



## UPAN Newsletter

Volume 4 Number 6\*\* | JUNE 2017\*\*

*"Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity"*

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# HRDC Seeks Prison Profiteering Data

**NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, 6:30 – 8:30 PM August 14, 2017**

**Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City 84115**

**TOPIC: Auditors of the SOTP Performance Audit will present. Free and open to the public.**

**Crossroads Urban Center hosts: Meet the Candidates Barbecue @ Liberty Park,**

**Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 PM in the Rice Terrace Pavilion**

**Northeast corner of Liberty Park 600 East 900 South, SLC Free and open to the public.**

**UPAN SEPTEMBER MEETING: Monday, September 11, 2017 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**Location: Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84115**

**Topic: Screening of Not for Rent! Documentary**

**FOCUS MEETING: To Be Announced**

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

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

**\*\* Completing three years (36 months) of monthly UPAN Newsletter publications.**

*"Put your heart, mind, and soul in to even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success." Swami Sivananda*

## **Summary of May UPAN Meeting – Monday, May 8, 2017**

By Warren Rosenbaum UPAN Newsletter Editor

### **Future Plans For Daggett County Jail**

UPAN president Shauna Denos opened the meeting, citing the current publicity regarding the DOC emptying the Daggett county jail. She and others recently met with several community leaders regarding future plans for the Daggett jail. The goal: make it a model of rehabilitation to prepare inmates for returning to society. A noble goal, to seek.

### **IPP Bad Mix – SOs With Substance Abusers**

This UPAN meeting attendees participated in a brief discussion of specialized programming at some jails including San Pete, San Juan, and Kane. One problem cited was that sex offenders are often housed with drug abusers which is a "bad mix". Reportedly, the SOs are a much "milder" group than the drug abusers who were described as more aggressive. Opinion or fact??

### **Epiphany Fellowship Speakers And Their Mission**

Shauna next introduced the featured speaker, Chaplain Vicki Neumann, Executive Director of Epiphany Fellowship, a Christian group who has been assisting women inmates for a year. This is in addition to an LDS group that has been involved with women inmates for about 12 years. Vicki introduced her husband Bob, and Reverend Charles Hines. Both are assistants in the work she is doing at Timpanogos women's facility. The following points are taken from comments Vicki, Bob, and Rev. Hines made about their work.

Epiphany Fellowship arranges for mentors to work with female inmates starting six months before their scheduled release and to continue mentoring for a full year as they transition into the outside world. Once notified of this mentoring opportunity, the inmate MUST request a mentor and make a commitment that they want assistance. Without this request and commitment, no mentors are assigned. Two mentors are assigned to each inmate with one-hour visits once a week. Mentors help the mentee (inmate) establish a plan by asking "What is your goal?", a question that seeks the most important issue or issues to be addressed in the mentorship. To assure compatibility, there is a trial period. Mentors are trained by Shannon Cox, head of Journey of Hope, and receive 10 hours of training with periodic updates.

### **Areas Of Mentoring Focus**

Women inmates must have a place to stay before release. Family problems with women and their children are a significant consideration. Focus is on mending these problems. Mentoring also helps with personal (social) hurts, pains, hang-ups, and anger management, with forgiveness as one tool. Another tool is to gain stability in tough situations and to prevent mouthing-off (IOW, keeping your cool); the mentee is to focus on

feeling her feet firmly planted on the ground rather than immediately addressing a provoking issue. In other words, a little time and focus before engaging in potential conflict. We could all learn from this tool.

Manipulation can be way of life in prison for women – declared as the only way they can survive. Bob and Vicki try to stop the manipulation mindset before release. This is important because the mentor is NOT an enabler; is not a crutch that the mentee leans on. Mentoring is NOT enabling! Mentors must not provide money or a car or other needs. One definition of mentoring: Mentoring entails informal communication, usually face-to-face and during a sustained period between a person perceived to have greater relevant knowledge, wisdom, or experience (the mentor) and a person who is perceived to have less (the mentee). Webster's New College Dictionary 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.

### **A Respected Book, And Some Final Comments**

Another tool: They use a widely respected book titled "Houses of Healing, A Prisoner's Guide to Inner Power and Freedom" by Robin Casarjian. This helps with anger management, reframing one's outlook, recovery from childhood issues, restoring dignity, self-forgiveness, and spiritual awakening, among other things. There is some homework and writing involved that also teaches that choices and actions (decisions one makes) have consequences. This must be learned and internalized to cope with the many rules faced by released inmates.

Reverend Charles Hines, who has seven years of volunteer work in Timpanogos, said drug-users have a major problem. He has planted non-denominational church groups in the prison living quarters, "continuing the work of Christ." He says, "The Holy Spirit is at work, razor wire can't keep the Holy Spirit out!" Once begun, the group selects a Christian denomination.

### **Improvements With New Prison - Plus One Example**

Vicki concluded by saying that the new prison will be a big improvement, with classrooms and contact visits. She added that the earlier general recidivism rate was about 50%. The rate with the women in the mentorship program, while still new with more time needed for reliable figures, is currently 14%. One successful example cited was a released female who began work at a call center and soon became a supervisor. Some professionals have shown interest in mentoring. When the community recognizes success, people are inspired to help, and when a mentor is needed, they seem to appear. Reverend Hines' final statement was to the community, with their misguided mindset about offenders, "Open up the window shades and see what is happening in the world. It's a whole new world when you love your neighbor as yourself."

***"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9***

# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER (HRDC) SEEKING HELP TO REDUCE PRISON PROFITEERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF INMATES AND FAMILIES

**Contact Point:** [www.HumanRightsDefenseCenter.org](http://www.HumanRightsDefenseCenter.org)

## Seeking Information On Inmate Phone Providers Exploiting Prison Families

HRDC is currently seeking contact with people who have:

- 1) Had their money taken from a phone account due to inactivity or other reasons.
- 2) Had to pay a lot of money just to accept one collect call from someone in prison or jail.
- 3) Had money taken from them upon arrest or release from prison and then given a debit card where they had to pay fees to access their own money.

If you have, or someone you know has, experienced any of the above, please contact Carrie Wilkinson at: [cwilkinson@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:cwilkinson@humanrightsdefensecenter.org), or call (206) 257-1355, or write: HRDC, SPP Project, P.O. Box 1151, Lake Worth, FL 33460

More information about inmate phone service providers and how they partner with jails and prisons to exploit inmates and families is available at:

<https://www.prisonphonejustice.org/> and <http://nationinside.org/campaign/prison-phone-justice/>

### **Seeking Information On Other Types Of Prison Profiteering.**

HRDC is also collecting information about other ways that family members of prisoners are cheated by the high cost of sending money to fund inmate accounts, and the ways that this money is given back upon release from custody (such as debit cards from private companies). There are pending federal actions where your stories could make a difference in these practices. Please fill out their survey to help them end prison profiteering.

### **Please Help. The More The Better**

The more stories they can collect, the greater impact they can have. If you or someone you know has been charged high fees to send money to a prisoner or to

access money when released from custody, send the following information to Carrie Wilkinson at the address listed previously (first paragraph) in this article:

- 1) The name of the facility and state it is located in.
- 2) The name of the company processing the money or issuing the debit card.
- 3) How much money was taken from you? Were the fees disclosed? If so, how?
- 4) What documentation do you have?
- 5) When did it occur?
- 6) Did you object?

### **What HRDC Is**

The Human Rights Defense Center is the organization that publishes Prison Legal News. HRDC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of the human rights of people held in U.S. detention facilities. This includes people in state and federal prisons, local jails, immigration detention centers, civil commitment facilities, Bureau of Indian Affairs jails, juvenile facilities and military prisons. HRDC is one of the few national opponents to the private prison industry and is the foremost advocate on behalf of the free speech rights of publishers to communicate with prisoners and the right of prisoners to receive publications & communications from outside sources.

## **For IMMEDIATE ACTION – Lifer's Group, Inc. Of Massachusetts Seeks Information**

The Lifers' Group, Inc. (L.G.I.) seeks information from other states pertaining to commutations/compassionate release/elderly release. Once compiled, this information will be posted online. In addition, LGI also is seeking information pertaining to Commissary/Canteen Price Lists; technology being offered in prisons/jails (tablets, word processors, MP3 players, and any limited internet access). Please send all information to: Daniel L. Holland c/o Lifers' Group, MCI-Norfolk, 2 Clark Street, Box 43, Norfolk, MA 02056-0043. See other L.G.I. reports at: [www.realcostofprisons.org/writing](http://www.realcostofprisons.org/writing). (Out of state inmate-to-inmate correspondence is okay. If you are seeking a response and cannot receive inmate correspondence, please provide an alternative address.) Immediate action is requested due to compilation deadlines. Give details so an accurate assessment can be made. July UPAN News will give more details on this group, its affiliate (Howard University) and how this info will benefit all. Ed.

## **Brief Summary of April 2017 UPAN Meeting**

By Warren Rosenbaum

### **Post-Conviction Problems – Comments And Q & A**

Two Utah attorneys, Lorenzo Miller (a former inhouse attorney for BOPP) and Patrick Shea, offered some

history of the DOC and BOPP; then answered questions and offered information on the evening's subject, Post-Conviction Problems. UPAN appreciates their

attendance and expertise offered to both our attending audience and our Facebook streaming audience via the internet (with two appreciative comments, one from Southern Utah and another in California). Some comments and subjects during the meeting were:

- The pre-sentencing report is CRITICAL – errors need to be corrected.

- “Post-Conviction Relief” (IOW “Appeals”) does not apply to those who plead guilty or are convicted by a jury. Appeals must be filed within 30 days. Seek out a good Post-Conviction Relief attorney. These speakers may be a good starting point.

- A judge is NOT better than a jury.

- There is no established system of communication between judges, AP&P, DOC departments, etc.

- It is very hard to make changes in the DOC arena; there is a strong need to get the legislature to agree to correct problems in the prisons – problems that the inmates and families are only too familiar with.

- Families need to talk to legislators and DOC directors using prepared notes or write to them and to BOPP using short, to the point, letters when hearing is listed. Google DOC and Legislature website, look on committees to see who to write to.

- The Board (BOPP) looks at letters of support (they help a lot) from family, employers, therapists, doctors, or whomever helps the inmate appear in a positive manner.

- Most defense attorneys don’t have a clue about how the Board operates, BUT defense attorney letters are very important.

- If inmate has had bad, uncalled for actions taken against him – this should be included in the BOPP file.

- Decisions of BOPP are often based on emotion and one hearing officer or a victim’s relatives negative input can negatively influence a fair or positive decision.

- Write pre-hearing letters to the Board and post-hearing letters when the hearing officer or proceedings

are skewed. Defense attorneys cannot speak at the hearings but they can be present and then know how to write letters for an appeal.

- Sentencing guidelines are of no value unless they are followed, and there is strong agreement that mandatory minimum sentences are yesteryear thinking. There should NOT be just 5, 15, 25, and life decisions. Consider young offenders who are often known to have a complete life turn-around and older inmates who may be sick with potentially expensive medical support – AND are highly likely to be low-risk. In other words, flexibility is needed.

- Four recommends from Patrick Shea: 1) prisons should teach by allowing prisoners to do culinary tasks - providing food for inmates – which USP does. [Editor’s Comment: two benefits, job training and much better food for the prisoners.]; 2) treatment should direct the focus on the actual offense; 3) the BOPP members who review a case should record their names (anonymity is the current procedure) so if there is a redetermination hearing, none of the earlier members will do the second review; and 4) “Don’t demonstrate your smartness when you go into prison!” [IOW, be smart, but play it cool. Ed.]

### **Suggested Sources For Further Information**

For further Criminal Justice enlightenment, Google: “Ava DuVernay’s Netflix documentary 13<sup>th</sup>” (on the Slate website). Also Google: Norwegian Penal System for the pros and cons of applying that system to our prison population. Another: go to Amazon and enter “Peace Officer” under Movies and TV for info on a DVD about the application of force by police depts. Assessments were not made on any of the above sources. Lastly, the speakers suggested our attendees write to Utah colleges and endorse the idea that a PhD candidate do a thesis on “Punishment and the Efficacy of the Utah DOC to Rehabilitate” – find out how well they are doing.

## **STATISTICS ON UTAH IN AN ERA OF MASS INCARCERATION** various sources, including UPEP\*\*

### **Nationally, 2.3 Million Incarcerated**

According to statistics, there are approximately 2.3 million people incarcerated in prisons and jails in the United States today. According to UPEP’s calculations, the US holds 25% of the world’s incarcerated population. In her book *Caught, The prison state and the lockdown of American politics*, Marie Gottschalk (University of PA) reports that more than 8 million people, (1 in 23 adults), are under some form of state control through being in the custody of jails, prisons, halfway houses, or on probation, parole, drug courts, immigrant detention, community sanctions, and other forms of government supervision.

### **Utah: Crime Declines But Prison Population Grows**

Research by the PEW Charitable Trusts (2015) shows Utah crime is declining, but prison population has grown 18% since 2004. This is 6 times the national average. PEW’s Utah 2015 Criminal Justice Report states Utah’s prison population is projected to grow 37% by 2034, meaning 2700 more people will be incarcerated in USP.

### **Property Crimes Vs. Person/Violent Crimes**

According to the National Institute of Corrections, the crime rate in Utah as of 2015 was about 14% higher than the national average rate. Property crimes account for around 93% of the crime rate in Utah which is about 21% higher than the national rate. The remaining 7% are person / violent crimes and are about 35% lower than other states.

### **Utah: Jails, Prisons, Parole & Probation Figures**

The NIC statistics indicate there were approximately 7,170 people housed in Utah’s jails and 6,492 inmates in our prisons as of December 31, 2015. Utah has an average of 3,690 individuals on parole and another 12,793 on probation throughout Utah. This totals 30,145 people interacting with Utah’s criminal justice system, and does not include individuals awaiting trial while on bail. (<https://nicic.gov/statestats/?st=ut>)

\*\*Utah Prisoner Education Program

## **JUNE 2017 UPAN MEETING TOPIC : RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE**

by Molly Prince

The June meeting was held at Kafeneio Coffee House in Salt Lake City. We would like to thank them for graciously hosting our meeting. We appreciate their good food, beverages, and use of their microphone!

Michael McAinsh organized and moderated this meeting. It was very well attended. We had a panel of guests to discuss some of the resources available to help ex-offenders when they are released from prison.

**Mike McAinsh** is the Secretary for UPAN, and is the Guest Advocate at the Home Inn. He is a former felon. He is very involved in advocacy for the homeless as well as for prisoners and ex-felons in Utah.

**Carly Harris** works for Salt Lake County Housing Authority in the Project Eligibility department. She finds grants for low income people including the homeless and former felons. She helps people complete the paperwork. She takes people around to look at apartments and talk to landlords. It can often take people between one and six months to find a residence. She was asked what the maximum qualifying income is and she believes it is \$27,000 per year. She participated in answering a variety of other questions posed by the audience.

**Tim Keffer** is a social worker for the Salt Lake City Police Department Community Connection Center. He has a history of working for Valley Mental Health and now works with homeless helping them access resources. He states that his office can basically help with any issue if the person is currently living in Salt Lake City – homeless or not. These include accessing benefits, housing, finding treatment resources, obtaining birth certificates, referring for employment and other resources. He will refer people to the proper agencies to help them get what they need. He reports that he is also sometimes asked to go to the prison to meet with inmates prior to release to help them get social security benefits started and deal with other issues, but this is on a case by case basis.

**James Head** is the Housing Specialist for the Home Inn. He is a former felon and shared that he was incarcerated and then housed at a halfway house, so he understands the road from prison to self-sufficiency. He discussed Home Inn, which owns and operates housing in the old Rio Grande Hotel, as well as a housing unit in Kearns. HomeInn also partners with a Veterans Home, and a hospice facility. He reports they work closely with HOST and the Community Connections Center, the LDS Church, Catholic Community Services at the Bishop Wiegand Center, and Crossroads Urban Center. He reported they also have a relationship with the Downtown Business Alliance to help people find employment, and refer people to jobs. He discussed that people starting at “ground zero” are welcome and he

will work with them to get them started. He also connects with Bonneville CCC and Northern Utah CCC to help ex-offenders get started outside of the halfway houses.

**Dan Smith** is a former resident of the Home Inn. He has taken a journey from prison to owning his own home and getting married. Dan has been out of prison for three years. He was released to a Federal Halfway House to begin his life in the community and had to follow their strict rules to seek employment. Nothing was provided to the incoming residents upon release. He reports after going to the Department of Workforce Services, he “stumbled upon my job” through another resident. He did well, advanced in his job, and saved money. He heard about the Home Inn and went to see them and discovered all they have to offer. He states, “It became a great support network.” He was under dual supervision – Federal probation as well as Utah’s A P & P. He described his journey from nothing to being a property owner and a supervisor at his work. He shared that with no credit, he ended up purchasing a vehicle to build credit. In the end, he was upside down in his vehicle. However, it resulted in his building credit so he could purchase a home. In the process “I met a beautiful woman and now we are married.”

Much discussion was held and questions were asked about the services available, how families can access them for their loved ones, as well as how parolees can access them upon release. Some discussion was held by a recent parolee who reports that regardless of what the DOC says, the recently implemented transitional program doesn’t really do much to help. This individual has been on parole for several weeks, has found employment, but is homeless. The challenge for him is he cannot take off work to go to the Community Connection Center during work hours to ask for help to find housing. He is making decent money but spending it as fast as he makes it on bills, old and new.

Carly discussed the housing issues and finding landlords who will rent to ex-felons. She described it like a pyramid:

The many landlords on the bottom are generally corporate management companies that look at references, do credit checks, are very restrictive, and will not normally rent to felons. Those in the middle level are a mix – some will take felons and some will not. The top of the pyramid, the smallest group, are the landlords who are lenient and do not have a formal screening process. These are the ones felons are more likely to be accepted by. It was suggested by some panelists to look at KSL.com and also to look for “For Rent” signs outside of homes and duplexes. These are more likely to be managed by the owners and the prospective renter has the chance to talk to the landlord and present himself / herself in person.

For inmates who have families on the outside to help them, it was recommended that as soon as they have a parole date, their family should contact the local Adult Probation and Parole where the offender is hoping to live once released, to request a home assessment to assure that A P & P will approve that residence for the parolee to live in.

Other suggestions include making sure the inmate has a social security card prior to releasing. It is advised to either have or be able to quickly obtain a birth certificate upon release so ex-offenders can obtain a state ID. Both items are essential in obtaining employment.

Affordable housing in Utah was also discussed briefly, including landlord incentives in Section 8 Housing. We were also informed that the problem with subsidized housing in Utah's cities has to do with the fact that while there might be funding and resources to help developers

#### **RESOURCES referred to in this meeting:**

Home Inn Rio Grande 428 West 300 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 (801) 965-8628

Community Connections Center 511 West 200 South, Suite 100 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101  
801-799-3533 (part of the SLC Police Dept. HOST helpline 801-799-3035  
go to: <http://www.slcpd.com/resources/ccc/> to fill out a referral form  
email: [CommunityConnectionTeam@slcgov.com](mailto:CommunityConnectionTeam@slcgov.com)

Catholic Community Services (CCS) 745 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102 (801) 977-9119

build the housing, there's no funding by our state legislature to help maintain the housing. It was suggested that UPAN families write their legislators about this problem. Letters should be one page and limited to one topic of concern per letter. You can find your legislators and the committees they serve on at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

The problem of homelessness extends to that growing number of ex-prisoners who are released from prison, either by expiring their sentence, a termination of sentence, or by parole who cannot find a permanent residence.

UPAN deeply appreciates the time that our panelists took to attend our meeting and answer questions in this important area of concern. We appreciate the large turnout and interest of UPAN families and community members in the issue of employment and homelessness in our ex-offender population.

The Weigand Homeless Resource Center is part of CCS.

Fourth Street Clinic 409 West 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 (801) 364-0058  
Medical services for homeless individuals

Crossroads Urban Center 347 South 400 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (801) 364-7765  
Food pantry 347 South 400 East  
Thrift Store 1385 West Indiana Avenue Salt Lake City, UT 84104 801-359-8837

#### **CENTRAL UTAH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY HAS A NEW WARDEN AS OF MAY 2017**

by Molly Prince with information taken from the UDC website

##### **First, A Special Thank-You to Warden Bigelow**

Shane Nelson took over as Warden for CUCF in May, as a result of Warden Bigelow's retirement. I would like to take a moment to share my appreciation for the candid and positive approach Warden Bigelow took with UPAN during its formative months and his ongoing willingness to answer questions and guide us in the right directions when we contacted him with questions and concerns. When UPAN was initially formed in 2013, Bigelow was the warden at Draper. He later moved back to Gunnison. Warden Nelson has expressed a desire to continue Bigelow's positive professional relationship with UPAN directors.

##### **Warden Nelson's 20-Years Of Service**

According to the Utah DOC Website, Warden Nelson's appointment as CUCF's warden coincided with his 20-year anniversary of service with the Utah Department of Corrections. Over his career, he has worked in many divisions and capacities. He started his career as a correctional officer at Utah State Prison. He worked his

way up through the custody ranks and spent some time working as an agent with Region 6 AP&P. Nelson spent the last ten years as Deputy Warden of CUCF. He was very involved in leading the efforts to open the Ironwood Unit and implement the direct supervision model at the facility.

This model is used throughout the agency and will continue to serve as a critical operational model for the new correctional facility.

Warden Nelson has been involved in many statewide committees and projects throughout his career. This has given him a thorough understanding of the interconnectedness of the department's operations. He is poised to bring increased collaboration and participation to CUCF and continue the facility's longstanding reputation as an important and dynamic part of the UDC mission.

UPAN looks forward to many more years of positive relationship with CUCF and Warden Nelson.

# **INMATES THROUGHOUT UTAH SPEND TIME CARING THROUGH THEIR CREATIVITY**

by Molly Prince

## **Creativity Shows Compassion For Community**

We wish to acknowledge the many inmates throughout the state, housed in both prisons and the county jails, that spend their time, contribute through their talents, and create items or participate in projects that demonstrate warmth, caring, and compassion for others and the community at large as part of their prison journeys.

## **Volunteers Help: Materials, Delivery And Teaching**

According to the DOC Facebook page, in February 2017, inmates in the crochet program at Wasatch facility in the Utah State Prison donated 154 blankets to Salt Lake's Veterans Hospital. The blankets were created by the inmates for their February community service project called "Salute to Veteran Patients." Volunteers coordinated the project by collecting donations of yarn, working with the inmates on patterns, and delivering the blankets to the hospital. On the DOC Facebook page, one woman who received one of these blankets writes her gratitude, *"As a Veteran who received one of these, I want to share how amazing and thoughtful it is of them to help others out instead of just wallowing and being miserable. It truly means a lot to those who have been forgotten."* Inmates donated 150 more blankets to Veterans this past Memorial Day. The article states, "Inmates in the program spend several hours a week crocheting items for various local organizations. Program volunteers are also available to teach interested inmates how to crochet. In the past, the men have made scarves, hats and other items for schools, charities and hospitals."

The prison accepts donations of yarn for the programs at Wasatch and at Timpanogos women's facility. People who want to donate yarn can contact the DOC public information officer, Maria Peterson

## **Christmas Fundraiser Sculptures Are Edible**

In December 2016, the DOC Facebook page had a post with colorful photos depicting the intricate sculpting of a Finding Dory display created by the women in the culinary program at Timpanogos Women's Facility in Draper. The sea creatures, coral, and seashells were all edible! The women in this program work every year, making famous themes come to life for the Festival of trees fundraiser. The Facebook article states, "The

gingerbread displays take months to create using simple kitchen ingredients such as dough, rice crispy treats, icing, candy, and a lot of creativity." The Festival of Trees benefits Primary Children's Hospital.

The women also created gingerbread displays of Star Wars and Angry Birds that were equally as intricate and colorful as the Finding Dory theme. Every detail was carefully planned, from the shredded coconut grass, to the rice crispy death star, and the individual fondant leaves on the trees. Hundreds of hours of creative work and talent contribute to this important tradition that helps the women give back to the community.

## **In The Fall We Have Pumpkins**

Last October, Utah Correctional Industries' (UCI) staff delivered more than 200 pumpkins to Jordan School District's Kauri Sue Hamilton School, which serves students with a variety of severe disabilities. These pumpkins were grown by incarcerated men participating in the UCI Green Thumb Nursery horticulture program. Horticulture classes and a real-world work environment help inmates learn skills transferrable to the community to secure and keep employment after release. They also use their artistic talents to paint several pumpkins that can be auctioned off by the school.

The annual pumpkin deliveries are a delight for the UDC staff and the children. UCI delivers pumpkins to local hospitals and schools each year. As soon as they are available, UCI will deliver more pumpkins to Jordan Valley School in the Canyons School District.

UPAN wants to acknowledge all the prisoners who participate in these programs and generously contribute.

## **A side note: UCI Work Opportunities Are Limited**

UCI is a division of Utah Department of Corrections that prepares inmates for release by teaching job skills and providing work opportunities while incarcerated. It used to include individuals who will remain in prison for life to find meaning, contribute their skills and knowledge, and stay occupied by positive employment. However, UCI has changed. It is not equal opportunity employment for all inmates. There is a new policy in place; UCI no longer hires an inmate that does not have a hearing or release date coming up within the next five years.

***"When you begin to realize that your past does not necessarily dictate the outcome of your future, then you can release the hurt. It is impossible to inhale new air until you exhale the old."*** T.D. Jakes, pastor and author of *Healing the Wounds of the Past*.

**"Patience is not simply the ability to wait, but in keeping a good attitude while waiting."** Muslim saying

***"If you are not a better person tomorrow than you are today, what need have you for a tomorrow? Use today wisely."*** Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

## **Summary of June 5, 2017 FOCUS Meeting – by Molly Prince**

### **The Goal: Successful Probation and Parole**

The topic of June's FOCUS meeting was Adult Probation and Parole. Utah's A P & P Director James (Jim) Hudspeth gave an overview of what A P & P is doing to assist offenders on probation and parole to succeed. Dan Chesnut, ARA and a Supervisor at Bonneville Community Correctional Center was also present to answer questions specifically about special conditions of parole for sex offenders.

Director Hudspeth has a 25-year history in law enforcement. He has worked as a parole agent, worked at Bonneville CCC, in investigations, and in Regional Administration of A P & P during his career with the Dept. of Corrections. He shared that the area of his career that provides him with the most meaning and enjoyment is helping people succeed in transition back into society and seeing them grow and change.

He stated that the biggest focus of A P & P is helping people transition successfully from prison to life in the community. He stated, "It is a balance between public safety, but also offender success." He also stressed his dedication to helping people learn how to live prosocial lives in the community and said, "If you want to help people be successful, this (A P & P) is where you do it. I've spent my career helping people be successful."

### **Transition Team Created Two Years Ago**

Dir. Hudspeth discussed changes in DOC policy two years ago which created a Transition Team and has been in the process of implementation over this past year. He said the program begins while inmates are still in prison by teaching them how to explain their offenses when applying for jobs, how to write resumes, getting their resumes plugged into the Department of Workforce Services system, and connecting them with resources before they are even released. ASCENT is part of this program. ASCENT includes community agencies that can hopefully provide help to releasing felons.

### **Incorporating Technology Into Transition Programs**

Hudspeth also described the DOC's move into using technology to assist with transition to the community. The DOC has applied for and been awarded funds for a pilot project as part of the transitional programs to purchase (electronic) tablets so inmates can use them while still in prison in the transition program to create their resumes and store them, as well as write introduction letters. He reports that the tablets the inmates use in the institution will be the property of the inmate and can be taken with them to the community. He reports that the pilot program will involve an inmate living in a transitional living housing unit within the prison for their last 90 days of incarceration.

He reports that selection and involvement in this pilot project will involve collaboration between USP's medical

and programming services, as well as A P & P and other state agencies.

### **Transition Program Geared To Inmate's Needs**

He stated that in the regular transition program long-term inmates will be worked with for a year prior to release. Others will be worked with on transition closer to their parole dates.

Hudspeth also discussed the Parole Violator program. When parolees violate their parole stipulations and are returned to prison, they will go to Uinta 5 where a therapist will meet with them to perform a Risk Needs Assessment; the person will be staffed and assessed to see if they are appropriate to enter the Parole Violator program. If so, they'll be moved to Fortitude Treatment Center in the community (other than sex offenders).

### **Reducing Workloads For Better Service**

Director Hudspeth also covered ways that the Department is working to reduce the workloads of parole agents by having more support staff teach classes in the Treatment Resource Centers (TRC) around the state. Currently there are 315 agents in Utah with 500 support staff. They are supervising 18,000 offenders throughout Utah on probation and parole. Last year the department was able to hire 70 more agents, but each agent still has a large caseload. He also discussed the new Community Treatment Program; Director Desmond Lomax is working toward more consistency throughout the state regarding programs and classes in TRCs.

### **Varied Questions Included The S O 1000-Foot "Rule"**

Director Hudspeth and Dan Chesnut took questions from FOCUS attendees regarding everything from how A P & P handles verifying employment and showing up at a parolee's workplace, to how A P & P collects fines, restitution, and supervision fees.

Chesnut responded to questions about Group A parole stipulations for sex offenders versus the state law statute restrictions for registered sex offenders who have minor victims (Utah Code 77.27.21.7). Chesnut also explained that by definition in Utah, a "protected area" according to this statute includes public playgrounds, community parks, daycare centers, primary and secondary schools (other than those on the grounds of a correctional institution) and public swimming pools. This means that a parole officer cannot give individuals with registerable offenses against minors, permission to go to those places, because it is against the law. Asked about the so-called "1,000-foot rule" for someone with Group A sex offender conditions cannot live within 1000 feet of a school or park, Chesnut clarified there is no universal 1,000-foot rule in Utah. The above referenced law says that the Group A offender cannot live or be within 1000 feet from the residence of the victim.



## **The Scariest Part of Working In A Prison Isn't the Inmates** **by Sarah Laughlin, reprinted with permission from Sarah Laughlin, Boston MA**

*Molly found the following article on thoughtcatalog.com and it is circulating through Facebook. She contacted the author and received permission to reprint in our UPAN Newsletter. [Two-column format and paragraph headings added by Ed.]*

### **This Kind Of Job Gets People's Attention**

It's always interesting to see how people react when I tell them I'm a substance-abuse counselor in a prison. People's ears tend to perk up. After the "wow"s and "so cool"s and "I didn't expect you to say that's," the follow-up questions come. People have lots of questions about my line of work, but the one that always gets asked without fail is: "Is it scary?!" Hidden in those words is the real, underlying sentiment: "Those people scare me." So, is it scary?

Yes and no. No, "they" are not scary. For the most part, the inmates are incredibly respectful and polite. Particularly the guys I work with, because to be in the program (which offers incentives such as "goodtime," AKA time off of your sentence) you must meet certain expectations. They greet me with Hellos and "How-are-you" 's, they hold open doors, give me space when I walk through the facility, apologize if they swear in my presence, and do their best to be attentive during class. Every once in a while someone in the yard catcalls or gives a compliment (they're not allowed to compliment us at all or ask anything personal, even down to what my favorite color is), but when called on it, they stop.

### **Most Are Normal People Who Have Made Terrible Choices**

All this is to say they are human beings. Furthermore, they are human beings under strict supervision and regulations, and subsequently are probably even MORE respectful and appropriate than your typical congregation of men. Sometimes people like to remind me that I'm surrounded by "rapists and killers and felons!" and while it is entirely true that there are men in there who are rapists, who have committed murder and other felonies, the fact of the matter is that on the "outside," in my day to day life, I am constantly surrounded by the threat of violence and sexual advances, but without constant surveillance and security personnel.

I don't mean to trivialize the safety issue—obviously there is a reason I have to pass through a bunch of locked doors to get to my office. Safety is always a factor when working with a high-risk population. Sure, I can build rapport with inmates, but I should never get comfortable. These men are facing extreme internal and external pressures, have succumbed to them in the past, and very well may do so again. I have one guy on my caseload in particular who I honestly was a bit nervous to meet with one-on-one for the first time. He came to me with an ugly attempted-murder charge, a history of violence toward women and multiple warnings from other staff members. I was a little bit on edge when I walked into our first one-on-one counseling session.

And yet 10 minutes into our meeting, I began to see his character separate into two entities: the human desperately seeking joy and love and the human who had administered everything but that to his victim. He was not too far gone, not some sociopath or inherently evil man—there was still goodness left in him; it just was retreating and in the shade. He needed to get back in touch with it, to give it water and light, to grow the good. And yet he was consumed by so much darkness that doing so would be a monumentally challenging task.

### **A Factor Seemingly Common To All These Men**

During my individual counseling sessions with men like the one just mentioned that I began to notice a pattern, one universally shared trait that almost each and every one of these men had, the common factor that seemed to have acted as catalyst to their criminal behaviors. What is that secret, delinquent trait, you ask? Trauma. Want to know the scariest, most terrifying part of prison? These people are not the sociopaths or psychos or bad seeds that we label them as. (Because it would be easier if they were, right? More justifiable to put them behind bars, lock them in cages like animals.) I have yet to encounter even one inmate who seems intentionally malicious or inherently evil.

Instead, I have come face-to-face with hundreds of men steeped in decades of pain and trauma, men who have lived and breathed violence, neglect, addiction, and abuse since before they were aware that these things were bad or wrong or not normal parts of growing up.

### **Warehousing Human Beings Who Need Help**

We are warehousing mental illness, criminalizing trauma, and punishing poverty. Prison isn't full of criminals; it's full of individuals suffering from PTSD.\*\* Children born addicted themselves, holding their father down while he convulses in withdrawal. Children watching their mother bloodied and bruised in front of their eyes. Children neglected, left for days without authority or safety, with-out food or a place to sleep. Children touched with violence and molestation. Children carrying guns because they have felt bullets whiz by their heads, watched friends bleed out on the pavement, seen the dark brownish stain that blood leaves.

To survive, they make their own rules, put themselves first, and take advantage of any minuscule opportunity to feed or clothe or further themselves they may see. And so their "norm" is off-kilter of our cookie-cutter societal standards. They are forced to find maladaptive ways to get by. Their crimes are often not willful or malicious, but in reality, trauma-reactive and survival seeking.

If they do survive into adulthood, they have done so by breaking the rules. Because the rules weren't made for them, anyway; the laws weren't written with their protection and safety in mind. And so as adults, they continue to follow their own codes of survival and end up exposing new generations of children to the same danger and threats that malnourished and traumatized them. But many of them know no other way to survive.

And furthermore, it's not just that they know no other way—it's that they are given no other options. They are not masochists, they don't create these self-destructive systems. We do.

We streamline people from birth toward imprisonment or death. We create these systems in which certain demographics are set up for failure, and then we punish them for doing exactly what we masterfully planned—failing. We strip schools of funding and resources, we limit access to healthcare, clean water, healthy food; we use the guise of public safety to target and harass, and then we spread poisonous propaganda that it is all their fault. We create legions of people who are forced to navigate this world in survival mode, and in doing so, they end up breaking laws. And then we throw them in prison and punish them, not just with the time of their sentence, but with the quality of life during that time. Trust me, some of the living situations stimulate relapse into addictive behaviors and criminal thought, exacerbate mental health issues, and back into society, we stamp them with a stigma for the rest of their lives.

These factors do not justify or excuse crime. These men still need to be held accountable for their actions, for the

way they have forever altered the lives around them. These factors do, however, provide insight and demand empathy. If we ask these men to hold themselves accountable, then we must hold ourselves accountable as well, accountable for the flawed and futile system that we have created, perpetuated, and enabled, and the way it has forever altered the lives touched by it.

These men are in desperate need of treatment, of attention, of support, of connection, of rehabilitation, of one human, two ears, that will actually listen to their story and provide them the resources, teach them the skills, to rebuild and move forward. And yet there is just not room for that in the system—social workers, health care professionals, counselors—are either overworked and underpaid, or not even provided enough funding for their jobs to exist. These men need intensive therapy, a licensed clinician who can see them for at least an hour a week. Instead they're given me, a passionately invested yet inexperienced, unlicensed counselor who is available for two forty minute sessions a month, if that.

#### **Answer To The Question, "The Scariest Part Is..."**

It is not that it's impossible to prevail and succeed—remember, these men are resourceful and resilient beyond your wildest imagination. Their hearts elastic, souls unrelenting, somehow always able to bounce back. But we are setting them up for failure and then chiding them, convincing them that it's all their fault.

And that is the scariest, most criminal part of working in a prison.

**\*\*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

<http://thoughtcatalog.com/sarah-laughlin/2017/03/the-scariest-part-of-working-in-a-prison-isnt-the-inmates/>

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***"It is painful when we see prison systems which are not concerned to care for wounds, to soothe pain, to offer new possibilities."*** Pope Francis on prison systems, 2015 (Catholic religion)

***"Four things support the world: the learning of the wise, the justice of the great, the prayers of the good, and the valor of the brave."*** the Prophet Muhammad (Islam religion)

***"We are not on earth to see how important we can become, but to see how much difference we can make in the lives of others."*** Gordon B. Hinckley, 15<sup>th</sup> president of the LDS Church

***Though prompted to anger by stress and injustice, we're strong and know we can handle it... by staying cool.*** (Common Sense religion) Ed.

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