



## UPAN Newsletter Volume 3 Number 9 | **SEPTEMBER 2016**

*“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”*

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**NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, October 10, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM**

**TOPIC: Family Meeting And To Be Determined**

**Location:** Glendale Library (SLC Branch), 1375 Concord St (1240 W)

**November UPAN Meeting: MONDAY November 14, 2016 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.**

**Location** Draper Library Meeting Room Topic: TBA

**THERE WILL BE NO - REPEAT, NO - OCTOBER FOCUS MEETING:  
FOCUS meeting cancelled until future notice**

When the meetings resume:

**Location:** Adult Probation and Parole Office, 36 W. Fremont Avenue, Salt Lake City UT 84101  
Everyone attending FOCUS meetings, needs to get there **BEFORE 6 PM.**

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

*Sometimes the bad things that happen in our lives put us directly on the path  
to the most wonderful things that will ever happen to us. Anonymous*

Don’t judge my story by the chapter you walked in on. Unknown

## **BROOKE ADAMS HAS LEFT THE DOC**

**by Molly Prince**

As of September 8, Brooke Adams is no longer the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Utah Dept. of Corrections. She is moving to a similar position at the University of Utah. The DOC has not yet hired a replacement. The interim PIO will be Steve Gehrke, who held the same position a couple of years ago.

During her tenure as PIO, Brooke has been very involved with helping families of inmates understand how the prison operates and in answering their questions and concerns. But Brooke's history of helping inmates and their families started before that.

Prior to her position as PIO for Corrections, Brooke was a reporter for the Salt Lake Tribune. In that capacity, she attended FOCUS meetings with the DOC and stayed abreast of what was happening within the prison system in Utah. She was interested in and encouraged the founders of UPAN when we were forming. When UPAN had its very first meeting of what we thought was going to simply be a support group for the families and friends of inmates, Brooke wrote an article in the Salt Lake Tribune about our emerging organization and was very supportive of our goals.

I can imagine that Brooke's job with the DOC has been extremely interesting as well as very challenging. She was basically on call 24/7 to deal with press releases and provide information on developments in all areas of the DOC. She seemed to have the ability to answer any question, and the resources to find the answers to those she didn't know off the top of her head. She dealt pro-actively with the media and worked on improving the DOC's relationship with the community, including families of those incarcerated behind prison walls. She brought Corrections into the 21<sup>st</sup> century using the Corrections website and social media, including her blog. She provided press releases to keep the media and everyone else informed of important developments in a manner that had not been done previously.

I cannot pretend to know all of Brooke's duties but I do know she worked tirelessly to get them done. She always responded to my emails or phone calls in a timely manner and with grace, even when the discussions we had and issues dealt with were very difficult ones. I have been told by a variety of UPAN participants that she also did her best to respond to their questions and concerns in a professional, thorough and timely manner. If she didn't have the answers, she spent time and energy researching and finding them. We didn't always like the answers she found, but she didn't flinch when she had to share information that she knew we would not be happy with.

Brooke took over the organization and facilitation of the FOCUS meetings at the beginning of 2016 when Steve Turley moved more fully into his role with the planning of the new prison. She brought a variety of guest speakers to share information about various aspects of the department with attendees during a series of changes that the Department of Corrections went through this year.

Prior to Brooke's filling the position of PIO, there was much about the UDC, its policies, and its people that was not shared with the public. It seemed shrouded in secrecy. Families and community agencies were uninformed about so much and the information was inaccessible to the public. She made amazing strides in improving the information available on the website to improve the transparency of the DOC.

Brooke and I have not always agreed on everything in terms of prison issues and how to deal with them, but I believe we have mutual respect for one another's position and intent to improve things for the greater good in our own ways. On behalf of UPAN, I want to thank Brooke Adams for her support of this organization from its infancy as well as her work in the bigger picture as the PIO of Corrections. She will be missed.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUDIT OF SOTP IN UTAH STATE PRISON**

It came to UPAN's attention in mid-August that the Office of the Legislative Auditor General had begun the performance audit of the Sex Offender Treatment Program in the Utah State Prison system. The audit had been assigned by the Legislative Audit Subcommittee a couple of months prior after Utah legislators brought concerns about the challenges faced by SOTP to the subcommittee's attention. The legislators became aware of the problems faced by inmates involved in or waiting for SOTP through communication from concerned family members.

According to August Lehman, the Lead Senior Performance Auditor in the SOTP audit, "We have been requested by the legislature to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the SOTP programs offered by UDC, as well as the process used to determine when and where an offender receives treatment."

Families, inmates, and community supporters have been shocked and dismayed over the past few years to learn of the lack of funding our legislature has been providing each year to USP to run SOTP. The amount funded for SOTP in 2016 has been the same amount funded each year since 1996, despite the fact that the

number of offenders needing this type of treatment has grown significantly over the past 20 years. (See article on page 9 for more information on this.) This article will identify some of the concerns that UPAN families have identified.

### **Lack Of Accessibility To Treatment**

A major concern is the challenge of accessibility to SOTP by inmates in USP. There are close to 300 spots in SOTP: approximately 200 in Draper, 64 in San Juan County, and 32 in Sanpete County Jail. It is estimated that the number of treatment spots is only between 10 and 15% of the total number of sex offenders in Utah's prison system.

Inmates cannot get into S O treatment until after they go to their original Board hearing. At that time they are generally ordered to return for a rehearing after a number of years with a "sex offender memo." This means they need to be in treatment or have completed it prior to the rehearing. Offenders have reported that there is no consistency in who gets into treatment 1½ years prior to their rehearing versus only 9 to 12 months prior to their hearing. The program is designed to last up to 18 months. The delay in getting into SOTP can result in extending a person's time in prison if they don't get into the program in a timely manner.

### **One Size Fits All**

There are not different treatment tracks or programs for different typologies of sex offenders. For example, the program requirements and assignments are the same for a hands on offense and an offense that occurred on the internet. Also, there is no specialized treatment program for offenders with special needs in USP. The current program tends to expect participants to be able to do the work on their own and with help from group members. The treatment structure consists of two therapy groups per week with a therapist, and one group meeting without the therapist (often called "group out of group") in which participants discuss assignments and help each other understand concepts and move forward with their programs. Based on information UPAN has received, the program often proves daunting and sometimes insurmountable for inmates who are illiterate, for whom English is a second language, are developmentally delayed, mentally ill, blind, deaf, or otherwise disabled. Without the benefit of individual therapy sessions in the prison treatment program, there is little individualized treatment planning to help individuals with disabilities or other special needs become successful participants.

For offenders with lower IQ's the program is not written at a level they can understand. Many inmates with special needs including Asperger's syndrome and mental illness fail to successfully complete the program. This results in a denial of release to the community by the Board of Pardons and Parole. It becomes a Catch

22 in which the inmate may repeatedly try and never complete. This can result in never being paroled.

UPAN is aware of cases where the individual tried several times to participate in treatment while incarcerated and failed. Then after many years, often a couple of decades, the BOPP decides to release them to the community to participate in outpatient sex offender treatment. Sometimes decades after their original offense and then having to not only do treatment in the community, but learn how to navigate the community that has changed immensely while they have been locked up for so many years.

It should be noted that the result of SOTP not having special needs treatment tracks to serve the needs of these individuals results in a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars over many years and many inmates simply to keep them in prison. Then, upon release, these individuals still are required to do treatment, but must pay for it on their own when they cannot make a living wage, and with many more challenges after being absent from society for so many years.

### **Inability To Hire Enough Specially Trained Therapists To Increase The Program Size**

The lack of legislative funding hinders the Division of Programming in USP to hire enough therapists to serve this population. Sex offender treatment is a highly specialized field of mental/behavioral health and requires not only the basic education of a licensed therapist (master's degree or higher) but also additional training and experience in this specialty. The UDC has well trained sex offender therapists that are UDC employees. However, to meet the demand for treatment, it has also used contracts with sex offender treatment agencies from the community. It has been reported that the contracts offered by the UDC are not enough for the contracting agencies to hire seasoned sex offender treatment providers. While they may be experienced in mental/behavioral health issues, therapists who are brand new to sex offender treatment may not be able to effectively assess and deal with the complicated nuances of the wide variety of people who end up in prison for a sexual offense.

### **Immediate Removal From Program For Accusations Resulting In Write-ups But Not Proven Guilty Of Those Infractions**

We have received reports about inmates being removed from SOTP for technical and minor housing infractions, as well as more serious program violations or security issues. UPAN families all want their incarcerated loved ones to be safe, so removal from the program for putting others at risk is understandable. However, we have received many reports that offenders are immediately removed from the program simply for receiving a write-up for anything, be it a housing infraction, a program violation, or a serious security

threat. This removal occurs before any investigation or determination by the IDHO (Inmate Disciplinary Hearing Officer) that the inmate is guilty or innocent of the write-up. This process can take weeks or months to resolve, and the prisoner remains in limbo during that time. They immediately lose their privilege levels and are put on an early lock down level, unable to work or program for months at a time.

If an inmate is found innocent of the write up, or it is dropped, that person still has to go through the same process as an inmate who is found guilty of a write up. This involves having six months after the write up is received to write a letter to the Director of SOTP taking full responsibility for whatever the infraction or violation was, discussing what steps the inmate has taken to make sure the violation will not happen again. This is impossible for an inmate who is, indeed innocent of the write-up.

Many inmates have reported that their first letter is not even responded to for several weeks or months, so they write several times. At some point they receive a form letter from SOTP that is a memo outlining in general terms what is expected in their letter requesting re-admission to the program. The memo instructs that only two letters can be written in a six-month period beginning with the time of the write up. If the inmate has written multiple letters before getting the memo, their two chances at reinstatement are used and they have to wait another six months to request re-admittance. According to offenders who have experienced this in the past few years, once the inmate is deemed worthy to return to the program, that individual is placed back on a waiting list rather than being immediately reinstated to the program. This can result in it taking many months to several years to get back into the program.

### **Implement Alternative Events For Less Serious Violations**

Why not use violations and poor choices as windows of opportunity for treatment and change versus removal and punishment from the program? There are a variety of infractions that can result in an offender being kicked out of the program that are not necessarily a threat to the safety and security of the institution. In outpatient treatment in society, these types of choices and problems can result in a new treatment goal and therapeutic attention to the decision making process. When someone is in treatment, it is because they do not have everything figured out yet. If they make bad decisions while in treatment it would seem that the treatment team could and should take time to focus on the problem areas the individual faces and develop goals to facilitate change in those areas. It has been suggested that rather than being removed from treatment, the offender remain in treatment with lesser sanctions (alternative to being kicked out) and the treatment providers be flexible and innovative enough

to support the inmate in addressing the issues related to the violation.

### **The High Turnover Of Therapists In SOTP Can Delay An Offender's Progress**

For the past few years, there have been reports of a high turnover in therapists, particularly those who were involved with the contracts to provide sex offender treatment. Changing therapists during a course of treatment can delay the inmate's progress. The new therapist needs to get to know the offender's history, offense, and assess where they are in their treatment process. There needs to be time to build a therapeutic relationship. UPAN has received reports that some new therapists have required the program participants to resubmit or re-do assignments that had already been presented and passed off by the former therapist. This slows the ability to move forward in therapy.

### **Implement A Mechanism To Immediately Assess An Offender's Risk And Readiness For Treatment Immediately Upon Entry Into USP**

Twenty years ago USP had a Diagnostic Unit that provided a place for offenders to go both pre- and post-sentence for a psychosexual evaluation as well as assessment for risk and readiness to enter sex offender specific therapy. This was phased out, first by replacing the therapists and psychologists who ran the groups and did the evaluations with correctional officers who could not do such in-depth testing and assessments. Later, the Diagnostic Unit was phased out altogether. This was due to funding shortfalls.

If this type of evaluation was done at the beginning of an offender's prison journey, it is highly likely that many offenders would be deemed good candidates for outpatient treatment in the community rather than needing to remain in prison for a prolonged period of time awaiting a space to come open in SOTP. This would provide benefits for offenders, their families, taxpayers, and society in general. We don't have enough room in this article to start listing those benefits, but we might do so in a future article. The one benefit most people will pay attention to is cost. It costs close to \$30,000 per year to house the average physically healthy inmate in the Utah State Prison system. If a professional evaluation and recommendation could be made early to the BOPP for someone who is a good candidate to be released to community treatment, it would significantly save taxpayer dollars, which could then be used to fund the SOTP adequately for those who require residential treatment while incarcerated.

There are a variety of other concerns that have been brought to our attention by inmates and their families regarding SOTP in the Utah State Prison system. The ones listed here are the most significant and frequently cited issues. The Auditors have been made aware of all of these and more by various interested parties. It is our understanding that the Auditors have met with prison officials involved in programming, some of the

UPAN directors, and plan on meeting with therapists and inmates, as well as individuals who have completed the program and are no longer incarcerated. The survey that was included with the August UPAN

newsletter is coming in and being compiled and those results are being provided to the auditors. UPAN looks forward to the completed audit in the coming months.

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### **UPDATE ON THREE IPP ISSUES**

by Molly Prince

*For readers who are new to the prison system or UPAN, the Inmate Placement Program (IPP) is a program in which the Utah Department of Corrections has contracts with 21 of Utah's county jails to house state inmates for a variety of reasons. A more full explanation of the purpose of IPP can be found on the UDC website [www.corrections.utah.gov](http://www.corrections.utah.gov) under Family and Friends tab, then Programs for Inmates, via a button labeled County Jail Program. The July 2015 UPAN newsletter has a more in-depth article on IPP and its history. Finally, the July 2016 UPAN News has an article addressing issues and concerns related to IPP. These newsletters are available at [www.utahprisoneradvocate.org](http://www.utahprisoneradvocate.org).*

#### **A Follow Up Meeting With The IPP Director**

UPAN directors communicate with IPP administration periodically when issues are brought to our attention regarding IPP. In August, Shauna Denos and Molly Prince had a meeting with IPP Director James Chipp and Public Information Officer Brooke Adams to discuss some concerns as well as progress in addressing concerns we brought to the table last year.

#### **Transfer Of Inmates' Funds When Inmates Move**

One significant concern experienced by inmates and families has been the failure for the inmates' funds to catch up with them in a timely manner when moved between Utah's two prisons and the various county jails. The delay in inmate funds transfers has caused hardship in some cases. Director Chipp's predecessor, Glenn Ercanbrack worked on this issue. Director Chipp informed us that UDC recently updated the contract that it uses with the county jails. While it does not require the jail to comply, there is now a new option of using electronic funds transfers between UDC inmate accounting and the contract jails. To be clear, this is an option and not a mandatory requirement.

Chipp reports that he is seeing several of the jails starting to use the electronic process and he anticipates it will expand significantly. He also informed us, "Currently the process is not in place for jail to jail transfers, but we may be able to work through some of those processes as well." As each jail renews its contract with the State, the electronic funds transfer option is included, so over time, UPAN hopes that each county jail will see the benefit of moving to this method.

It reduces stress on the inmate and family, and it reduces phone calls from families to jail and prison accounting over the delays, therefore leaving jail and prison business office employees free to do other things besides track down inmate funds.

#### **Commissary Pricing In County Jails**

An area that has been examined over the past months is the commissary pricing in the jails, which began

under Ercanbrack's direction. It is our understanding that Chipp has continued working on this and he explained to us that his office reviews commissary pricing, items offered, as well as confirming various commissary procedures through the IPP inspection process. Through those reviews in the different jails, the DOC has noted differences and found that several factors contribute to those differences. He explains, "Those would include but may not be limited to the location (shipping distances), volume of products ordered, and individual contracts between the county and their service provider." The service provider is the company providing the commissary for a particular jail.

#### **Uniformity In Property Matrices – USP/Jails**

Ercanbrack also started the process of trying to make sure there is more uniformity between jails and the prisons in terms of property matrices. Director Chipp informs us that IPP and a jail commanders work group met several months ago and reviewed the property matrix. He clarified that when he is talking about *property matrix*, "it is important to be clear what the matrix is. It is actually a transportation matrix. That means that it is a matrix agreed upon by the jail commanders that will be accepted upon transfer to the jail." It does not mean that offenders are allowed to keep all items on the transportation matrix in their actual housing area. He further explained that each county sheriff has autonomy to specify what property is allowed in housing areas and under what circumstances. This explains some of the differences between jails of what inmates can have with them in housing.

According to Dir. Chipp, the property matrix has been reviewed by the work group "on an item by item basis" and the work group then provided a recommendation that the property matrix be updated. This recommendation was made to each contracted county jail commander.

He states, "those updates included the addition of some items not previously approved for the transportation matrix and reduced quantity for some others."

Director Chipp has assured us that, "IPP understands that this process is not perfect nor does it have a simple solution, however we are endeavoring to improve it and continue to work in partnership with all involved."

**Seeking Solutions To Mail Forwarding**

In September, Director Chipp will again be meeting with the jail administrators and sheriffs. At that time he will bring up the problem with mail not being forwarded between jails and prison when inmates are moved between both jails and prisons and jails. While he advised us that there are a lot of variables related to

each jail tracking where inmates are moved and forwarding mail between jails or back to the prisons, he agrees it is an important issue to look at and discuss.

**Something To Remember:** Change is often very slow. The old saying, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time" applies to change within a system as large and complicated as Utah's IPP system. UPAN is pleased that Director Chipp is willing to work to find common ground and identify needs inmates and families have in common with the goals of Corrections in order to improve this program for everyone involved.

*"Success is the sum of small efforts – repeated day in and day out." Robert Collier*

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**PUBLIC AWARENESS PANELS AT UTAH STATE PRISON  
& CENTRAL UTAH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

Public awareness panels are panel presentations by residents of the Con-Quest and ExCell substance abuse treatment programs in Draper or at the Central Utah Correctional Facility. These panels are designed to help the public understand events that lead to incarceration and the realities of prison life. During the presentations, inmates share their individual stories and answer questions. In addition to promoting public understanding, the interactions give inmates an opportunity to reflect on their own actions and bad decision-making while providing a cautionary tale to at-risk youth and others.

Individuals interested in attending a panel presentation at the Utah State Prison (Draper) must be at least 14 years of age and must pass a background clearance. For more information, contact Corri Turner at: cturner@utah.gov or 801-576-8234.

Individuals interested in attending a panel presentation at Central Utah Correctional Facility must be at least 16 years of age and must pass a background clearance. For more information, contact Michelle Julander at: majulander@utah.gov

or Jeanette Anderson, janderso@utah.gov They can be reached at 435-528-6222.

Panel presentations take place on the following schedule:

Central Utah Correctional Facility: Check for availability. Panels are usually held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (50 people maximum)

Promontory Men's Evening Panel: First and second Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (50 people maximum)

Promontory Men's Day Panel: Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (80 people maximum)

Timpanogos Women's Evening Panel: Fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (40 people maximum)

Timpanogos Women's Day Panel: Second Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. (60 people maximum)

*This information is available at [www.corrections.utah.gov](http://www.corrections.utah.gov) under "Contact" and then "Public Awareness Panels."*

**SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN THE PRISONS DIRECTLY RELATED TO CLOSURES OF HOUSING UNITS**

According to the information we were given at the FOCUS meeting in May, between Draper & Gunnison, there is a shortage of 160 officers. The DOC is recruiting for these positions. The basic educational requirement to apply is a high school diploma, but preference is given to applicants with a bachelor's degree. Applicants must take a written and physical test to determine their eligibility. Then they go through a training program and testing that further determines who will ultimately be hired as a correctional officer.

Some of the challenges to recruiting and keeping correctional officers has to do with the level of pay that the DOC can offer. We have been told that other police or sheriff's departments can successfully hire officers away from DOC because they can offer higher pay.

Apparently due to these shortages, housing units are being closed in Draper and inmates are being moved both within the Draper facility and out to county jails.

*"In the middle of every difficulty comes opportunity." Albert Einstein*

## **CAN FELONS VOTE IN UTAH? YES!!!**

By Molly Prince (Reprinted from the May 2016 UPAN Newsletter because of the nearing election.)

Much of the following information was obtained at: <https://slco.org/clerk/elections/voter-information/>  
<https://elections.utah.gov/> and [DMV.org](https://dmv.org)

For years the Salt Lake County Voter Information guide has said on its cover, “*If you don’t make a choice, you don’t have a voice.*” This is so true!

### **Finally, Let’s Bury This Myth!**

There is a myth that a felon cannot vote in Utah. That is false! Anyone who is NOT incarcerated in a correctional facility may register and exercise their right to vote in Utah. This means that inmates in the Utah State Prison at Draper or CUCF in Gunnison cannot vote, nor can anyone housed in a county jail or in a community correctional center or transitional center. But once released from a facility, the individual has the right to vote restored immediately.

### **Other Eligibility Requirements Include:**

You must be a U.S. citizen and must be 18 years old on or before the next election. You must have resided in Utah at least 30 days immediately before the next election.

### **Where and How to Register to Vote in Utah**

You may register to vote year-round. You can complete your Utah voter registration online, by mail, or in person. If you are eligible to vote, your county clerk will then mail you a voter registration card that tells you where your polling station is (you must vote at your assigned polling station). You do not need to designate a political party affiliation to register to vote.

**Online** To register online you need a valid Utah driver's license or ID card. Your address must also be current and up-to-date with the Driver's License Division (DLD) so that your ID or driver's license information is the same as the information you are submitting online. You will need to submit your registration a minimum of 7 days before the next election you wish to participate in.

**By Mail** To register by mail, complete a State of Utah Mail-In Voter Registration Form and send it to your local county clerk's office at least 30 days before Election Day. This form can be found online at your local county clerk's website or at your local Driver's License Division.

**In Person** Registration can be completed in person at your local county clerk's office. You may also register

to vote at your local DLD when you're applying for or renewing your Utah driver license or ID card. Registering to vote is fairly easy and empowers you to have as much say as anyone else about your laws and leaders—countywide, statewide, and at the federal level.

When you apply for a driver license in Utah, you will be offered the opportunity to register to vote. The Utah DLD provides registration forms as a convenience for those who want to participate in this democratic process.

### **Changing Your Voter Information**

You will need to re-register if you change your name, move to a new address, or if you change your political party affiliation. Simply complete a new voter registration form and submit it to the proper county clerk's office. You may do the same if you change your party affiliation—though you do not need to declare a party affiliation in order to vote.

### **You Will Be Assigned a Polling Place to Vote**

You will receive a voter registration card that identifies the location of the place you vote. These are often at schools or churches. If you prefer to not have to brave the crowds on election day, you may select to Vote By Mail. If you choose to Vote By Mail you will receive a ballot a few weeks prior to the election through the U.S. Mail and can vote and follow the instructions on the ballot and envelope to sign and mail it back. On Election Day You Will Need to Take Valid Voter Identification.

Valid Voter identification means a form of identification that bears the name and photograph of the voter which may include:

- 1) a currently valid Utah driver license; 2) a currently valid identification card that is issued by the state, or a branch, department, or agency of the United States; 3) a currently valid Utah permit to carry a concealed weapon; 4) a currently valid United States passport; or 5) a currently valid United States military identification card.

**Other Options:** one of the following identification cards, whether or not the card includes a photograph of the voter: a valid tribal identification card, a Bureau of Indian Affairs card; or a tribal treaty card.

For more information, visit the State Elections Office website at: <https://elections.utah.gov/> for more detailed information about voting in Utah. You may also register to vote on this website.

**“So many things are possible just as long as you don’t know they are impossible.”** Norton Juster

## **The Homelnn Offers Breathing Room For Re-Building Lives After Prison**

By Michael J. McAinsh, UPAN Secretary

I am the Guest Advocate of the Homelnn at the Rio Grande Hotel. I am also a resident. I moved into this building a little over a year ago, shortly after leaving prison after 15 years.

When one is coming out of prison without family and friends for support, it is no easy task to find housing. This was the situation that I was facing when I expired my sentence in the summer of 2015.

For several days, I slept in the open, wherever I could find a place that offered a modicum of privacy in the city. Following that little experiment, I spent three days at The Road Home, the men's homeless shelter in Salt Lake City. I was unsatisfied with both of these approaches. Living out in the open, in areas demarcated as off-limits for camping opened me up to harassment from law enforcement, and the shelter was a place of constant turmoil, exposing me to possible violence.

I left the shelter, bought a tent and camped in an undeveloped area south of the city. This was an improvement on the previous short-term arrangements I had made. I didn't have to carry around my worldly possessions when I went about the business of reordering my life. However, it was a temporary fix, and an inconvenience. For one thing, I had the daily commute of a suburbanite without the benefit of a McMansion with a pool in the back yard! I had to find something more permanent before cold weather set in.

One day, on a whim, I decided to drop into the HOST office. HOST is the acronym used by the Salt Lake City Police Department which stands for Homeless Outreach Services Team. As luck would have it, I was just in time for the Thursday meeting where information on community resources is offered to the homeless. Leesa Garner, the comptroller for Homelnn, made a presentation at that meeting. I met with her immediately after the meeting. Again, luck was on my side. Two spaces in a bunk room were open. I immediately paid the rent on one of the spaces. Another homeless man,

who had attended the HOST meeting with me, was to rent the other space. I moved in; the other man changed his mind and decided to remain homeless. A few days later, a private room became available, and I jumped at the opportunity to have a room to myself. You see, after fifteen years of incarceration, I wasn't too keen on sharing a room that was just a little bigger than the two-man cell I left behind!

The owner of this for-profit business, Brent Willis, and his comptroller, Leesa Garner share a philosophy that developing habits of self-sufficiency are the best way to rise above adversity, and improve one's circumstances. However, both realize that occasionally, some of us need help to turn around a downward spiral in life.

They offer a clean, secure alternative to the streets. This transitional housing gives the motivated individual who is suffering "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" breathing room to discover anew what is important to him or her, and move on to better circumstances in life.

They keep the rent reasonable, and give the guests a choice in what amenities they would like. (Room service is NOT one of them!) Brent even offers a profit-sharing plan that costs the guests nothing except time, in order to learn a new strategy for earning money while saving for their future!

If you have a firm date for leaving prison, or are trying to transition from a half-way house, write to the Homelnn, % The Guest Advocate, and I will send you information on how to apply for a room. The address is 428 West Broadway, Salt Lake City, UT 84101.

Please keep in mind that you must have your first month's rent when a room becomes available, and you must have a job, or a steady source of income. There are resources available to help you secure your first month's rent if you do have income from a job or other source. Also, we cannot provide you with a letter to the Board of Pardons guaranteeing you a room.

### **HALFWAY HOUSES IN UTAH**

There are five halfway houses in Utah. Four of them are in the DOC A P & P Region 3. These four are in Salt Lake County. They are: 1) Bonneville Community Correctional Center, housing male sex offenders and mentally ill offenders and it offers sex offender treatment; 2) Orange Street CCC which is for women parolees; 3) Atherton Transitional Center (formerly Fremont CCC) which is for female parole violators as

well as a place for women probationer/parolee victims of domestic violence to stabilize; and 4) Fortitude which is for the male parole violator population that also offers substance abuse treatment.

Northern Utah CCC is located in Ogden and houses male parolees. It offers sex offender treatment as well as substance abuse treatment.

***"You have seen my descent, now watch my rising." Rumi***

## **Details On SOTP Funding By The Legislature And A Suggested Correction For Huge Savings**

(With a little humor in the paragraph headings for the reader's enjoyment.)

An editorial analysis by the UPAN Newsletter Editor Warren Rosenbaum.

*Warren is a former U S Government Accountability Office Management Auditor*

### **A Million Dollars Ain't What It Used To Be**

Everyone knows that the purchasing power of the dollar has been shrinking for at least the last 100 years and likely since our nation adopted the dollar as our universal currency. To bring this shrinkage into our current (2016) requirement for sex offenders to complete SOTP before parole and the increasing sex offender prison population problem, the 1996 and continuing annual allocation of one million dollars for SOTP funding is now, in 2016, the equivalent of only \$460,000. To just stay even with 1996 (twenty years ago), the 2016 funding should have been \$1,540,000.

Dollar value calculator:

<http://www.dollartimes.com/inflation/inflation.php?amount=1&year=1996>

### **Sex Offender Prison Population Growth Snowballs**

Meanwhile, the sex offender prison population has doubled between 1996 and the latest available figure stated as 2,385 (DOC Statistics, Jan. 22, 2015),\* about 20 months ago. It is surely higher now (in September 2016)\*\* with an increase of 191 inmates between the years 2013 to 2015. (2,385 - 2,194 = 191, an 8.7% increase in two years.) The 2013 figure is from a Salt Lake Tribune article by Brooke Adams when she was a reporter for the Trib, published on September 3, 2013. <http://archive.sltrib.com/story.php?ref=/sltrib/news/56769578-78/sex-offenders-prison-treatment.html.csp>

### **It Doesn't Take A Rocket Scientist To Spot This**

#### **Bottleneck!**

Is it any wonder that SOTP is a bottleneck causing a huge backlog of sex offender inmates that have become detainees? Inmates are in prison as punishment with a minimum sentence requirement and for rehabilitation before release into society. Detainees are often held for political reasons but in Utah's prisons, these inmates become detainees due to lack of funding IN THE RIGHT PLACE - SOTP. While pinching pennies in the SOTP allocations, reportedly \$15,000 per inmate for 18 months of therapy, the legislature continues blindly funding unnecessarily long imprisonment at \$30,000 per inmate per year. Two, three, or four years longer in prison means an unnecessary expense of \$60,000, \$90,000, and \$120,000 respectively, for each inmate (!! ) while awaiting the opportunity to participate in the \$15,000 SOTP rehabilitation that will qualify them, rightfully and legally, for release on parole.

\* [http://corrections.utah.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1061:sex-offender-kidnap-offender-statistics&catid=26&Itemid=191](http://corrections.utah.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1061:sex-offender-kidnap-offender-statistics&catid=26&Itemid=191)

\*\* Using the same percentage increase to estimate our current (September 2016) sex offender population, it would now be 2,592 (2,385 X 1.087% = 2,592).

\*\*\* Over a two-year period, a total allocation of \$18,000,000 (1,200 X \$15,000 = \$18M) will save \$36,000,000 (1,200 X \$30,000) in the first year. These savings are forever, as opposed to the continued snowballing growth of the SO group.

### **One Cut In Half – The Other Doubled**

While the funding has essentially been cut in half by the shrinkage of the dollar's purchasing power, the group that needs the funding has doubled. Supposedly being thrifty, Utah's legislative body has been squandering millions of dollars annually by failing to increase the annual funding of SOTP. Apparently our legislators do not realize the fiscal impact of this budget issue and are not intentionally being myopic in their decision making.

### **A Solution? Fund A Gigantic SOTP Therapy Surge**

The legislature could reduce the huge cost of incarceration by funding an unprecedented SOTP Therapy surge. Such a surge would enable a relatively quick parole for likely 1,200 or 1,300 inmates who have been for years awaiting their chance to participate in and successfully complete SOTP and qualify for parole. The savings will be double the expense to implement.\*\*\* Then to prevent other unforeseen problems, allow the DOC administrators to move the DOC allocated funds to areas where the funding is most needed. The DOC administrators are closest to the problems, in this case the overpopulation problem. They need flexibility to move funds into areas of highest priority. Some payroll incentives should be implemented for exceptional management as the DOC expenses are drastically cut. This could be developed by the personnel department or whomever establishes the pay scale for the DOC.

### **Gigantic Reasons To Fast-Track This Solution**

An additional incentive to quicken the parole process of sex offenders is that their rate of recidivism is the lowest of any other category of offenders, varying from 3.2% to 5% according to several studies. Google it! A specific, limited fund for SOTP has proved a disaster, financially as well as humanely. It has prevented families from reuniting and prevented the former offender from returning to society and become a productive citizen rather than continue to be a cost to Utah taxpayers.

### **In Summary...**

Increased funding of SOTP, commensurate with inflation and the current value of the US dollar, in addition to allowing flexibility within the DOC to transfer funds to programs that most need them would assist in resolving the current problem that keeps hundreds of inmates in prison who, with treatment, could be on the road to being productive pro-social members of society.

**Brief Summary of UPAN Meeting, Monday, September 12, 2016**

**Subject: Sex Offender Treatment and Parole Overview**

by Warren Rosenbaum

The well attended meeting at the West Valley City Library, with an estimated 50 to 60 attendees, featured a presentation by UPAN President Molly Prince on this aspect of the prison population that represents about 1/3 of the total number of inmates in the Utah State Prison system.

A ten-page handout, in 12-point type for easy reading, was provided to those attending and used as a guide in this presentation. Some of the information in the handout was extracted from the Department of Corrections website, however Molly has volunteered to send a PDF file attached to an email for people who did not attend the meeting and would like to have a copy. In addition, a 2-page handout titled Parole Standard Conditions was passed to the attendees.

Please email [utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com) if you would like a copy.

Because of limited space and to avoid redundancy by printing the subjects covered again, the following two paragraphs contain some critical information discussed that is much more specific than the printed handout.

Molly's comments about parolees needing the support of family members and friends were very insightful and informative; something that needs widespread exposure for all families because with rare exceptions, their current inmate loved ones will be on parole. To be supportive, the family and friends MUST support their loved one to strictly follow the rules of parole and be as supportive as possible in helping the parolee comply as directed.

They should NOT encourage or entice the parolee to disobey any parole requirements, such as watching an unapproved movie or attending a restricted activity because "no one will know." Then later comes the complications that arise when the parolee must take a polygraph test and will likely be found deceptive as a result of that slack attitude and enticement.

Hopefully, readers of this information will treat it as gold, internalize it as their essential contribution toward a successful parole for their family member and loved one, and become the enabling crutch when needed or the authoritarian taskmaster as the situation requires, to successfully comply with the Parole Standard and Special Sex Offender Conditions. ##

\* \* \* \* \*

**Contact Info for PrisonEd Foundation: Box 900693 Sandy, UT 84090 Email: [prisonedfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:prisonedfoundation@gmail.com)**

**The most memorable people in life will be the people who loved you when you weren't very lovable. Unknown**

*We don't see things as they are. We see them as we are. Anais Nin*

**You can't change how people treat you or what they say about you. All you can do is change how you react to it. Unknown**

\* \* \* \* \*

That's all for this month. I hope the UPAN Newsletter provides information that you find interesting. Stay hopeful, alert, awesome, and cool, Ed.

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