN worked to provide information for and provide an avenue for inmates to share their information to the Legislative Audit Committee on the Audit of the Board of Pardons and Parole in 2015. UPAN often shares information with other agencies when appropriate, such as the Disability Law Center, regarding issues that those agencies can look into.

What UPAN Cannot Do:

UPAN does not have legal counsel. We don't have any attorneys that offer advice or guidance for UPAN. We do not have a list of pro-bono attorneys. So we cannot help with anything that involves legal issues, such as appeals, problems with what happened with public defenders or bad legal counsel, etc. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND US YOUR LEGAL PAPERWORK.** Please do not expect us to look up legal cases and provide you with copies of case law or legal forms. At this time we do not have any attorneys or paralegals who are volunteering to help us in this area.

UPAN cannot influence the Board to review or revise a decision. We receive many letters assuming that somehow UPAN has some sort of influence over the Board or that UPAN did the audit on the BOPP. To clarify, UPAN merely created a data form and got it out to inmates and families to fill out and return by October 31, 2015. These were forwarded to the Officer of the Legislative Auditor General, which is the office that actually performed the audit of the Board. The Board audit has been over since the first of the year and on February 1, 2016 the Auditors presented their findings. A summary of the findings can be found in the February through May 2016 issues of UPAN newsletters, or can be found on the le.utah.gov website.

UPAN cannot help anyone get into treatment. While we can explore the reasons people may not be getting into substance abuse or sex offender treatment in a timely manner, UPAN has no power over how the system works in the prison in terms of getting into treatment or being re-admitted after a discharge.

UPAN Directors cannot become your power of attorney. Please find individuals in your own support system to do this if you need a power of attorney.

We cannot personally answer every letter that we receive. However, please be assured that each and every letter is read and considered. When we get

multiple letters from different inmates about the same types of concerns, we prioritize that issue as something that we need to contact Corrections about and work toward a resolution or an answer.

What Inmates Can Do To Help:

Make sure you learn and follow the rules in the institution you are in. Every prison facility, housing area, and jail seems to have its own variation on policies and rules. As an inmate, do your best to make sure you know the policies; go through the grievance steps and levels when a problem is encountered. If you, as an incarcerated individual, do everything on your end to try to resolve your problem, and you have followed the rules and complied with the policies, it then makes it easier for your family members or in some cases, UPAN directors, to follow up on the problems that are not able to be resolved in the method the prison requires. It also gives those advocating for you help in building a legitimate case when talking to administration about issues that need to be looked at, or policies that are not working and may need changing, etc. The biggest challenge we encounter when trying to resolve issues with Corrections is their insistence that the inmates are not following policy and procedure in resolving the problem before it escalates to the point that either their family members or UPAN step in.

Be completely honest and detailed when sending us complaints or concerns you want looked at. We cannot always take a lot of time to write you back with a list of questions to clarify. If you give us the details in a simple straight forward fashion and stay to the point, plus be completely honest about it, then it helps us as we look into it. We cannot work with what we don't know. Half of a story doesn't help us to help you. We cannot work with what may not be completely true. Corrections likes to point out every detail of a situation that we may not have every detail or where an inmate may have broken a rule we don't know about. This distracts from being able to come to a solution because it allows them to shift the focus from what may be a policy or staff problem back onto the inmate as the problem. Then we get nowhere, and the inmate is blamed. So help us help you!

PLEASE Notify Us when you move to a new prison or IPP jail if you are on our inmate mailing list. As is discussed in another article this month, returned newsletters are becoming a problem. This has increased because the DOC is stepping up the frequency and volume of using county jails as a repository for state inmates in order to maximize the IPP contracts and cut down on housing units in Draper due to staff shortages. We have received newsletters back each month for one inmate that was moved to three different locations in three months, and was never at one location long enough to receive his newsletter. We anticipate that this will be happening more

frequently as they close Lone Peak and may start sending some women from Timpanogos out to county jails.

Do not send us old data matrix forms for the Board Audit that is over. Please, do not expect us to send a letter to you in response as to how your information may or may not have been used in the Board audit. We turned that information over to the Auditors and UPAN only knows that the information you provided contributed to their confirming a variety of problems in

how the Board operates that is now being slowly addressed and changed. Thank you all for your contribution to the audit!

In closing, UPAN directors and volunteers do our best to try to help inmates and their families help themselves. We hope to empower UPAN families to help their incarcerated loved ones and for everyone to navigate their difficult prison experiences in the best way possible.

Food for Thought: *"If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain."* Dolly Parton

FOR INMATES: MAILING UPDATES Please Read And Help Us Serve You Better

Change of Mailing Address

We would like to ask all inmates to please notify UPAN of facility housing changes of address or release. We have a lot of inmate newsletters returned due to moves to different facilities, including county jails. Please notify us of those changes as soon as you can when they occur. This way the volunteers who send your newsletters to you are not spending funds on paper, ink and stamps for returned mail. Thank you.

Prepaid Postage

We would like to thank all the inmates that send us envelopes with the postage prepaid to try to help with mailing costs, it is very helpful. It is most helpful to us when they are not already addressed. Sometimes they are addressed to inmates who receive their newsletters from one of our volunteers who live outside the Salt Lake Valley and it is not always possible to get that envelope to the volunteer. Some of our volunteers who mail newsletters for us even live outside of Utah! The blank envelopes you send are used by the main UPAN directors to respond to letters from inmates or given to those volunteers who attend our meetings and send newsletters out to inmates.

Newsletter Mailing

We are happy to mail newsletters to any inmates who have no family or friends to do so. If you have loved ones who are willing and able to print and send you the newsletter, that is the easiest way for you to receive it.

Ask your loved one to contact us at:

utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com and ask to receive a newsletter by email. They can read it and then print it front and back and mail to you. ***Please let us know if you are on our mailing list but have loved ones who are sending it to you and we will remove you from the list.*** This opens up spots for our volunteers to mail newsletters to other inmates who have no one to do so for them.

Inmates Who Are Releasing

If you will be releasing from prison in the coming month or two, please send us notification of your release date and if possible, what your new address will be, including if you will be paroling to a community correctional center, and the name of the halfway house. If you do not know the halfway house address but do know which one, let us know that. Once you have released you can request our newsletters via email by contacting us at: utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com.

Help Reduce Our Frustrations & Disappointments

If you do not notify us of your release date, then our volunteers waste their valuable time, paper, ink, envelopes, and stamps (\$\$\$) to send the newsletter, only to have it returned by the prison or county jail. The jails and prison do not forward your mail. Sometimes this takes over a month to occur, and so more than one month's newsletter is sent out in vain. Thank you for helping us to run this service smoothly!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAIL OUT INMATE NEWSLETTERS

Bless Their Hearts, These Volunteers

UPAN currently has about 35 volunteers who are dedicated to print and mail out monthly newsletters to approximately 265 incarcerated individuals who don't have family or friends in the community to do so. Our waiting list of inmates who have no one to mail in to them is growing weekly and we currently have 16 inmates on the waiting list, with more requests coming in daily.

Both UPAN directors and the inmates that receive the newsletters DEEPLY APPRECIATE the volunteers who currently print and mail out newsletters each month to the individuals they are assigned!

What is involved. If you are interested in becoming a newsletter mailing volunteer, please email us at utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com and let us know of your interest and how many newsletters you would be able to print and mail out each month.

Here's the Procedure

Once the newsletter is complete, we email you a copy as an attachment, which you can then print.

The newsletter is generally 10 pages long, so if you print it front and back, that ends up being 5 pages, which then fits into a standard #10 envelope and can be mailed for 1 Forever stamp. Anything more than that is

more than one ounce and would require additional postage. When considering how many inmates you would be able to mail to, please consider the cost of paper, printing ink, envelopes, and postage.

We have inmates wanting the newsletter who are located in both Draper and Gunnison and on Inmate Placement Program in county jails throughout the state.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." Muhammed Ali

THE INMATE COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS – WHERE THE MONEY GOES FROM PHONE CALLS AND PAY PER VIEW VIDEO VISITATION

This article is the result of a combination of research and efforts of M. Prince, P. Leishman, & A. Sandoval

Where Are The Ethics In This Industry?

Jack Smith IV states in his Tech.Mic article, *The End of Prison Visitation*, on Mic.com, "Extorting inmates' families is big business. You may have heard of the prison industrial complex, but the companies that provide corrections facilities with their communications technologies are an industrial complex all their own." While there are three larger companies that dominate the prison communication business (Securus, Telmate and Global Tel Link, also called GTL) there are a variety of subsidiary and smaller companies, including IC Solutions that contracts with Century Link and the Utah Department of Corrections. He calls these companies "the Verizon, AT&T and Sprint of jails."

Simplified Method Dropped

Making lots of money on inmate phone calls is the reason these companies were created and have flourished. As technology has developed, so have their methods to find other ways to capitalize and profit from the tragedy of families and using the country's jail and prison systems. Before alternate telecommunications providers and cell phones, regular phone companies (such as Century Link, formerly Qwest, and before that, Mountain Bell) were the method inmates could call home via collect phone calls. The phone company collected the fees and it was as simple as that.

Prison Communication Industry Uses Technology to Create More Methods to Exploit Inmate Families

As prison populations grew, technology evolved, monopolies on telecommunications were broken up, and cell phones became more and more common, these inmate calling providers grew and cornered the market on pre-paid calling accounts with exclusive contracts with prisons and jails. These contracts protected them from competition. The prison telecom giants ratcheted up the prices until a single phone call could cost upward of \$14 a minute in some parts of the country / continent. They have now devised the paid video visit, and have successfully sold this idea to jails and prisons nationwide with a whopping \$1 per minute the typical cost of a paid video visit, according to Smith.

(In Utah a pay-per-view visit seems to run between 25 and 50 cents a minute).

Gouging Women Who Have Loving Goals

According to a survey by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, there are 2.4 million confined/incarcerated Americans nationwide. Exorbitant communication costs are a basic fact of life when supporting a loved one in jail or prison. This survey found that 34% of families of inmates go into debt to cover costs of communicating with their loved one. Of everyone pouring money into prison and jail systems to stay in touch and support an inmate, 87% are women (mothers, wives, girlfriends, daughters, and sisters). [Do ICS providers feel proud of themselves? Ed.]

Complicity Of Our Governing Groups & Kickbacks

What we as consumers of these communication services need to be aware of, and raise our collective voices against, are the enormous "kickbacks" that the states receive to contract with these greedy service providers. For years these inmate communication services (ICS) have come up with a variety of ways to charge multiple fees to families who simply want to stay in touch with their loved ones. [Usually those who can least afford it! Ed.]

Exorbitant Fees And Devious Techniques

ICS providers have charged not only high per-minute calling rates, but also flat fees that were charged (until March 2016) for a phone call regardless of the length of the actual call, as were per-call connection fees. All ICS charge ridiculously high (6 – 20%) fees for depositing funds from recipients of the calls to a pre-paid calling account via phone or internet. Most no longer accept money orders through the mail, requiring a deposit from a credit card. Some don't charge a deposit fee to the inmate prepaid calling card type account, where the inmate directly buys the phone time.

Many ICS continue to deduct monthly fees from a prepaid phone account that is not utilized for more than a certain number of weeks to the tune of \$5 or more per month. To close a prepaid account for any reason, they

also charge a processing fee to refund funds – if they have a policy to allow refunds. Many jails in Utah have calling programs that do NOT refund pre-paid funds on a calling account. A lot of money has been lost by families when a family member deposited funds into a calling account not knowing their IPP inmate was going to be moved or their county jail inmate released early for good behavior, and the jail / ICS refused to refund the deposit. When USP changed calling services a few years ago, the provider did not allow for a transfer of the funds from the old provider to the new and families had to jump through a lot of hoops to obtain refunds of their money, while paying service fees for doing so.

Poor Quality Of Calls And Broken Equipment

The ICS providers won't attend to the poor quality of calls and poor technical support. The customer service departments of the ICS providers consistently refuse to look into complaints and concerns family members contact them about. These have included broken phones in the facility, faulty equipment in the jails or prisons, static and interference in the call and poor quality. They blame faulty equipment on the prison or jail facility. In turn, the prison places responsibility for repair on the contract provider. Nothing gets repaired.

Nothing gets fixed in a timely manner. Call providers blame dropped calls on cell phone and digital service, even when old fashioned land lines are being used. They imply families are lying when we report that the answering recording keeps looping and doesn't accept it when we press the '5' to accept the call. They resist a consumer's attempt to escalate and talk to a supervisor to resolve repeated problems. They know we are a captive bunch, desperate to maintain contact with our incarcerated sons and daughters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, siblings, fiancés, etc. We have no choice but to pay whatever price they set if we want to hear our loved one's voice.

Flat Fee Regardless Of Call Length – No Refunds

Over the past decade the UDOC has had a few different phone providers, including Value Added Communications, GTL, and now IC Solutions. They charged a flat fee for a 30-minute call the moment the call was accepted by the recipient, no matter if the call lasted 1 minute or 30 minutes. This fee was charged if the call was cut short through system error and it was close to impossible to get a prorated refund from the ICS provider because it took USP's Inmate Phone employee to research and verify to the phone company that the call was terminated through no fault of the consumers. The recent FCC reform order (see March and May's UPAN News) shed light on this exploitative practice by identifying it (and them) exactly as such.

Call It What You Will, It's Still A Kickback

In his article, Smith goes on to write, "These fees are the linchpin in an elaborate racket between telecommunications providers, prisons and local

governments." The business model for prison telecom services is based on long-term contracts that establish them as the sole provider with any given department of corrections, county or state. In order to be awarded these contracts, these companies promise each DOC, county, or state "site commissions" based on the fees and surcharges they collect. No matter what they label it, the funds provided the state or county are actually kickbacks. A commission suggests the recipient has provided a service for compensation. In the inmate telecom industry, it is simply a kickback. Smith reports that these lucrative deals can provide millions of dollars for some correctional departments. In Los Angeles County, for example, it brings in a baseline, contractual guarantee of \$15 million a year. In some counties, this money trickles back down to the jails or prisons.

The Budget Entry Is Misleading – A Shortfall

According to the Budget for the State of Utah, obtained via a GRAMA request, for the fiscal year 2015-2016, 1.5 million dollars was expected to be realized by this kickback. When asked about this, Brooke Adams, Public Information Officer for UDOC, clarified that the "annual budget includes a line item of \$1.5 million for inmate education and training, but that figure is a placeholder, in essence, and is not how much we actually receive in telephone surcharge fees."

The Prison Telephone Surcharge Account is allocated to the general UDOC budget and according to state law, UCA 64-13-42, these funds are solely designated to be used for "...education and training programs for offenders..." (UCA 64-13-42(21))

Budget Estimates Shortfall

Ms. Adams also reports that in Fiscal Year 2015 the UDOC actually received \$790,500 in surcharge fees; in FY 2014 it received \$737,100, about half of the budgeted \$1.5 million. She also reported that in addition to the surcharges on inmate phone calls, the UDOC receives "approximately \$423,700 annually from the Utah Legislature that goes into the restricted account for inmate education and training." She informed us that in FY 2015 the General Education Fund received about \$1.2 million from the surcharge account and taxpayer funds combined to pay specifically for inmate education and training. Please note that "education and training" does not include high school, psycho-educational skills classes or other therapy or treatment.

The funding in the General Education Fund is called a restricted account because it can only be used to cover costs for vocational training programs offered to select state prison inmates (at this time) by the Davis Applied Technology College, Uintah Basin Applied Technology College, and Snow College. This money cannot be transferred or used for other operations in the UDOC.

It's Not All Gravy – Inmates Still Pay Half, With A Lot Of Restrictions

Since inmates are required to pay 50% of their tuition costs for vocational training through promissory loans (which they are supposed to re-pay once they are off parole), the General Education Fund pays the schools who provide the vocational training the other 50% of the cost. What this means is that all inmates and their families who make and receive phone calls from the prison, in addition to Utah taxpayers, are paying for the education of the smaller percentage of inmates who are eligible to participate in the vocational programs.

Higher Education = Rehabilitation, Less Recidivism

These vocational programs have a lot of restrictions on who can participate in them, one being they must have a release date. This effectively restricts a large number of inmates who do not have release dates, or those with potential life sentences, from participating in any educational programs funded by their phone calls.

This leads us to another issue regarding lack of higher education (college) in the prison, which was discontinued several years ago. Many of the families supporting this program by having regular phone calls (and pay per view video visits in jails) are those in it for the long haul. Their incarcerated loved ones are long term inmates, or lifers, who will never be allowed to participate in the vocational trade programs. We need to work on getting higher education back into our Utah prisons. But that is something that can be addressed in a future article.

Money Management – Only One Percent Of Two-Hundred & Twenty Million Dollars? That's Peanuts!

According to information obtained through GRAMA, the UDOC currently allocates less than 1% of its 220 million dollar budget specifically to “education and training programs for offenders.” With about 220 million dollars to use, why does the UDOC need to obtain funds for education and training from families of offenders? Over the years, UPAN has learned that in Utah, funding for both higher education in USP and prison treatment programs are not a priority lawmakers want to fund. As we have been told by a legislator who supports criminal

justice reform and prison issues, “prisoners are not sympathetic populations, compared to others” when it comes to legislative funding.

Acknowledged, Utah Is Above Some Other States

Other states accept the phone kickbacks and put them in their general funds rather than funneling them back into programs to assist in inmate education and rehabilitation. We acknowledge that if Utah is going to use these exploitative service providers and benefit from the funds generated by the need for inmates and their loved ones to communicate, then the UDOC is at least putting the funds back into services to assist some inmates who are eligible to benefit from them. Hopefully someone will explore what each county is doing with the kickbacks they receive from their phone and video visit contracts, and share that information.

A Call For Another Audit – On The “Kickbacks”

It has been suggested by inmates as well as family members that we need to urge our elected officials to call for a detailed legislative audit of UDOC spending of the Prison Telephone Surcharge Account, General Education Fund, and spending on the educational and training programs in general. There is concern voiced by inmates and families that programs intended to rehabilitate are not receiving the funding they need to help prepare inmates for release and reintegration into society. There is concern that the vocational training funded by the surcharges are limited only to a select small percentage of inmates to benefit from.

Some Things We Can Do

The arrangements between ICS providers and states, departments of correction, and county jails should be scrutinized fully. We need to flood the federal courts and the FCC with our stories of hardships brought on by these profit chasing ICS giants [read vultures, Ed.]. Prison families need to: 1) help our county sheriffs and jail commanders understand that video visiting is NOT a healthy option for long term state inmates, and 2) educate those making these decisions that require families to pay for in-house video visits, the only visiting option, is exploiting families who could use that money to care for the children their incarcerated loved ones are unable to care for.

WHY VIDEO VISITATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH

Compiled by Anna Brower, Juan Guerrero, ACLU of Utah, and Shane Severson, UPAN

Contact Visitation – A High Priority!

Several county jails in Utah offer NO IN-PERSON VISITATION for inmates. Some of these county jails host state inmates, who can be incarcerated for several years. While video visitation for off-site contact can be an important complement to an inmate's preparation for life after release, using ONLY video visitation, in lieu of any in-person visitation, is not good for reducing recidivism, increasing public safety, and enhancing positive community ties.

Here are important reasons why county jails should offer contact/barrier visits, in addition to video visitation.

- Visitation, in general, is correlated with success for inmates after release. Preserving strong, positive social networks improves the chances that an individual will succeed in re-entering the community, and reduces the risk of additional criminal activities upon release. A 2011 study by the Minnesota Department of Corrections found that inmates who were visited behind bars had a 13% lower incidence of recidivism. This is good for public safety, and good use of tax dollars.

- Video visitation is a poor substitute for in-person visits. Images and sounds do not transmit well, and important social cues are lost. Especially for children, in-person visitation is critical for maintaining social connection and strengthening pro-social behaviors. Visiting in person better prepares inmates for life after release, by helping them practice positive interactions with supportive people.

- Video visitation systems can experience technical glitches that persist for days – even weeks - at a time. When jails offer NO in-person alternatives to video visitation, a technological problem basically eliminates all visitation, for all inmates and their loved ones, until the problem is resolved.

- Video visitation is almost always fully controlled by for-profit companies that charge high fees for registration and visitation beyond the bare minimum. Because we all benefit, through enhanced public safety, from MORE rather than LESS visitation for inmates, we should not be placing barriers - technological and financial - to this important rehabilitative activity.

For more info on this important subject, check out the following links: [With the Guardian link, use the “Search” feature, type in the exact words of the link, i.e. “prison visits prepare life...” etc, then scroll down a bit. Ed.]

Excellent resources on the importance of visitation:

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/zoto/apr/zo/prisonvisits-prepare-life-after-release-threat>

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=261020>

<http://www.prisonpolicy.org/visitation/>

TYPES OF VISITS IN THE COUNTY JAILS OF UTAH

In May 2016 there were 1550 state inmates housed in county jails. This list is courtesy of research by Anna Brower and Juan Guerrero, ACLU of Utah. Listed are the county and the types of visits that jail accommodates. Please note that not all of these jails are on contract with the Department of Corrections to receive State Inmates.

The jails with an * do not house State Inmates.

Beaver - Video
Box Elder – Barrier
Cache – Video
Carbon - Barrier
Daggett - Barrier
Davis – Barrier & Video
Duchesne - Barrier
* Emery - Barrier

Garfield – Barrier
Grand - Barrier
Iron - Video
Juab – Barrier
Kane – Barrier & Video
Millard - Barrier
* Rich – Barrier
* Salt Lake – Barrier
San Juan – Barrier & Video

Sanpete - Video
Sevier - Video
Summit- Barrier
* Tooele- Video
Uintah - Video
* Utah - Video
Wasatch - Barrier
Washington – Barrier & Video
Weber – Video

Food for Thought; *“It isn’t the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out; it’s the pebble in your shoe.” Muhammad Ali*

JUNE UPAN MEETING

We had a large turnout of 52 attendees for our June 13th Share With Your Legislator meeting. We had excellent speakers who addressed a wide variety of issues they are experiencing with Utah’s criminal justice system and the prison system.

Representative Brian King Attends This Meeting

We were very happy that Representative Brian King (D-House District 28) was in attendance. Rep. King is the chair of the Democratic Caucus, sits on the Sentencing Commission, and is on the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, House Judiciary Committee, and the Legislative Audit Subcommittee, among others.

Mr. King listened carefully to everyone’s presentation and took notes throughout the evening. He spoke to

the group, commenting on a few of the issues raised. He shared from his experience in the legislature and on the appropriations subcommittee. He reminded us that there is a limited amount of funding to be allocated to a wide variety of causes, agencies, and issues in Utah.

A Disappointing Attendance From Others

We also had one candidate, Patricia Phaklides, House District 35 in attendance. We were disappointed that more of the 6 legislators and 7 candidates who had told us they planned to attend were not there. We believe that the reason was two-fold. First, a candlelight vigil was scheduled Monday night during the time of our meeting at Salt Lake City Hall, across the street from the library where we were meeting. The vigil was in memory of the multiple victims in the terrible mass shooting in Orlando on Sunday morning. This was attended by many people and some of our lawmakers

were there instead of with us. Second, the weather was bad with wind, rain and hail in some parts of the Wasatch Front, which may have influenced some to choose to not drive during rush hour traffic to the meeting in downtown SLC.

Issues Discussed Included Sex Offender

Treatment Program

A variety of problems related to Draper's SOTP were discussed, including a shortage of therapists and the fact that SOTP has not received funding at a higher level than it was receiving 20 years ago, even though the number of inmates needing it has tripled. The closing of SSD in 2015 and moving sex offenders out of Wasatch and into Promontory at Draper with the drug offenders was also discussed. According to speakers, this move has resulted in a change in the way SOTP is facilitated, resulting in challenges and problems for inmates in that program. One issue was that offenders needing SOTP have been moved prematurely out of housing where they had jobs and were engaged in productive activity, to Promontory where they have remained in limbo without jobs or treatment for several months. This is due to the program being short staffed. It should be noted there were no complaints about the treatment programs in San Juan or Sanpete county jails.

Inmate Placement Program (IPP)

Several speakers mentioned or directly addressed problems and concerns related to IPP. This included one 70-year old individual who expired his sentence several months ago after many years in prison who was housed in a county jail and repeatedly asked his case manager to help him pre-arrange for resources once released; his request was ignored. He had also asked to be transferred back to Draper, from which he was released, in enough time to arrange for transitional services, but that was also not accommodated. *Note, UPAN has been assured that ALL inmates are getting transitional services, so it appears once again the top doesn't know what is going on down in the trenches.*

IPP allows individuals who are terminating or expiring to fall through the cracks when it comes to transitional services that would lead to successful reintegration into society. A variety of other issues related to IPP were discussed. Due to space limitations in this edition, a full accounting of this will be shared in more detail in the July UPAN newsletter.

Problems Related To Legal Representation And The Appeals Process Were Brought Up

The problems related to poor legal representation by public defenders were addressed.

Food for Thought: *"We cannot demonstrate our own good while wishing that someone else be kept from having good."*
Frederick Bailes

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up." — Muhammad Ali

Also noted were issues related to the problems encountered by inmates getting legal assistance and information in a timely manner to file their own appeals. This includes the lack of true legal assistance given by contract attorneys as well as the prison mail room not forwarding legal mail in a timely manner, and the lack of access to a law library.

A Brief Presentation By Brent Willis of Home Inn

Willis and his associates have several transitional housing units as well as rental homes throughout the valley. He discussed the requirements to be a candidate for the programs. His organization offers to assist individuals in finding housing and employment. Information about this will be in a future newsletter.

Tim Keffer, Case Manager With SLC Police Dept.

spoke about a very new program SLCPD started to help connect homeless people, including felons, with services such as housing, mental health treatment, nursing homes, etc. This office also can work with inmates who have mental health issues. Prior to their release from prison, they can get started on long term medications and assistance in a seamless transition to mental health management in the community. Homeless individuals can go to a HOST meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 424 South 200 West at 1 p.m. to begin accessing these resources.

Willy the Plumber Scholarship

Karl Winsness spoke about awarding scholarships this year to three more children of inmates. See related article on Turning Point airing in July (page 10).

Glen Collett, Evidence-Based Definition & Release

Collett spoke about the necessity of using evidence based release practices and setting goals in Utah about recidivism. He encouraged the DOC to strive for progress based on what actually works.

Immediate Assessment For Rehabilitation...

upon entry to prison as well as visitation issues were also discussed by Warren Rosenbaum. He encouraged us to take a look at the immediate approach of German prisons to the rehabilitation process which also begins to prepare the offender for reintegration throughout incarceration.

UPAN appreciates all of the speakers and everyone who attended this meeting. We recognize and respect the depth of thought and commitment our speakers put into their talks. We appreciate those who braved bad weather and traffic to attend this meeting.

WATCH THE WILLY THE PLUMBER TURNING POINT DOCUMENTARY

BYU TV will be airing a program on the Willy the Plumber Scholarship again on **July 10th at 9 p.m. and July 11th at 6:30 & 9:30 p.m.** We encourage inmates to watch it. It is a moving and inspiring story. Inspired by the predicament of his own children, ex-convict Karl Winsness founded The Willy the Plumber Foundation to create college scholarships for children whose parents are incarcerated. Willy the Plumber gave out three more scholarships this spring to Utah children of incarcerated individuals. The fund runs on donations. To donate contact the Community Foundation of Utah 2257 South 1100 East #205, Salt Lake City, UT 84106 Phone:(801) 559-3005, www.utahcf.org/

People in the community can go to: <http://www.byutv.org/watch/62af4a00-1a80-40ef-bcd9-0776844e44ad/turning-point-the-willy-the-plumber-foundation> to view this production.

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Inspiration from the Inside

Lost Then Found by C. Lett

Walked into the Shadows
Was nowhere to be Seen
Glimpses of Light
Few and Far Between
What's that supposed to Mean?

Stole pieces of Life
Bound them to Me
Passed by the Mirror
No reflection to See

Who could possibly Cope
With so little Hope
Ran to be Free
Forever Hiding
All that could Be

Life passed by o' so Quick
Almost as if it were a Magic Trick
Right before the Eye
All would seem to Click

Couldn't let Go
Without a Struggle or a Fight
I'm suddenly Visible
And not Hidden in Plain Sight

I Walk from the Shadows
Into my Life.

* * * * *

With The Passing of Muhammad Ali This Month, Honoring Him With Some of His Worthwhile Quotes Throughout this Newsletter

On life experiences: "A man who views the world the same at 50 as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life."

On your value as a human being: "Don't count the days; make the days count."

On giving everything you have and then some: "Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even."

Just good advice: "Silence is golden when you can't think of a good answer."

From Editor Warren Rosenbaum: HAPPY BIRTHDAY UPAN NEWS! We have published a total of 24 editions since our very first UPAN Newsletter in June 2014.

!

That's all till next month, stay cool, Ed.

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