



## UPAN Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 4 | APRIL 2017

*"Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity"*

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# SOTP Audit Report Out; Focus Mtgs Resume

**NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, May 8, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

**Glendale Library, 1375 South Concord Street (1240 West), Salt Lake City, UT 84104**

**TOPIC:** Shannon Cox of Journey of Hope and Reverend Vicki Neumann  
will be our guest speakers. Free and open to the public.

**JUNE 12, 2017 UPAN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT KAFENEIO COFFEE HOUSE**

**258 West 3300 South Salt Lake City, Utah**

**FOCUS MEETING: Monday, June 5, 2017 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Region 3 Adult Probation & Parole Office, 36 W. Fremont Ave (Just West of State St.) SLC**

**TOPIC: To Be Determined and Announced Next Month**

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

### **WILLY THE PLUMBER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

Karl Wisness has notified us that the Willy the Plumber Scholarship's annual anonymous donor will be donating \$250 for the fund and there'll be a matching gift. Any gifts from current inmates made between April 1 and August 7 up to \$250 will also be matched. This year it will be a 2:1 match – so if \$100 is collected from inmates, \$200 more will be donated.

To donate by mail, make checks payable to Willy the Plumber Scholarship Fund c/o the Community Foundation of Utah, 2257 East 1100 South, Suite #205 Salt Lake City, UT 84106

***The greatest waste in America is failure to use the abilities of people. W. Edwards Deming***

**SOTP LEGISLATIVE AUDIT REPORT RELEASED APRIL 3, 2017**  
**by Mike McAinsh and Molly Prince**

The Legislative Audit of Utah State Prison's Sex Offender Treatment Program was released to the public on April 3, 2017. The audit report was presented to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee by Audit Supervisor August Lehman. Auditor General John Schaff was also present. Director of Utah Department of Corrections Rollin Cook, and Institutional Programming Director Victor Kersey, Ph.D. were present to respond to the findings and share their commitment to remedy the problems identified and their vision for the future of SOTP. Executive Director of the Board of Pardons and Parole, Greg Johnson, also attended because it will be important for the BOPP to coordinate and work with the DOC to create policies on the early or at matrix release of low risk sex offenders to be treated in the community.

The audit report validated concerns and complaints that inmates and their families have been voicing more loudly and more frequently over the past several years. Since the inception of UPAN in 2013, the problems inmates who require sex offender treatment have been increasingly brought into the light.

**Appreciation Extended To All Who Helped**

UPAN appreciates the courage of the families who brought these problems to the attention of their elected representatives. UPAN directors and scores of UPAN families also want to express deep appreciation to Rep. Jim Dunnigan, R-Taylorsville, who requested the audit after receiving information on problems that permeate SOTP from Utah constituents with family members behind bars who cannot gain entry into the program or have been removed from the program for minor infractions or reasons that, in community treatment, would be incorporated into the therapeutic process.

According to an article by Courtney Tanner in the Salt Lake Tribune on April 4, 2017, as of October 2016, 83 inmates awaiting treatment should have already been enrolled to meet their parole deadlines. Currently, 1/3 of all inmates in the Utah prison system need SOTP. Tanner's article further reports that Rep. Dunnigan stated that family members of inmates needing SOTP "were feeling that their relatives were just falling through the cracks. They're being warehoused and not offered the chance to complete the mandated treatments."

**This Article Is The Beginning Of A Detailed Series**

There were a variety of problems and issues identified in the audit. Over the next couple of months, UPAN News will outline these in more detail. For now, we will offer a general report on problems identified and solutions already underway in the DOC. About the findings of the SOTP Audit, Legislative Auditor General John Schaff indicated, "The shortcomings are quite extensive." The audit found that the program has been a "one-size-fits-all" with outdated program curriculum. It has failed to use risk assessment tools to help

determine which offenders actually need treatment while incarcerated, versus those who would be safe to treat in the community. It also identified lack of oversight and lack of accountability in terms of the supervision of staff and program delivery processes. The audit reveals that an average of 114 inmates complete the therapy requirements each year in Utah's prison system out of the 240 offenders that can participate in the program at any one time.

There are three facilities that offer the sex offender programming – Utah State Prison in Draper has the largest number of spots. Sanpete County Jail's Inmate Placement Program has space for about 30 offenders, which began that program a few years ago. San Juan County Jail has also offered SOTP for many years for State Inmates in IPP. SOTP was intended to take up to 18 months to complete, but reports UPAN has received from individuals who have completed treatment in the past year indicate that at times inmates have been fast tracked and completed it in as little as 12 months, which may or may not be effective since the program itself was designed to take 18 months.

**Summary of Items Addressed in the Audit**

Of those currently in treatment, Schaff said, 37 percent are considered low-risk. In most cases, the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole requires therapy be completed before release from prison and has historically rarely released low-risk offenders before completing treatment

Many offenders are being held in prison for years after their sentencing guideline (aka matrix). This is partly due to a large back-log of offenders waiting to get into SOTP because of mismanagement by programming staff, who, according to the audit, are not using current best practice treatment of sex offenders and not using evidenced based programs. They are not properly assessing inmate progress in the program, and are not keeping outcome measures or performance records. Schaff stated that treatment program management has been poor and said, "Some therapists are not giving therapy at all and others not giving very much." This means some therapists are not assigned very many offenders on their caseloads.

In terms of staff shortages, UPAN families with inmates needing this type of treatment have long been aware that there is a turnover of sex offender therapists, and often therapist positions go unfilled. Clinicians in the community performing sex offender specific treatment need to have their full licensure in their discipline at a Masters or Doctorate level of education (usually in psychology, counseling, or social work), plus additional years of training in the specialize field of sex offender treatment in order to become what is known as an Approved Provider of Sex Offender Treatment, sanctioned by Utah's Sex Offender Programming Task

Force. The prison has, in the past, sometimes used contract agencies who have provided therapists to provide treatment on those contracts who are not Approved Providers. It is difficult for someone not seasoned in this specialized field of treatment to discern, even with risk assessment data, how to individualize a program to specifically target the needed treatment goals and address the underlying issues or factors in the choice to offend.

In addition, there has been a vacant psychologist position since August 2016. It is believed that the low, noncompetitive pay discourages qualified candidates from applying for that position. The audit also found that one of the eight therapists with the Utah Department of Corrections has not actually been working with any inmates through the sex-offender program for the past five years. If those two positions were filled and treated inmates directly, it would create treatment openings for 80 more offenders at any given time.

Another consideration is the lack of devotion of face to face time with offenders in the program. It is limited to therapists providing direct care only 12 hours a week in groups. The rest of their time is spent on paperwork, which deprives the needed level of attention the program participants need.

#### **One Size Fits All Approach To Be Changed**

The "one size fits all" approach requires all program participants complete the same 300 hours of treatment, regardless of risk level or treatment content. Years ago, the program involved weekly individual and twice a week group therapy plus psycho-educational skills classes. Over the past decade, the regular individual therapy sessions between an inmate and the therapist has been eliminated and currently includes twice weekly group therapy sessions, one "group out of group" session that is comprised of the inmates in the group only, without the therapist to review assignments and support each other in the therapeutic process. This is reportedly due to increased needs of offenders to get into SOTP and lack of funding to hire extra therapists. In addition there are psycho-educational skills classes taught that participants are required to take. These may include Victim Empathy / Impact, Abuse Cycle, Anger Management, Relapse Prevention, Parenting Skills, among others. Another audit finding is that some of the curriculums for these classes are outdated, some more than 15 years old, the audit notes.

Research has found that intensive sex offender treatment is not useful for all levels and types of sexual offenders. Tanner's Tribune article reports, "The treatment is intended to reduce recidivism rates, though the high-intensity therapy — when used to treat every level of offender — could actually 'increase the risk of re-offense' for individuals who committed low-level crimes."

The audit recommended low level sex offenders be released for treatment on parole to help reduce the

back-log. It identified that the program spent \$678,000 in fiscal 2016 to house inmates with extended incarcerations because of the delays in treatment. That is estimated to rise to \$780,000 for 2017.

The authors of this UPAN article have been in contact with Dr. Kersey regarding the changes he has been working to implement into SOTP. He is working toward the report's recommendation so that the prison will offer different courses and levels of classes and requirements based on an inmate's crime. He is also creating a protocol so all sex offenders are assessed for risk level after their entry to prison, so that low-level offenders are identified early on with the goal that they can access community treatment upon their parole.

Auditor General Schaff suggested that this approach would allow the more serious offenders to access and participate in prison SOTP and reduce the backlog.

#### **DOC Has Already Started Implementing Changes**

Executive Director Rollin Cook told the Audit Subcommittee that the DOC has already begun complying with the recommendations. He shared his hope that all changes will be made and recommendations of the audit will be met within the next six to 12 months.

Even though Director Cook has only been in his position since 2013, and the problems with SOTP began long before he took the helm, Dir. Cook said, "I take full responsibility for the unfavorable outcomes identified by the legislative audit team...We failed in this particular area and moving forward, we're going to fix it." The willingness of Director Cook to acknowledge the problems and humbly accept responsibility in addition to already developing plans, with some in place, to remedy the situation was very encouraging to those present in the audience, and the Department's response to all the problems is reassuring to families and inmates alike that there will be changes made.

Last June, Dr. Victor Kersey, a psychologist and former clinical director of the sex offender program in the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, was hired by the DOC to serve as the Institutional Programming Division Director. Kersey has outlined five programming tracks that will assist in addressing the problem of needing a variety of programs. These include a pre-treatment track and a program for low-risk offenders that can include release to community treatment once their sentencing guideline is reached. It will include the core sex offender treatment track, and another special needs program that will address treatment for those with disabilities. Finally, the importance of after-care will also be addressed. UPAN directors have been in touch with Dir. Kersey in the past with the suggestions that the core curriculum also may need to include specialized tracks that specifically address a treatment focus for those individuals who do not have hands-on sexual offenses (i.e. child pornography or internet

crimes that never evolved into meeting in person), incorporate the problem of pornography addiction into the core curriculum for appropriate candidates, while remembering that not every sex offense is against a minor.

It was announced that SOTP will also incorporate individual therapy into the treatment experience for the inmates. This will significantly enhance the treatment experience for the inmates and allow the therapists to develop a more meaningful therapeutic relationship with the program participants.

Mr. Schaff reported that the DOC is “being sued all the time.” He explained that offenders with disabilities are unable to be successful in the program because the program has not offered support services to them to assist them in actually doing the intensive program that is based on reading and writing, as well as verbally presenting assignments. Individuals with learning disabilities that include difficulties in comprehension or disorder of written expression cannot do it without help. UPAN has been told that inmates have been kicked out of the program for getting a group member or celly in the program to help them understand and create written assignments, but then are charged with cheating because they didn’t do every bit of it on their own. This is complicated by not being able to go to an individual therapist to get guidance and help with what is expected. Other offenders with lower IQ, or even Attention Deficit Disorder that affects attention span and learning, as well as those with anxiety, social anxiety and other mental health problems, blindness, or hearing problems try to make it through the program, but get removed for “failure to progress.” Their disability needs are not accommodated. They wait for two or more years, get back in, and fail again. They may spend up to 20 or more years in prison simply because they learn differently than the mainstream, not necessarily because they are such a high risk to the community.

There was a lawsuit settled for \$60,000 with a former inmate who was trapped in this cycle of inability to complete SOTP while incarcerated. The inmate finally was released by the Board to a program, in a halfway house, that he was able to successfully complete because he had an individualized treatment plan and a group and therapist that supported him in his disability. This has hopefully encouraged the DOC to provide necessary accommodations for those with disabilities.

Inmates have been writing UPAN since its inception regarding the problem about prison staff (versus therapy staff) removing inmates from the housing unit for minor housing infractions, that result in the inmate being removed from treatment because they no longer live in the area of the prison that provides treatment. Kersey explained that this, “significantly contributes to the backlog.” Currently, if prison staff pulls someone from housing and therapy, it can take the offender years to get back into the program.

As it stands, if someone receives a write-up, they are immediately removed from SOTP, even before they have had a hearing to be found innocent or guilty of the infraction. Even if the allegations are dropped or the person is found not guilty, he or she must write a letter to SOTP taking full responsibility for the violation, write up, or false allegations and say what he or she will do to change in the future so it doesn’t happen again. They have six months and two tries at writing the letter, with no guidance from Programming, and no longer have access to their therapist to help them figure it out. Once the offender writes an acceptable letter of responsibility and plan to change with a well thought out solution to the problem, he/she is added back on the waiting list. Then it can take as long as 18 months or more to resume treatment. The audit found that 42% of inmates are removed from therapy each year in Utah’s SOTP.

While the audit says that even though removal from treatment may be justified in some cases, the 42% removal rate is significantly higher than other states, such as Washington, which removes only 7 to 8%. Kersey reports they will make the treatment program less punitive so those who break guidelines can still participate without being kicked out and having to start over. It only makes sense that if someone breaks the rules while they are in treatment, then the program should use treatment to help them examine their motivation and thinking in the choice to violate the rules.

Kersey also indicated that the mandatory hours of therapy will be increased from 300 to 780 for high-risk offenders at the same time moving inmates through the system faster and more effectively.

Greg Johnson of the Board of Pardons and Parole contacted UPAN directors McAinsh and Prince, the ACLU, and the Disability Law Center soon after the audit was presented and invited us to be part of discussion as the Board creates new policy that will assist the Board in collaborating with the prison to more effectively accommodate the needs of sexual offenders in terms of looking at early release for low risk offenders to do treatment in the community, among other things.

It came out that the DOC has failed to keep up with internal audits and didn’t address recommendations from a 2014 Utah Criminal Justice Center report, House Minority Leader Brian King, D-Salt Lake City, asked whether the department would actually adhere to the recommendations. Dir. Cook responded that they are taking the opportunity to fix the problems that are now out there for lawmakers and the public to see.

Finally, the audit recommends no additional funds be allocated until the DOC addresses the inefficiencies cited and complies with the audit recommendations. The Legislative Auditor General will follow up in the coming year to determine what policies are implemented.

### **Audit is a Result of the Hard Work & Input of Many**

UPAN wants to extend appreciation for the hard work the audit team did in digging deep and doing extensive research to conduct this audit. The auditors who worked on this are: Audit Manager Brian Dean, Audit Supervisor August Lehman, Audit Staff Christopher McClelland and Tyson Cabulagan.

UPAN also wants to acknowledge all the hard work our Secretary Mike McAinsh did in creating the SOTP Survey for this audit, as well as sorting and cataloging and forwarding the results of the hundreds of surveys received to the audit team.

We would like to thank all the people who helped provide information for bringing the problems with SOTP to light, including inmates who responded to the surveys, ex-offenders in the community, and family

members that shared their stories with legislators and auditors as well as therapists and other treatment providers who shared their expertise and information with the auditors as it pertains to sex offender treatment.

Finally, let us hope that this is a giant step in the right direction in terms of bringing Utah's Sex Offender Treatment Program in the prison system into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which will benefit the offenders that need this highly specialized and challenging type of therapy, their families and friends, and finally, society in general. 95% of those incarcerated will return to the community to be our neighbors. We need to help them prepare to be the best they can be, reaching their highest potential, and providing high quality individualized sex offender treatment as an important part of that process. # #

***"We can't impose our will on a system. We can listen to what the system tells us, and discover how its properties and our values can work together to bring forth something much better than could ever be produced by our will alone." — Donella H. Meadows, Thinking in Systems: A Primer***

*A bad system will beat a good person every time. W. Edwards Deming*

### **Corrections Announces Changes to Sex Offender Treatment Program**

This announcement is taken word-for-word from the UDC website [www.corrections.utah.gov](http://www.corrections.utah.gov) for the benefit of inmates who do not have access to it, as of April 3, 2017

The Sex Offender Treatment Program for inmates in Utah's correctional facilities is undergoing significant changes in response to the performance audit. The Office of the Legislative Auditor released its report April 3<sup>rd</sup>, which bolsters the Utah Department of Corrections' ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of treatment for offenders during incarceration.

The Department began an internal review of the SOTP in November 2016, after appointing a new Institutional Programming Division director, who specializes in sex offender treatment.

"We identified fundamental flaws in the way the SOTP was operating," said Executive Director Rollin Cook. "Upon learning of the legislative audit, we paused our internal review to wait for guidance on the direction of the program based on the audit's findings. We appreciate the legislative auditor's recommendations, which we plan to act upon quickly and will strengthen and inform the process we already began."

Among the many changes planned in the next six months for the SOTP, the most notable is the replacement of the current program with an evidence-based program using cognitive-behavioral approaches combined with a relapse prevention approach. This approach is proven to be the most effective in reducing recidivism and risk for sexual re-offense and aiding in seamless community reintegration. The program will incorporate data collection to measure its effectiveness

while focusing on reducing issues that lead to criminal behavior by targeting core treatment areas.

The SOTP will also include four separate evidence-based approaches to address unique needs within the sex offender population, including those with intellectual disabilities, moderate to high-risk offenders, those in need of aftercare/follow-up and, low-risk offenders who may not qualify for or need an intensive residential program.

"We believe this will increase the number of offenders in the SOTP to somewhat reduce the extensive waitlist for treatment," said Institutional Programming Director Dr. Victor Kersey. "This will also help us address offenders' specific risks and needs and move away from the antiquated one-size-fits-all approach to treatment."

Other SOTP changes include:

- Conducting rigorous, real-time, and continuous risk assessments of the participants to ensure that the program is working effectively, which include following industry guidelines.
- New processes/criteria for entering, suspending and removing from treatment including removing punitive measures for treatment termination.
- Increased communication with the Board of Pardons and Parole and improved processes to reduce therapists' administrative tasks for reports so they can focus on treating offenders.

- Introducing on-site aftercare services for offenders to access ongoing counseling, psychotherapy, and meetings in a modified Therapeutic Community setting.
- Implementing a strategic plan with goals, objectives, performance measures and evaluations for the SOTP.
- Adjusting position titles and roles to match the industry standards, treatment team's duties and responsibilities.
- Working with the Department of Human Resource Management to determine competitive pay for psychologists.

- Additionally, the SOTP Director has been reassigned to a different position within the agency. The SOTP Director position is open for recruitment.

Nearly one third of all inmates in the Utah correctional system are serving time for a sexual offense. Sex Offender Treatment is currently offered at the Utah State Prison in Draper, and to state inmates at the San Juan and Sanpete County Jails. Each of the programs will undergo an extensive program audit using an instrument created by the Division of Institutional Programming over the next two months to ensure that every effort is made to adhere to Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and industry-standard guidelines and levels of care.

***We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them. Albert Einstein***

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## **FOCUS MEETING RESUMED ON APRIL 3, 2017**

### **TOPIC: MEDICAL CLINICAL SERVICES IN USP**

**by Michael McAinsh, UPAN Secretary**

The UDC Spokesperson, Maria Peterson opened the FOCUS Meeting, thanking participants for coming, in spite of the competing sporting events on TV.

Healthcare became the topic of this first meeting since Ms. Peterson became Information Officer for Utah's DOC, as a result of a fortuitous conversation between herself and Tony Washington, Director of Clinical Services. Comments and questions from the public concerning Clinical Services fomented the choice of health care and mental health services at the prison for the topic of this meeting.

Director Washington gave a brief overview of clinical Services, beginning with the location of this department in the Wasatch Building, near the present-day infirmary. He reminded us that this was the oldest part of the prison. The director and his deputy director, Blich Shuman, are involved in the planning for the medical clinic in the new prison. There will be lots of natural light, with windows and skylights in the new infirmary. Also the housing for "our mental health folks" will be much improved, he stated.

However, the director is not waiting until the new prison becomes operable in 2020 to make changes in clinical services. He pointed out that his department has a "robust staff" of clinicians, including three doctors, 45 registered nurses, and two psychiatrists. The list of staff on the hand-out that was given to us also lists pharmacists, an optometrist, four dentists, 25 therapists, two recreational therapists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

"In the day-to-day activities, we function like an outpatient clinic," Mr. Washington stated. Clinical services also has an inpatient infirmary for inmates, but

it is small. When inmates need a level of care that is beyond the scope of care that can be provided at the prison, they are transported to the University of Utah Medical Center (UMC) for care. The prison typically sees between 150 and 200 inmates on any weekday.

Dir. Washington was appointed to the position of director of clinical services in December of 2015 in response to an event that had negative consequences for several inmates earlier that year. His background is in health-care administration. Whereas a doctor usually focuses on health-care aspects in a clinic, an administrator focuses on the operation of the clinic. He states, "I've heard a lot of horror stories..." about medical treatment or lack thereof, that have happened in the past. The director was not there to deny these stories, but he stated that, "In the year and a half since I've been here a lot of good things have been going on."

He went on to state that reports that they get are frequently negative because there is no mechanism in place to see the positive things. He states that every time "one of you" writes or emails him for information, either he or Shuman goes through the file to try to find the facts. They look for follow-up on some things, look for a diagnosis, and check that every clinical component is being addressed. "We do that one hundred percent of the time." He stated that "part of that misnomer of prison is that our doctors, our PAs or our nurses are somehow substandard." However, since all clinicians in the prison system are licensed with the Department of Professional Licensing (DOPL), "They're under the same requirements, just like anybody else."

At this point there was a question on accountability from one of the attendees. Mr. Washington stated that there is accountability in outcomes; "If there is a bad

outcome, you'll find out about it pretty quick." He mentioned that there are investigations by DOPL as well as the prison's own internal reviews with the goal of finding the facts about certain events.

It was then revealed that Dr. Bruce O. Burnham is the medical director of Clinical Services. Deputy Director Blitch Shuman spoke to the question of accountability, pointing out that he is in a supervisory position in a hospital as well as in the position he occupies in Clinical Services, and the methods employed to insure quality of care are the same at the prison as they are at any hospital. He spoke of the prison clinic accreditation by the National Commission on Correctional Health care as being similar to that of the accreditation for hospitals.

In answer to another question, Mr. Shuman stated that he has never seen a situation that has resulted in retaliation due to an inmate's complaints about his care, or other complaints over medical issues. Not everyone in attendance was convinced of this, however! This observer heard several things at this meeting that disturbed him. For example, contrary to Mr. Shuman's assertions, an individual who had been incarcerated in the past had an experience in which he was not notified of several abnormal lab results in his chart over the course of his 15 years as a guest of the state. He is concerned that Dr. Burnham is the Medical Director of Clinical Services, and that a certain psychiatrist continues to practice his profession there in spite of numerous lapses in judgement that resulted in a curtailment of his licensing and prescribing privileges on two separate occasions in past years.

It was shortly after this individual expired his sentence that Tony Washington came on board as Director of Clinical Services. We hope that things are, indeed, really changing under Mr. Washington's direction. It has been discussed by several UPAN families that perhaps a legislative audit of Clinical Services is called for. UPAN receives complaints about medical issues often. Unfortunately, the prison medical service does not have to talk to us about specific medical or mental health issues inmates write to us about due to HIPPA laws.

It is important for inmates who have family who are supportive to talk to their caseworker and fill out the release for verbal information by naming an individual that you authorize the prison to talk to about your medical issues. This release was put into place almost three years ago. It must be renewed every 90 days. If you are an inmate with a negative experience with Clinical Services, and you write to UPAN about it,

please note "medical issue" on the envelope. UPAN cannot promise complete confidentiality to anyone who sends their medical information. It is important that if any inmate feels they are suffering from some sort of retaliation from medical due to sharing their concerns and problems with UPAN, report that retaliation, specifically and in detail to UPAN as well as filing a first-level grievance on that retaliation. UPAN will also report any retaliation we are told about that can be verified, so be clear and specific if you share any retaliation information.

To close, UPAN directors want to share our appreciation that Ms. Peterson has revived the FOCUS meetings. We appreciate the time and efforts of Directors Washington and Shuman at this meeting. We hold out hope that changes truly are being made within the Clinical Services Bureau to bring the medical care of individuals entrusted to the care of the DOC to best practice and the highest standard.

*[UPAN editorial comment: UPAN directors are concerned about Dr. Burnham's elevated status as Medical Director of Clinical Services since many incarcerated individuals have reported negative encounters with Dr. Burnham over the years. It is also of concern to families whose inmates have been taken off of medications when they arrived in CUCF already on medication prescribed by doctors in Draper, and Dr. Burnham's policy – at least in the past – was to stop medications until he sees and reviews the inmate's medical status and needs. Over past years, this has not always happened in a timely manner, resulting in offenders suffering from being taken off medications (particularly psychotropic meds) without titrating off them over several days.*

*Also, perhaps Dir. Shuman is not aware of the behavior of medical staff over the past decade. Many of our families have stories of how their inmates experienced retaliation – or perceived retaliation – by medical staff in the past, for complaining. Examples include the inmate being told by the medical provider that they should "man up" and not have their families call in with complaints; having a PA or other prescribing staff tell the inmate that they will just take them off their medications if they don't like the care they are getting; having prescriptions not refilled in a timely manner after a disagreement between inmate and medical staff; the inmate being laughed at by the medical staff about the inmate's attempts to file grievances which are responded to that they cannot grieve medical to get specific care, prescriptions, or procedures. ##*

**"As to diseases, make a habit of two things — to help, or at least, to do no harm." — Hippocrates**

***"It is very expensive to give bad medical care to poor people in a rich country." — Paul Farmer***



## Faith In Reform 2017 -- Saturday, January 28

Mini-Summit for Grassroots Criminal Justice Reform in Utah By Warren Rosenbaum

The following broad coalition of faith and civil rights organizations and community support groups presented Faith in Reform 2017, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mini-Summit: Calvary Baptist Church, ACLU of Utah, The Catholic Diocese of SLC, Journey of Hope, UPAN, First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake's Social Justice Council/Committee, Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) and Racially Just Utah.

Organizers and presenters included: Roderic Land, Anna Thomas, Jean Hill, Shannon Cox, Shauna Denos, Kathy Abarca, Vicki Neuman, LDS Brother Gardner, and Sgt. In Programming Dennis Tucker. I apologize to those whom I've missed.

The event was held at the First Unitarian Church, 569 S 1300 E, SLC, with coffee and sweet rolls at 8:30 AM. Between 9 and 9:45, four speakers individually spoke to over 100 attendees, about the organization they represented. They were Kathy Abarca (Racially Just Utah), Don Wright (PrisonEd), Shannon Cox (Journey of Hope), and Shauna Denos (UPAN).

Three "Breakout Topic" sessions were offered. The topics were: Legislative Action Opportunities in 2017 facilitated by Anna Thomas of ACLU of Utah; or Volunteerism: Needs, Interests & Challenges with Kathy Abarca; or There Should Be a Program... Identifying Holes in Support & Services. Each person could attend two selected sessions before a free networking lunch starting at 12:30. The networking idea being to make contacts with other activists and concerned community members you meet while enjoying the food.

A small book would be required to cover all the material presented, discussed, and some conclusions drawn but in summary here are a few points from the event:

We need courage to standup and speak out for reform and improvements and to refute the social stigma of convicted offenders that is harbored by too many people due to lack of understanding and compassion. Compassion drives the work of reform organizations.

Victims are everywhere including the offended victims, inmates' families, the inmates who feel victimized by the system, and even some prison employees. The lesson is that every person who labels themselves as a victim has the power to heal from what life deals them.

Victims can change and succeed by adopting a positive attitude and a different outlook on life and events. Quiet time meditation and introspection can serve one well for this outlook change.

Another area of interest was the Sex Offender registry is a lifetime sentence. A serious overhaul or total elimination of this useless monster is in order. Shouldn't we all have acknowledged that a publicly displayed life sentence should be relegated to the trash heap for its disastrous results? Our societal learning curve should have started as we read and matured, beginning with the March 16, 1850 first publication of The Scarlett Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne! After 167 years, you'd think that the public, and our administrators/legislators, would finally have the lightbulb go on.

As with most things, one size does NOT fit all, therefore the sentencing structure (different conviction levels) for all inmates needs overhaul, especially as sentences apply to sex offenders. The latter seriously flawed.

Let's minimize the punishment of offenders' families. They are punished, often severely, along with the offender and this continues long after parole or expiring the sentence. A goal to change the societal mindset is "it's not where the offenders have been, but where they are now in their rehabilitation that counts."

Rather than warehousing offenders, a quick evaluation for potential rehabilitation is paramount. A beneficial rehabilitation plan could produce dependable, honest, loyal and enthusiastic graduates that employers would seek to hire because they would be more trustworthy and be more appreciative than hiring from the general public. Not all offenders fit this model but screening them for this opportunity and offering it to them would get the Dept. of Corrections into a Dept. of Rehabilitation mode and assure some offenders and families a new beginning and reduce the costs of incarceration and recidivism to an all-time low.

Last but far from least, we need to seriously address the "school to prison" pipeline. Evidence based statistics show a horrendous pathway of school dropouts traveling to prison. This can be minimized. ##

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**Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work. Vince Lombardi**

***You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.***



**NOT FOR RENT ! DOCUMENTARY FILM OFFICIALLY RELEASED  
AT WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 5, 2017 by Molly Prince**

Part of the following information was taken directly from the press release from the premier event and also from the Not For Rent official website:

<https://www.notforrentfilm.com/>

Produced and Directed by Matt Duhamel of Metamora Films, *NOT FOR RENT!* had its official release on April 5, 2017. UPAN's Mike McAinsh attended, as did Tania, also featured in the film along with Mike. Before the screening, Rep. Brian King (who accomplished getting the Good Landlord Amendments passed this year) attended and shared some thoughts. Molly Prince, shared perspectives of the family and ex-felon at being shunned and ostracized from community when being denied housing, and Anna Brower Thomas of the ACLU gave an informative talk about the problems faced in the housing and re-integration arena. Matt Duhamel, director and filmmaker opened the event, talking about this labor of love, filming on a shoestring, and capturing the heartrending issues that ex-offenders face upon reintegration to the community – sometimes decades after the crime was committed.

Dr. Monica Williams spoke about her work in this field. Dr. Williams hosted this premier as part of Weber State University's Engaged Learning Series. Dr. Williams is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Weber State University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis. Dr. Williams' interest areas include law & society, community and societal responses to sex offenders, social control, and policing. Her current research includes: "Constructing Hysteria: Legal Signals as Producers of Siting Conflicts over Sexually Violent Predatory Placements." In press. Law & Social Inquiry, and a book entitled, No Good Place: Community Activism and the Sex Offender Housing Dilemma, which is currently under review at NYU Press. Dr. Williams is also a faculty advisor for the Community Engaged Leaders Community Research Team at Weber State.

Acquiring housing is a challenge that most individuals face soon after leaving prison. Over 95% of the prison population today will be released at some point in the future, therefore millions of ex-inmates face housing legal barriers, discrimination, and strict eligibility requirements for federally subsidized housing.

The feature length documentary film, *NOT FOR RENT!* looks at rental housing barriers ex-felons face as they attempt to rebuild their lives in our communities. With over 95% of the American prison population being released at some point in the future, millions of ex-inmates struggle with 'red tape' and strict criminal

history rental requirements property managers and landlords enforce. In this unique and powerful film, you'll meet several people who've been personally affected by housing restrictions due to felony convictions.

Sporting a long white beard and a headband, Mike is a registered sex offender. He's also homeless living in a tent at a local ravine, struggling with prejudice and judgement from just about everyone in his community. Will Mike continue to be treated as a social outcast, or will a landlord finally give him a chance?

Raising two young girls, husband and wife, Shayenne and James face reality after a drug related felony conviction several years prior. Ordered by the landlord, they must vacate a relative's trailer home and find their own place in a couple of weeks, or face living in a homeless shelter. In a tearful interview, Shayenne confronts her husband's depression, "If he was on his own, he would have killed himself."

Tonia's story proves that some landlords and property managers never want you to forget about your crime. Living with a three-strikes law associated with theft, Tonia's 27-year old felony is raising red flags with local condo complexes. Using a wheelchair and a cane to get around, Tonia is handicapped and suffering from a recent debilitating car accident. Follow her journey as she tries to rebuild her self-worth while facing continual rejection from a local community complex.

*NOT FOR RENT!* also highlights Utah's Good Landlord Program. Ogden, the first Utah city to enact the program in 2004, says it, "addresses aspects of property management that may encourage the elimination of code violations and public nuisances while controlling and preventing illegal activity on rental properties that affect the quality of life within our neighborhoods." The opposition says the program does not give ex-felons a fair chance and causes more harm than good.

Sprinkled with interviews from State Representatives, Professors, landlords, city officials, a therapist, an ACLU representative, and others, *NOT FOR RENT!* opens eyes to the millions of men and women combating housing restrictions, attempting to move on from a past that communities don't want them to forget.

This one-of-a-kind film, directed by Matt Duhamel (an ex-felon himself) begs the question, "Doesn't everybody deserve a place to live?" The film will have international release on April 25, 2017.

***"A deep sense of belonging is an irreducible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to belong. When this need is not met, we don't function as we were meant to. We break. We fall apart. We numb. We ache. We hurt others. We get sick."* Molly paraphrasing professor & author Brene Brown**

## UNIVERSITY OF UTAH PRISON EDUCATION PROJECT (UPEP)

by Molly Prince

On April 4, 2017 a documentary film, *Zero Percent*, was screened and discussion of higher education was sponsored by UPEP's Honors Praxis Lab at the Glendale Library. The promotional literature states, "In an era of mass incarceration, this documentary is the story of the men of Hudson Link, an organization created by the incarcerated people of Sing Sing Correctional Facility that provides a full college degree through local universities. The results of this program provide stunning insights into addressing our nation's carceral issues." Those attending found it inspiring and encouraging to know that this is being done in the US and that the U of U is working toward the same goal.

The inmates of Utah's prisons lost the opportunity of participating in higher education from local universities several years ago when the contract with Utah State University was discontinued and the DOC chose to pursue providing only vocational education limited only to inmates who have a rehearing or release date within a few years. This excludes a significant number of inmate students who want to pursue college degrees. The only way to do that has been to find a college correspondence course that would accommodate a paper only method of learning, since prisons do not allow for online learning or anything that would include DVDs as part of the curriculum.

Recently Salt Lake Community College began its first semester of a pilot program. funded by the Utah Legislature. PrisonEd has been in place providing Utah inmates college-level but non-credit courses through the US Mail for several years. (See February 2017 UPAN Newsletter for more information on these two programs). University of Utah has now created UPEP

with the goal of adding to the choices and opportunities for higher education for Utah's incarcerated citizens.

According to UPEP's information provided at the April 4 event, UPEP's mission is "to provide quality, affordable, sustained, and meaningful higher educational opportunities to people who are incarcerated in Utah State Prisons." UPEP hopes to offer credit bearing college courses taught by U of U faculty inside USP at no cost to incarcerated students. In addition to college courses, UPEP plans to provide these students with access to experiences and resources similar to those available to students on a typical campus. The literature further states, "Through access to quality education, UPEP aims to help individuals build meaningful lives inside prison and after release to positively impact communities, families, and society; and to inform thought and action toward positive social change."

UPEP's College in Prison intends to achieve direct, personal connection and interaction between faculty and students; a long-term commitment to education aimed at building a love for lifelong learning; to support a culture of education inside prison where students are treated as students, and the curriculum content and rigor compares equally with courses on the main campus of the University.

According to Dr. Erin Castro, Associate Professor, U of U, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, UPEP has been in touch with Dir. Kersey . They will work on programming this summer and plan to have classes begin in Draper in the the fall of 2017.

***Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress,  
in every society, in every family. Kofi Annan***

\* \* \* \* \*

Volunteers. All caring people – working for you and your loved ones. So confidently stay cool. 'Way to go! 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**