



UPAN Newsletter

Volume 5 Number 1 | JANUARY 2018

"Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity"

SOTP Update – Answers To BOPP Questions – 2017 In Review

NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Kafeneio Coffee House - 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City

TOPIC: Ryan Berg will be presenting with special guests Dave and Linda Donaldson, on REAL Transition, a community within the USP system focused on providing incarcerated individuals with a method to improve themselves by establishing healthy connections.

*** * * SPECIAL MEETING: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 PM * * ***

LOCATION: Kearns Library 5350 South 4220 West SLC UT 84118 | Free to public

Month of Inclusion - Families of Inmates

MARCH UPAN Meeting: Monday, March 12, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City

TOPIC: New Utah Correctional Facility Update with Steve Turley | Free and open to the public.

#cut50 National Day of Empathy

Tuesday, March 6th, 2018 Time: 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Location: The State Capitol South Steps (or Rotunda in case of inclement weather)

Topics: UPAN Needs Families to speak on how Incarceration Impacts Families.

FOCUS MEETING: Date TBA. Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM **LOCATION:** Region 3 A P & P Office,

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

SOTP TREATMENT TRACKS AND RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE

By Molly Prince with information provided by Dir. Victor Kersey

Addressing A Variety Of Questions We Receive

UPAN continues to receive letters and emails from inmates and families about the changes that are occurring in USP's SOTP. We cannot personally answer all letters and respond in detail to all emails, texts or phone calls, so we try to use the newsletter to answer the most common concerns and questions. This article will address a variety of questions that have been coming in related to Sex Offender Treatment Programming. The information about the various treatment tracks along with the statistical information provided in this article was shared by Director of Institutional Programming, Victor Kersey, PhD. We are grateful for his willingness to share the exciting news contained below!

SOTP Pre-Treatment Program Is Up And Running

The Preparing to Change, Sex Offender Pre-Treatment program is a 26-week psychoeducation program using Interactive Journaling from the Change Companies. This program was designed in collaboration with the Department of Justice and was created as a preparatory treatment program for convicted sex offenders. It serves as a gateway to other sex offender management and treatment programming. The goals of the Pre-Treatment program include, but are not limited to: motivational enhancement, engagement in the program values and norms, improved self-disclosure and increased open-ness to new kinds of self-knowledge.

The Pre-Treatment program is available at Draper in Promontory and Wasatch housing; CUCF; as well as Washington, Kane and Uintah County jails.

Pre-treatment is now required for all offenders prior to admission into all sex offender program tracks. These are the Core SOTP program (the regular full program), the Low Risk Sex Offender Treatment Program, the special needs program for Developmentally/Intellectually Delayed offenders, and the Spanish-Speaking programs.

CORE And Low Risk Program Time Frames

If someone completes the Pre-Treatment program, it does not shorten their regular CORE or Low Risk SOTP program. The Pre-Treatment program has been put into place to prepare individuals for participation in the regular treatment programs, and ideally would help the participant be successful in those programs and move through those programs in a reasonable amount of time. Remember that completion of a program is not simply based on the time spent in that program, it is also based on the progress made, assignments completed, increase in self-awareness and understanding the concepts presented, among other things.

Time frames are average time frames and may be different for different individuals. For example, the Core program is designed to last 18-24 months based upon individual needs and risk. The prison continues to wait on the CORE Revised version from the publishers to get this fully implemented.

For those offenders assessed as Low Risk, research indicates that low risk programs are not necessarily time specific. The offender will complete the mandatory 26-week pre-treatment program, and all follow-on programming will be based upon needs identified in the Level of Service Inventory Risk Needs Responsivity risk domains. These domains have been written about in previous UPAN newsletters.

Wait-time Between Pre-treatment And CORE SOTP

Questions have been asked about how long should an inmate expect to wait after completing the pre-treatment program before moving into the CORE or Low Risk SOTP? According to Director Victor Kersey, "Ideally, when the program stabilizes, and all staff are in place and trained, the transition from pre-treatment to Core will be seamless. For now, we may still have a short waitlist, but for many, they will complete one and move into the other." Please remember that change takes time, so please be patient as the transition into the new processes are complete and any glitches ironed out. Also, UPAN recognizes that SOTP needs state legislative funding to hire an additional 10 therapists to fully staff the programs.

Some Statistics On Participation

Although the numbers are changing regularly, as of the end of December, there were approximately 185 participants in the SOTP Program at Draper (175 in Promontory and another 8-10 in Wasatch). San Juan County continues to have 64 treatment slots and Sanpete County Jail has 32 treatment slots.

Kane County Jail has a 40-bed Pre-Treatment program; 10 spots in Washington County Jail for Pre-Treatment; 10 in Sanpete for Pre-Treatment; 10 in Uintah County Pre-Treatment & 40 in CUCF's Pre-Treatment program.

There are 60 participants in the Low Risk program in Pre-Treatment at Promontory with another 12 offenders in the Low Risk program.

There are 6 offenders in the Spanish-Speaking program. USP has 10 offenders in the program for Developmentally/Intellectually Delayed SOTP.

Finally, there are approximately 12 inmates in a Post-Treatment/Institutional Aftercare program at Draper as they prepare to transition out of prison.

Dr. Kersey informed me that his last calculation was that they have **tripled** the number of offenders in active

treatment since July 2017. This is a substantial improvement in only a few months!

Risk Assessments For Sex Offenders

UPAN continues to receive questions about risk assessments that are being used in SOTP. We have written about some in past editions of UPAN news. The four risk assessment tools used in Sex Offender Programming are: STATIC-99R, STABLE-2007 and ACUTE-2007 as well as the LS/RNR.

STATIC-99R

Static-99R is a ten-item actuarial assessment instrument created by R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D. and David Thornton, Ph.D. for use with adult male sexual offenders who are at least 18 years of age. It was most recently revised in 2012 and is the most widely used sex offender risk assessment instrument in the world. It is extensively used in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and many European nations. The STATIC-99R can be completed without a face-to-face interview because it is based on unchangeable (static) factors related to the sexual offense. The only thing that changes on the STATIC - 99R is the age of the offender. It is completed through a comprehensive file review.

STABLE-2007 and ACUTE-2007

The STABLE-2007 and the ACUTE-2007 instruments are specialized tools designed to assess and track changes in risk status over time by assessing changeable "dynamic" risk factors.

According to the Criminal Justice Research Website where more information can be found (shown below), "Stable" dynamic risk factors are personal skill deficits, predilections, and learned behaviors that correlate with sexual recidivism but can be changed through a process of intervention that includes treatment and supervision. Should this intervention take place in such a way as to reduce these risk-relevant factors, there would be a related reduction in the likelihood of sexual recidivism.

<http://criminal-justice.iresearchnet.com/forensic-psychology/stable-2007-and-acute-2007-instruments/>

"Acute" dynamic risk factors are highly transient conditions that only last hours or days. These factors are rapidly changing environmental and intrapersonal stresses, conditions, or events that have been shown by previous research to be related to when a sexual re-offense is most likely to happen in the near future.

The Stable and Acute instruments can be used to inform correctional managers as to how much risk they are managing, inform decisions on levels of community treatment and supervision, and estimate changes in risk status pre- and post-treatment and supervision.

The STABLE-2007 and ACUTE-2007 are completed using face-to-face interviews as well as consideration of

collateral information which can be contained in the offender's records.

LS/RNR

The LS/RNR is used on all offenders, not just sex offenders. It was developed for public safety organizations who want to use the most current research when conducting their level of service risk assessment. It assesses the rehabilitation needs of offenders, their risk of recidivism, and the most relevant factors related to supervision and programming. It can be used effectively on both men and women. It focuses on offender strengths while capturing the risks, needs, and responsivity of the offender. An article in the March 2016 UPAN newsletter explains this type of assessment in more detail.

The key areas measured in the LS/RNR include: criminal history; education; employment; family/marital; leisure/recreation; companions; alcohol/drug problems; pro-criminal attitude/orientation; antisocial patterns. This assessment is conducted by a face-to-face interview as well. More information can be found at:

<https://www.mhs.com/MHS-Publicsafety?prodname=lsirn>

When These Assessments Are Conducted

The STATIC and LS/RNR are conducted soon after intake into prison. The STABLE is conducted upon admission into the SOTP. According to Dr. Kersey, the goal for the future is to eventually have all sex offenders receive a comprehensive psychosexual evaluation. Currently, timelines for this are still being determined.

What Role Risk Assessments Play In Determining SOTP Recommendation To The Board For Various Programs.

The risk assessment process is one piece of a complicated process that results in determination of an offender's placement into a particular level of treatment program inside prison or a recommendation to the Board for community residential treatment in a Community Correctional Center, or for outpatient treatment in the community. The SOTP treatment staff conducts inter-views, offender file reviews, evaluates past treatment (if applicable), looks at the individual's amenability to treatment, among a variety of other considerations. Obviously, this is a process that takes considerable time and effort for each offender being assessed, which is why all sex offenders cannot be assessed immediately. It will take time to get this process running smoothly so that as people enter prison they start the assessment process and it evolves from there.

The PPG Is Discontinued And Replaced With The Abel Assessment For Sexual Interests

The PPG is an evaluation that is intended to identify sexual arousal patterns. PPG stands for penile plethysmograph. It can only be utilized with males. Utah State Prison has officially discontinued the use of

the PPG as of December 29, 2017. **(Please Note, SO treatment in the community still has the PPG as part of the program parameters set out by the Dept. of Corrections. Over the coming year, this requirement is expected to change to include more options for sexual interest or arousal testing for community providers to use as part of what is required by the State.)**

The PPG is being replaced in prison SOTP with the Abel Assessment for Sexual Interests (AASI-3) as of January 3, 2018 in Draper (both for men and women with sexual offenses), in San Juan and Sanpete County Jail programs. By December 2017, all clinical staff had been trained in this new assessment and some have completed the certification exam.

The AASI-3 is a questionnaire designed for offenders to respond to specific sexual interests based upon their offending behaviors and current interests. It does not involve phallometric measurement of arousal. AASI-3 is designed for an offender to view non-pornographic slides of various-aged models that are fully clothed to determine sexual interest patterns and desirability.

Squelching Rumors – SOTP Funding Facts

It is not true that SOTP lost Federal Funding due to the SOTP Legislative Audit that was released in April 2017. SOTP and Utah State Prison do not receive Federal funding. All SOTP funding is designated by the Utah State Legislature each year, to be approved by the governor's office. The Utah taxpayers fund SOTP.

SOTP has been running on the same annual budget since 1996, despite the drastic increase in the number of offenders needing it.

Program Re-entry Process If Previously Removed

There has been a change in the process of how someone can become re-accepted into SOTP if they have been removed from the program. If an offender is expelled from the program, they write a letter to the SOTP after 90 days has passed. In this letter they request to be placed into the Pre-Treatment program. Once accepted, they are placed in and must complete the *Preparing to Change* program. There has been a significant reduction in the number of punitive removals from SOTP since July 2017. Dir. Kersey shared the statistic that last year (2016) the removal rate from SOTP was 42%. Since July there have been only 5 punitive removals. He also shared that they have instituted a 30-day suspension program that can be used as an alternative or as a pre-cursor to being removed from the program.

Meaningful Changes, Thank You Director Kersey

All of the information contained in this article points to the hard work that Dir. Kersey, Programming staff, and the SOTP staff have put into making meaningful changes that will benefit those participating in them, those waiting to get in, and those completing them. There will be farther-reaching benefits to families and the community as a whole.

When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be.— Lao Tzu

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE (BOPP)

by Molly Prince

We continue to receive a variety of questions from inmates and families about the changes that continue to occur as a result of the Legislative Audit of the BOPP that was published in February 2016. Here are a couple of recurring questions and the answers.

Questions About Original Hearings

The changes with the BOPP in terms of original hearings are not retroactive, so they apply to those who are entering the prison since those changes went into effect in 2016. It is our understanding that these changes could not be retroactive because there is simply no mechanism to go back and revisit every person in the system. We have had between 6000 and 7000 inmates in the Utah prison system at any given time over the past three years, so even the percentage of those that were on an original hearing at 3 years result in too many inmates for the board to have the manpower and time to review each case retroactively.

Questions About Matrix

What has been called the Matrix is now referred to by the Board as "expected length of stay" or LOS. Until the Board has completed developing and implementing

the new Structured Decision Making Tool, we won't know how close to the Matrix or LOS the Board is actually releasing people.

What incarcerated individuals need to understand is that the Matrix on the Pre-sentence Investigation Report used at sentencing is not the one that the Board is using. The Board has always re-calculated the Matrix prior to an individual's original board hearing. That is the time frame the Board considers. However, that is only a starting point, and it is based significantly on factors that cannot be changed – the criminal history, the specific current offense, etc. Then there are a variety of factors that can and do change for each inmate individually. Behavior in prison, if they are a management or safety problem (or not), if the inmate is working, following the Case Management Plan by doing programming, classes, and other factors. Another factor that the Board looks at is the level of notoriety or publicity that the offender had related to their crime / criminal history. Please refer to the October 2017 UPAN newsletter for a summary of the categories and areas that the Structured Decision Making Tools they are working on will encompass.

2017 In Review

Shauna Denos

Events & Accomplishments & Add'l References

The year 2017 has been a busy one for UPAN. We have been stretched thin with a variety of issues and concerns we are following up on. This article will highlight some of the events and accomplishments. Please forgive us if we have left anything out.

UPAN held Utah's first **Day of Empathy** on March 1, 2017 in partnership with Salt Lake City's League of Allies and the national organization of Dream Corps and their #Cut50 initiative. It was a national day of action to generate empathy on a massive scale for the millions of Americans impacted by the criminal justice system. Our Day of Empathy focused on the impact of incarceration on families who have a loved one caught up in the criminal justice system. It was hosted by Kafeneio Coffee House in Salt Lake City and proved to be a powerful three hours with a variety of speakers sharing their experiences. It was an intense and informative experience. More details in **UPAN News February 2017 pgs. 9-10 and March 2017 pgs. 6-8.** We want to thank Britnee Webb of the League of Allies and UPAN for organizing the event.

Other Events UPAN Involved In Or Sponsored:

-- UPAN directors and families attended the **3rd Annual Faith in Reform Mini-summit** on January 28, 2017. More info in **April 2017 UPAN Newsletter p. 8.**

-- **NOT FOR RENT Documentary film** by Metamora Films premiered April 5, 2017 at Weber State University. This was a locally produced film depicting **the plight of ex-offenders and parolees** in Utah attempting **to find housing** as they work to rebuild their lives. Michael McAinsh, UPAN's Molly Prince, and Lacee Harris were featured. In addition, a variety of persons involved in reforming Utah's Criminal Justice System were also featured including Rep. Brian King, Anna (Brower) Thomas (of the ACLU of Utah at the time), various therapists and policy makers including those involved in the so-called Good Landlord Program. (See article in **April 2017 UPAN Newsletter p. 9.**) This film was also shown in its entirety at the September UPAN meeting and is available to be shown by UPAN for organizations in Utah who request it.

-- Rep. Brian King and Sen. Curtis Bramble sponsored **HB 178 Good Landlord Program Amendments** which passed and was signed into law. This will help ex-offenders find housing more easily because it ends financial incentives for landlords to deny housing to felons in most towns in Utah.

-- HB156 sponsored by Rep. Sandra Hollins and Sen. Jani Iwamoto known as **Ban the Box legislation** was signed into law, banning government agencies in Utah

from including the question about being convicted of a felony or misdemeanor from the initial employment application, allowing the applicant to at least get into an interview and present themselves before their criminal history is disclosed. This does not apply to private businesses, government agencies in Utah. See **UPAN News February 2017 p.2.**

-- **The Legislative Audit of Utah's Sex Offender Treatment Program** at the prison was completed and released to the public on April 3, 2017. It identified a variety of areas that were lacking. Since that time, Director of Institutional Programming Victor Kersey and his staff have been working hard to bring the program up to quality standards and implement various treatment tracks for a **more individualized and relevant treatment** experience for those who need to participate in it. It is **still undergoing a transformation** as the various new programs are implemented and adjusted. Dir. Kersey has been gracious and helpful in keeping UPAN informed of the changes and improvements as he is implementing them. See article in **this issue of UPAN News pgs. 2-4.** for more information on the latest developments.

-- Karl Wisness, aka Willy the Plumber, has continued to provide **scholarships for children of incarcerated individuals** to assist them in starting college. Article about this year's recipient and more information on the scholarship fund can be found in the **October 2017 UPAN News p. 2.**

-- **PrisonEd** has continued to thrive and grow. Due to space limitations in the UPAN News, we have not consistently published their statistics, but they are **alive and well and growing.** They are seeking more volunteers to assist in the educational tutoring for inmates involved in this wonderful correspondence program. Dr. Don Wright and his volunteer staff are doing wonderful work. Article in **UPAN News February 2017 p.7 and with stats in August 2017 UPAN News p.4 and this issue p.10.**

-- **Educational programs** are starting to emerge again **within the Utah Prison System** thanks to University of Utah Prison Education Project (UPEHP) and the Salt Lake Community College Prison Education Program. See **UPAN News February 2017 pgs. 6-7, April 2017 p.10 and November 2017 pgs.8-9.**

-- UPAN Directors and representatives Shauna Denos, Molly, Prince, Michael McAinsh, and Rusty Denos visited and spoke at the **CUCF Saturday Forum in September.** This has been a wonderful annual event that we have always enjoyed participating in. Summary is shared in **UPAN News September 2017 pgs.8-9.**

-- UPAN's Holiday/Christmas Card Program has once again proven successful under the direction of Audrae Rogers. So many volunteers who are generous with their time and resources have sent Holiday/Christmas cards to inmates in Utah. We are hoping to garner the support and help of the UDC to acquire more names of inmates who otherwise would not receive a Holiday/Christmas card for next year's holiday season. To be a volunteer, see UPAN News October 2017 p.3.

-- New Medical Power of Attorney Form was developed by UPAN and approved by DOC attorneys. The 90-day notarized renewal is gone, now with an effective period up to 10 yrs. UPAN News Sep 2017 pgs.9-10.

-- Family members of incarcerated individuals continue to talk to their elected officials about problems experienced by their loved ones. We are looking forward to possible reviews and legislative audits of other areas in the system that are failing to meet quality standards expected in this day and age as our state cares for the individuals in their custody. UPAN remembers Jesus' words when he said, "What you do to the least of these, you do to me." Matt 25:40.

-- Finally, UPAN's Newsletter Volunteers continue to faithfully print and send out our UPAN Newsletter to hundreds of inmates who do not have family or friends in the community to do so. This process is no small accomplishment each month, particularly with the frequent movement of inmates between facilities around the state and trying to keep track of current locations, who is paroling, and finding more volunteers for the growing number of inmates requesting newsletters. These are sent to the inmates at no cost to them, funded completely by the volunteers. These volunteers are the backbone of the newsletter dissemination. Each Newsletter Volunteer spends at least \$70 to over \$100 per year of their own money to do this mailing, not to mention the time involved.

Several Position Changes In Utah's CJ System Occurred This Year. Some Notable Ones Include:

-- CUCF Warden Bigalow retired from UDC, and Shane Nelson took that position.

-- Draper Warden Crowther moved to manage UCI, replaced by Warden Larry Benzon.

-- Carrie Cochran was appointed to the Board of Pardons & Parole in March, replacing Judge Yeates when he retired. This has been viewed as a positive development. Cochran has never been a prosecutor.

-- Chyleen Arbon was appointed on Nov 3, 2017 as Chairperson of the BOPP, replacing Angela Miklos who remains a Board Member. UPAN is pleased with her appointment. Arbon has demonstrated interest in gaining perspectives from a variety of sources as she moves forward in her new position.

-- UPAN directors attended several Roundtable meetings sponsored by the Utah DOC on the new Utah State Prison. Some directors went on a field trip to the prison site prior to groundbreaking, and in August, Shauna and Rusty Denos and Michael McAinsh attended the groundbreaking ceremony with Governor Herbert, various State and DOC dignitaries, the architects, contractors and representatives from watchdog groups. Reported in UPAN News September 2017 pgs.6-8. **NOTE:** Since then, the DOC has been very quiet about the progress on the new prison. They've held no further Roundtable meetings for stakeholders in the new prison despite UPAN representatives contacting them requesting a meeting for updates.

-- The FOCUS meetings have resumed in a limited manner, but they have resumed. They were originally held monthly until a few years ago when they were cut back to quarterly. Then about three years ago they were increased to every other month. However, after Brooke Adams left the Public Information Officer position in 2016, they were discontinued for a while. Maria Peterson, the current PIO has hosted a few in 2017, but not on a regular schedule, which is why we cannot post when they will be held a couple months ahead of time like we used to. Please know that UPAN will notify through email and newsletter when they are scheduled as soon as UPAN is informed.

-- The BOPP continues to work on meeting the objectives set forth in the Audit released in 2016. UPAN's Molly Prince with Michael McAinsh continue to meet regularly with BOPP Executive Director Greg Johnson and representatives of the ACLU and Disability Law Center to discuss concerns and give input as the Board develops their structured decision-making tool and builds their electronic record keeping data base. Chairperson Chyleen Arbon has shown an interest in attending these meetings as well, which is a wonderful development in our opinion. She has demonstrated that she is open to our ideas, new perspectives and very invested in improving how the Board and its offices function for the benefit of everyone involved. --- Overall, 2017 has been a productive year.

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.
Francis of Assisi

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.
Winston Churchill

BEHIND THE SCENES – ODDS AND ENDS

UPAN At Work On Unannounced Issues

There are a variety of issues UPAN Directors and volunteers and families work on behind the scenes. We do not always go public with some of these issues until we have facts or resolution or at least something to share that contributes to the improvement of conditions in our prisons and jails and the criminal justice system as a whole in Utah.

County Jails Differing Rules Need Attention

IPP and the inconsistencies in policies and losses our inmates suffer from being shifted around between facilities continue to be a challenge for everyone involved in the criminal justice system. Due to not having anyone who has been willing to serious work to spearhead and work closely with the directors on an IPP committee, we do not have one, so can only address issues as they arise and if there are enough similar issues that we can take them to the IPP director.

More Transparency Needed In Prison & Jail Deaths

Deaths in jails and prisons are finally coming to public attention, and UPAN directors Molly Prince and Shane Severson have been interviewed by the media a few times this year about the problems. This includes interviews with television, newspaper and radio (NPR) reporters. UPAN families have reached out to law-makers about medical care, substance abuse detoxing mental health care, and related issues in our correctional facilities. There is currently a bill that Sen. Todd

Weiler will sponsor that would require transparency and public disclosure of all prison and jail deaths. We encourage families to pay attention to this and track it on the legislative website at www.le.utah.gov

Sexual Harassment And Assault In DOC Facilities

The fact that Utah does not completely adopt the federal PREA standards (Prison Rape Elimination Act) is also an area that is of concern. UPAN attempts to monitor incoming reports of sexual harassment and assault in Utah's correctional facilities and contact the appropriate persons to follow up. Unfortunately, we rarely hear back from either the person who wrote us with a complaint or corrections officials about outcomes.

Comment On Utah Correctional Industries (UCI)

There have been changes in UCI and how it is administered that have brought some concerns to our attention. We are waiting to receive a written summary of these issues before moving forward in discussing them with Corrections.

Corroborating With Other Grassroots Organizations

There are a couple of other grassroots organizations in Utah that are pursuing concerns in various areas of the criminal justice system. We are endeavoring to keep informed on what they are doing and discovering in their missions. This will assist in not duplicating energy on the same issues, but also allow us to partner with them when it would be feasible or useful.

***Starting the New Year off right with comments from the Ole Farmer's Words of Wisdom:
"Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads."***

SHARING CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM INMATES AND OTHERS

UPAN received quite a few letters and Christmas cards filled with appreciation this year. Here are some of those appreciated messages.

"Here's wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please accept I and everyone else's heartfelt thanks for all you guys do. You have been responsible for a lot of changes that you don't see, but we do on a daily basis!! I would hope I can be of personal help if I am fortunate enough to get a date in a few years. We have been successful in a few areas in here as well by getting some favorable rulings in recent cases! I sincerely enclose my love and respect for each and every one of you!! " JTW

"Thank you for the newsletter! It got me thinking about how there are people out there that keep us prisoners in their thoughts and hearts. When I got a reply from you I was having some struggles. When I read the note you put in there with it, I smiled, because I knew you cared. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope your Christmas is a very happy one for you and your loved ones." CJ

"Each of you and your affiliates, have been instrumental in achieving momentous strides towards changing hearts and minds in the quest to obtain much needed reforms and justice for all our loved ones - - - and in seeking out and passing on such a wealth of information --- so much appreciated! Thank all of you for your skills, dedication, and perseverance! Here's to new milestones in 2018. Prayers are with you." CY (a Mom)

"Let me start with praise for your organization. It has helped me through some very intense situations and a few problematic issues. These were not always resolved in a manner that I thought was best but not all proper answers are positive and sometimes a negative is truly the right one." JH

"Dear Friends of UPAN, Thank you so very much for your kind and loving message of love. I wish you Happy Holidays too. Your Christmas card and letter with a message of Christ was received, allegorically speaking, like a bucket of nice and cold water to a thirsty man in the desert. My mother passed 20 years

ago and I think if she was alive that is the message she would of give me.” JP

“I am in hopes that this letter reaches you as a survivor of the Christmas season, and that all is well with you and yours. I would like to thank you for the thoughtful Christmas card you sent me. It is very kind of you to take even more time out of your day to send me and other prisoners a Christmas card. The only holiday greeting I received was from UPAN, and I would like to personally thank you for the card and the special note of encouragement enclosed in the card. Yes, I will take my time in prison to read and study and improve myself with the end goal of becoming a better man and productive member of society. I am making my own book of notes as I prepare myself for a release some

day. I cut out special portions of the UPAN Newsletter and make my own notebook with the articles that have reference to my life and a successful return to the real world.” JS

“Dear folks at UPAN, Save in Paradise, there are no other folks like you. Your “Greetings of the Season” card, though so simple, yet it engulfed my heart and soul with stirring appreciation and sincere agape love until I, admittedly, with no shame, was rendered helplessly to my knees in uncontrollable tears of joy. Know for a certainty that I love all of you.” YS aka JW (An inmate who reports he has been banished from Utah and forgotten in an IPP placement in another state for the past 22 years.)

“Never, ever, ever give up.” Winston Churchill

Change and Hope – Being a Resolve Unit Coordinator

by Jason Lee Beck #133503

UPAN Note: *There have been a variety of complaints and frustrations about the Resolve Program ever since SOTP was moved to be housed in Promontory, where it took on a different treatment approach that was based on the Conquest approach versus the previous therapeutic community approach to sex offender treatment when housed in SSD for so many years. These concerns were shared by UPAN with the previous director of Institutional Programming, as well as by a variety of inmates and family members during the Audit of SOTP. This article presents one inmate’s story of incarceration and another perspective and shares insightful information. It is written by a graduate of Resolve who is now a Resolve Unit Coordinator who helps orient new residents, aids officers and therapy staff, teaches and grades classes, and leads by example.*

Mine is a life spent building. In the past I chose to wreck, destroy, and demolish anything and everyone in my world. Marriage to a beautiful woman, a successful business, and a college education were all thrown away. Thank God it wasn’t the end for me because coming to prison almost six years ago opened my eyes. I made a promise to myself early on in my incarceration. A personal Mission Statement: *“I will choose to make good choices, build others up as well as myself, make up for my wrong doing, and seek out redemption.”*

The first few weeks in prison were very tough for me. At 32 years old I was extradited from Seattle through over twenty county jails to stand for my charges here. Let me tell you, being extradited through many jails as a sex offender was not a pleasant experience. Everyone knew my charges. Everyone assumed the worst about me. No one would listen. Those few months were the hardest of my life and full of experiences too horrible to ever forget.

In the beginning my mind was full of thinking errors. “She was two months from eighteen.” “I didn’t know how old she was at first and her Facebook said she was living on her own and working as a waitress.” I also told myself that having an inappropriate relationship with her wasn’t inappropriate because I had not met her physically and it was consensual. Those thinking errors, and more, cost me everything.

It took a conversation, my last one actually, with my ex-wife for me to begin to understand the impact of my choices. “You were cheating on me, Jason,” she told me in a broken voice over the telephone I had begged to use in the county jail. My mind couldn’t understand how I had been cheating. “But I never met up with her,” I said. “It’s still cheating, Jason.”

Even though I didn’t understand the concept of empathy - I had never even heard the word before - I could still feel the pain in her voice. I could feel what my actions had done to her. She told me she was divorcing me. I can’t blame her. It was over. My choices had caught up to me at last.

Now, after being locked up for six years, and having completed the Resolve program for sex offenders, I have risen to the challenge and taken a position of leadership here. I have been a unit coordinator for almost a year and it is my job to help people acclimate to the program / therapeutic community, teach and grade classes, help the therapists and officers in daily duties, and above all lead by example. Sometimes it seems like a thankless job, but it makes me feel good to know I am helping to change hundreds of lives.

I’ve done pretty well for myself and have achieved some great goals. My writing regularly appears in a New York based therapeutic magazine called Spotlight on Recovery, as well as in various newspapers. I’m

learning French and have become a good artist. Somehow I have also been blessed to have lost about 50 pounds and can run a 5:36 mile. I've learned, through hard work, that you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

When I see the Board in January I hope to get released. I don't have anyone waiting for me out there except for a future I will build on my own. Success depends on me staying sober and honest. I know I can do it.

A big part of me wants to consider moving. I do have a brother I haven't spoken with in years living in Seattle.

He has a good job and would be a good support if I could reconnect. I also have the money for a bus ticket. Either way - staying or leaving - life after prison makes me nervous, but I remain confident thanks to the tools and inner strength I have discovered while in Resolve. I've never had a c-note or write up and I have a healthy life full of interventions when times get rough. I feel like a totally different person than the ghost of a man who entered these gates almost six years ago.

Thank you, Resolve and UDC, for this time. I'm sorry I chose to hurt other people. I am now proof that those with the darkest pasts can create the brightest futures!

Only in the darkness can you see the stars. — Martin Luther King Jr.

Summary of UPAN January Meeting – Monday, January 8, 2018

Warren Rosenbaum

UPAN's Past-President and current Treasurer Molly Prince, LCSW and Approved Provider Sex Offender Therapist, made an informative Power Point presentation on Sex Offender Parole Success. This subject of major interest, filled Kafeneio Coffee House meeting room to capacity with about 70 people attending. Also, UPAN's Facebook live-streaming broadcast, handled by Shane Severson, UPAN's Director of Communications, and assistant Mark, was watched by about 100 viewers, some from out-of-state. During the presentation, Shane received and presented email questions from the Facebook viewers that were answered by Molly for the people present and for the live-streaming Facebook audience.

Two S O parolees also contributed to the presentation giving firsthand views and experiences of their trials and successes at reentry and answering questions from those present. They said housing has been a major trial and employment was fairly easy to obtain in the current economy.

Much was said about the S O restrictions that may feel challenging to follow unless the parolee and support family/group are totally informed and constantly mindful of their situations and surroundings. Both ex-offenders stated that a positive attitude is important in living with the restrictions. IOW, focus on the positive and not the negative aspects of the rules and restrictions. As for housing, two S O parolees sharing an apartment was said to be helpful financially as well as because each can offer the other encouragement and support when needed.

Informative handouts were available for attendees to refer to as needed. That same handout will be available for the asking via UPAN's email or downloading and printing on our website (see p.10 of any UPAN News issue) to all who would like a printed copy.

Finally, a special "thank you" to Pam, owner/operator of Kafeneio Coffee House for her efforts in providing the room for this interesting and important presentation. Ed.

HAVE A VOICE: Special UPAN Meeting FEBRUARY 19th at Kearns Library where families are invited to share their stories about how the children, spouses, parents, siblings, and friends are affected by incarceration. See page 1.

UTAH'S DAY OF EMPATHY TO BE HELD ON MARCH 6, 2018

On March 6th, organizations and criminal justice advocates across the country will activate for a single day of action to spotlight their local efforts and unite under a unified banner to highlight the strength of the bipartisan criminal justice reform movement.

On a national level, "Ambassadors of Empathy" meet with elected officials in State capitols and Governors' offices across the country. They share their experiences and how they have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Legislators gain first-hand experience of the human consequences of a criminal justice system that has gotten too big, too unfair, and too brutal.

By delivering a set of powerful, emotional experiences to lawmakers and fellow Americans, the Day of Empathy accelerates the bipartisan drive to create more effective, efficient, and humane criminal justice system.

Last year, UPAN participated by holding a 3 hour meeting at Kafeneio Coffee House highlighting a variety of speakers who have been involved with or impacted by Utah's Criminal Justice System.

This year, we will gather between 4 and 7 p.m. on the South Steps of Utah's Capitol Building to share our experiences. There will be a variety of speakers and UPAN families are invited to speak this year about their

experiences with the Criminal Justice System in Utah with the focus on how families of Utah Inmates are impacted by having a loved one incarcerated. If you would like to speak, please contact UPAN at

utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com and you will be connected with organizer Britnee Webb.

Life is like a book. Some chapters are sad some are happy, and some exciting. But if you never turn the page you will never know what the next chapter holds. New Perspectives

PrisonEd Report 2017 Quarter 4, December 31, 2017

Email: prisonedfoundation@gmail.com; Address: P.O. Box 382 Spanish Fork, UT 84660 (**NEW ADDRESS**)

The following new courses have recently been added: Great Mentors (autobiographies); Intermediate Algebra; Life Writing: The Psychological Benefits of Optimism. As always, major appreciation is expressed to PrisonEd volunteers, including several new tutors.

Summary Report, 4th Quarter – Note: students who did not participate in 2017 were transferred from Current Student roles to Previous Student roles resulting in a drop of current students listed.

26 new students during past quarter – 346 current students – 340 previous students -- 686 total students ever enrolled -- 499 certificates of course completions awarded.

NUMBER OF COURSE CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION ISSUED: 22 during quarter; 499 overall total

STUDENTS ENROLLED (Numbers in parentheses indicate difference from previous report) NOTE: Because of lack of participation during 2017, 87 students were moved from "Current" to "Previous" status.

	Current Students	Previous Students	Total Ever Enrolled
DRAPER	160 (-59)	140	300
GUNNISON	0 (-8)	55	55
JAILS	186 (+6)	145	331
TOTALS	346 (-61)	340	686

Student Comments:

"I want to say that without these courses offered by your corporation, I'd be sitting idle in prison and not learning and growing in the wide variety of subjects, especially finding inner peace and forgiveness towards myself. Your courses offer and provide hope to me and many others." BR

"I didn't realize how much of an impact this book would have on me and I'm so grateful to read it. This is a book I'll never forget...The things I valued in the past

were so toxic and this is like being thrown a detox." RM
(After reading Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* – part of the Job Success course).

"Thank you for this course and the others offered. They mean so much to me. To know that there are people out in the world that can still see good in men that are incarcerated like myself is encouraging and gives me hope for the future. GL

* * * * *

**"Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat.
It is a temporary detour, not a dead end." Denis Waitley**

In closing this issue: With "cool" in hibernation and looking at what's "hot," we seem to have altered the weather – it's been unseasonably warm! We need cool again; snow for summer water. See the marks » in Contents on p.1. Those are in our pool that's cool. And thank you to all UPAN News readers for your help with the weather, much appreciated! Ed.
Hot heads and cold hearts never solved anything. Billy Graham

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Past-President & Treasurer: Molly Prince
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Secretary: Unfilled
Director of Communications: Shane Severson
Newsletter Editor: Warren Rosenbaum

**"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**