



UPAN Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 1 | JANUARY 2015

"Advocating for a Better Tomorrow"

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Special Note and 2015 Priorities from Our President, Molly Prince

UPAN has concerns about a wide variety of issues that impact inmates and their families and friends. All issues are very important. We have taken the advice of former Rep. Larry Wiley and narrowed the focus down to three major areas of concern for 2015. This does not mean that we won't also work on other concerns. At this time, with the focus on criminal justice reform in Utah and based on the overwhelming concerns we have received from inmates and families, we have narrowed our primary focus this year down to Inmate Placement Program, Board of Pardons and Parole, and Sex Offender issues as outlined here. [Editor's Note: A larger type size is available on the UPAN website for readers who appreciate that format.]

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network -- ACTION/CHANGE Priorities for 2015

1. Inmate Placement Program (IPP) and County Jails
2. Board of Pardons and Parole
3. Sex Offender Population

1. Contracting with County Jails – "Inmate Placement Program"

Currently, the Department of Corrections sends about a quarter of state prison inmates to be housed at various county jails throughout the state. This process is accomplished through contracts between the county and the Utah Department of Corrections. Not all counties participate. Those that do, receive a "per diem" payment from the state for housing the inmates. Many jails are not appropriate for state inmates serving lengthier sentences. Jails are designed to house offenders for up to a year. More than that is not healthy for the incarcerated individual. UPAN would like the following issues to be resolved:

- Programming in all contracting county jails should be consistent and high quality. Programming would include educational opportunities, psychoeducational skills classes, as well as substance abuse and sex offender treatment. The quality of these programs should be consistent across the board and commensurate with the highest standards offered within the prison system.
- There should be consistent and higher standards for family visits in the county jails. Currently there are limited opportunities for meaningful visits for state inmates housed in county jails.
- Inmates should have more flexibility, consistency and efficiency in the transfer of their property (including personal accounts) from one prison placement to another, including county jails. A more consistent policy between prisons and jails and between jails as to the property matrix needs to be developed.
- Families should receive reasonable notification of impending transfers that will still afford security and safety issues required by DOC.
- There should be consistent and higher standards for outdoor access and recreation for prisoners serving long sentences.
- Reasons for moving inmates should be clearly communicated; changing placement should require administrative justification well beyond "bed space needs."

- Inmates should not be moved if such a placement change will result in their being unable to meet the demands of the Board of Pardons and Parole in order to be released on community supervision. Particularly as it relates to programming and employment.

2. Board of Pardons and Parole

Utah's Board of Pardons and Parole is the single state agency that determines the exact length of every state inmate's prison stay. Because of Utah's indeterminate sentencing system, the Board has an incredible amount of power and discretion. Many inmates, their loved ones, their legal representatives and their correctional support staff are losing faith in the Board's ability to make fair, thoughtful and evidence-based decisions related to inmates' rights as well as public safety. UPAN would like the following issues resolved:

- The Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) must work directly and closely with the Sentencing Commission to ensure that sentencing guidelines are reasonable and are being implemented with fidelity.
- BPP should be required to carefully deliberate and extensively justify decisions in which it requires an inmate to serve beyond the guideline "sentence" determined at sentencing by the judge or further, at an original hearing.
- Hearing officers and BPP members need consistent, professional training in best practices for paroling authority representatives.
- BPP and its hearing officers appear to be handling a high number of cases that preclude actual careful consideration of each case; a review of the Board's workload should be initiated to ensure that best practices are being used, and evidence-based decision making actually taking place.
- Family and loved ones of inmates are actively discouraged from contacting BPP to ask questions and receive information from the process; they are warned that their inmates may be targeted for unfair negative attention from the Board.
- Inmates, families and loved ones do not understand the reasons that previously determined parole dates are revoked, or other important decisions rescinded. Currently there is a standard form that the Board uses to check mark reasons for the decisions that is provided to inmates without in depth explanations. All decisions should be explained based on specifics of the individual case, not generalized language. Communication between BPP and those who appear before it must be greatly improved and much more proactive than current practice.
- An inmate should be informed at least two weeks prior to his hearing if there is a possibility that the Hearing Officer or Board Member assigned to the hearing may have a conflict of interest. Current practice is to wait until the hearing starts, the Board Member or Hearing Officer announces to the inmate the reason there may be a conflict of interest and the inmate must make a decision on the spot whether to continue or postpone the hearing. No information is provided to inmate at that time how long the postponement might be. The inmate is not advised that they have the right to legal counsel on this decision, if legal counsel is present. Inmates don't know they can ask. Currently, the inmate is not given time to consider the situation over time or to contact family or legal counsel for advice on how to respond. Inmates are under incredible stress going to their hearings and should be given the courtesy of prior knowledge and opportunity to make a choice prior to the date of the hearing. This necessitates the Hearing Officer or Board Member actually carefully review their upcoming cases ahead of time to ascertain there is not a conflict of interest.
- The state must increase funding for (and ensure the consistent use of) risk assessments and evaluations that can better inform BPP decisions, in the interest of both individual rights and public safety.

3. Sex Offender Population

Nearly one-third of Utah's prison inmates are serving time for a sex-related offense. This is far above the national average, and well above our neighboring states. Utah's policies related to this population – from harsh sentences passed by the Utah State Legislature, to increasingly broad registry requirements – are making the problem worse, not better. These policies are stoking fear in the general population, and are feeding myths about who these people are. While some sex offenders pose a serious threat to the public, not every sex offender poses the same risk – and almost all individuals convicted of sex offense are amenable to treatment. Research shows that with successful completion of sex offender specific treatment, most sex offenders will not commit a new sex-related crime in the community. UPAN would like the following issues resolved:

- The state needs to provide adequate funding for effective treatment of those individuals who are incarcerated for sex-related crimes. There has been no additional funding in this area since 1996 despite the tremendous increase in sex offenders incarcerated and waiting for treatment. The state also needs to provide adequate funding for diagnostic testing and risk assessment both pre- and post-sentence, in order to best identify offenders who can be treated in the community more effectively and with less expense to the taxpayers.
- Utah should eliminate mandatory life without parole sentences, as well as mandatory 25 years to life sentences, for sex offenses. Each offender and case should be examined and determined individually upon the specifics of the case including the offender's history and amenability to treatment.
- BPP appears to be increasingly harsh with inmates serving time for sex-related crimes, regardless of the specific type or degree of the crime. A review of Board practices and attitudes toward this class of inmate is desperately needed, and evidence-based practices instituted as necessary.
- Utah should consider creating more specific classifications across the spectrum of sex related crimes to be used for those on the sex offender registry. It should also include if the offender is participating in, or has successfully completed specialized treatment. The result will be the public can be better informed about which individuals pose real threat to public safety.

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FOCUS GROUP MEETING -- January 5, 2015

Summary of Meeting Minutes

Purpose And Benefits Of FOCUS Meetings

Steve Turley, Division Director of Administrative Services for the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) stated the Focus Group was created to inform inmate families of the processes and practices at the prison. This meeting is not for specific inmate and personal issues. Those issues can be addressed with the corrections administrator over a particular area.

Prison Relocation Status

Turley then gave a brief status update on the Utah State Prison relocation. The Legislature has named several sites that fit the criteria needed for relocation. Three sites are under consideration, other sites may be presented. The three sites are: the area west of the Salt Lake City International Airport, an Eagle Mountain location, and a Tooele/Grantsville area. The Legislature will convene in the next few weeks and decide the location for building the new prison. More information will be available at that time.

Treatment, Education, Life Skills, And Volunteers

Guest Speaker Craig Burr is the Institutional Programming Division Director. He spoke on recent changes made in the Programming Division. The Drug Offender Reform Act (D.O.R.A) and the therapists at the Treatment Resource Centers are now under the direction of Adult Probation and Parole (AP&P). Burr's division is responsible for: all offender treatment, education, and life skills, plus the volunteers that report to Utah State Prison and Central Utah Correctional Facility. Responsibility includes services provided at the twenty-one county jails contracted with UDC.

First Place National Awards For Two UDC Programs

Burr said that UDC's substance abuse programs, specifically, Conquest and Hope, have been nationally

recognized by Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs [a National Criminal Justice Reference Service]. These two programs (Conquest and Hope) are now recognized as training host sites. This means that correctional departments from other states could receive funding to visit Utah to train on these programs. The Ex-Cell Program was a close runner up as well.

New Programs Include Female Offender Mentoring

The Department of Corrections has started several new programs such as the Mentor Program for female offenders. This is part of the Transition Initiative Program. Female offenders are being mentored by volunteers within the community. Six months prior to release female offenders meet with a volunteer mentor. The Mentor and offender discuss a ninety day plan to make/set goals on the six categories for a successful transition. The categories are, Education/Job Skills, Employment, Housing, Child Care, Transportation, Medical/Mental Health.

The mentor will help connect the offender with services to complete these six goals. Volunteer Mentors must complete two hours of Transition Initiative Training followed by training on: communication techniques, building a professional relationship with their protégée, and collaboration with resources and services.

New Programs – Resumes And Housing

Another new program helps offenders create an employment resume. The Draper Institutional Program Education Team and South Park Academy Administration were trained on this program and their teachers will work with offenders to create a resume. A pilot program is planned where UDC will be working with the Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City Housing Authority's to place female offenders in public housing.

Details Regarding CCJJ Report

Burr also spoke on the recent Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) report which states that historically, Utah's imprisonment rate has been well below the national average. At the end of 2013, for example, Utah's imprisonment rate of 244 (per 100,000) was 43 percent below the average state rate of 428. Between 2004 and 2013, the state's violent crime rate fell 4 percent and the property crime rate fell 27 percent compared to 21 percent and 22 percent nationally. However, while Utah's imprisonment rate has remained relatively low, its prison population has grown by 18 percent since 2004, six times faster than the national growth rate of three percent.

Beginning in April 2014, CCJJ analyzed the state's criminal justice system, which included an in-depth review of sentencing and corrections data. Based on this analysis of state corrections and criminal justice data, CCJJ developed a comprehensive set of evidence-based policy recommendations to reduce recidivism, hold offenders accountable, and control the state's prison growth. The policy recommendations are designed to focus prison beds on serious and violent offenders and will result in a significant impact on the state's projected prison growth. [NOTE: One-line summaries of these recommendations were published in the November/December UPAN Newsletter and can be viewed on our website.]

The Sex Offender Treatment Program

Guest Speaker Michael Robinson spoke on the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) of which he is the supervisor. The Board of Pardons and Parole will refer an offender for treatment. Referred offenders are given a 30 day Treatability Assessment. Offenders, who are deemed an appropriate candidate, and are in good standing, will be placed on the SOTP list and will be tracked for entry, according to their re-hearing dates. The Sex Offender Treatment Program is designed to be completed in 18 months. Offenders participating in the

treatment are expected to achieve satisfactory progress at both an intellectual and emotional level.

Follow-up treatment is essential for sex offenders released back into the community. This is called continued care. They must adhere to standards of supervision typical for all parolees, but are supervised more closely, spending more time under supervision and are visited by officers more frequently. In addition to these heightened standards, they must adhere to an additional set of sex-offender specific probation or parole standards and register as a sex offender on Utah's registry.

Doug Fawson, the Victim Advocate for the Department is the invited guest speaker for the next meeting.

Complete minutes are available at the UDC website: <http://corrections.utah.gov/index.php/services/focus-group.html>

Editor's Note On Additional Details

A few details not in the minutes included the point that 400 former inmates with sex offenses who successfully completed SOTP were tracked for repeat sex offenses over a 14-year period with only 2 offenses occurring. That level of risk is significantly lower than the average population! An encouraging statistic since, as we were reminded, about 90% of inmates will be released and will be our neighbors again.

Sex Offender therapy includes disclosures of previously undisclosed offenses but Robinson stated that only the offenses the inmate was charged with are considered for risk assessment purposes. This procedure prevents a violation of the U S Constitution's Fifth Amendment regarding self-incrimination. Regarding prison education to reduce recidivism, inmates must have a minimum 8th grade education level with a goal of achieving a high school diploma.

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Notes from the Breaking Every Chain Meeting in the Provo Library, Saturday, December 6, 2014

Hosted by Jean Hill of the Catholic Diocese of SLC; Anna Brower of ACLU of Utah; and Roderic Land, Calvary Baptist Church Pastor

Myths About Released Offenders

The stigma that accompanies released offenders is couched in myth that is partly due to the media and Hollywood (films). Released offenders are human beings who made a mistake and paid the required legal price. They and their families more closely resemble everyone else than the myths portray them. These myths need to be dispelled as much as possible.

Mentors Are Needed to Help With Re-entry

In helping the released offenders re-enter society, they need a higher self-image than is the usual current norm. Mentors are needed for those who are getting out. Newly released offenders need mentoring for integrating into society again. Mentors will make

integration easier and hopefully avoid return back to prison. Mentors will help minimize the criminal stigma problems that offenders face after release.

Mentors Help Repair Damaged Self-Image

A lot of the damaged self-image is due to the correctional officers hardening over their years on the job. Correctional officers need to develop empathy for inmates and not see them, and treat them, as sub-human beings. At this point, Shauna Denos' comment at the November UPAN meeting (published in UPAN NEWS) was read to the attendees, "remember that both inmates and released prisoners are human beings who made a mistake." Everyone coming in contact with them needs to be reminded of this.

Substance Abuse – Felony vs. Misdemeanor

Every person was asked to introduce themselves by name and religious affiliation, if any. The subject of reducing drug use from a felony to a misdemeanor has been opposed by prosecutors, citing that the threat of prison through a felony conviction is often used to force the offender into therapy or treatment or for manipulating the offender under this threat. The person introducing this subject was in favor of downgrading drug use to a misdemeanor and called the opposition to it by prosecutors as “lazy lawyering.”

Redirecting Kids From The CJ System Is Essential

Some discussion began about kids who are at risk with the suggestion that people and church groups identify them and work to keep them out of the criminal justice system. The admonition is, ‘don’t get caught up in the system; it makes your life very difficult’. Difficult to get jobs, to find a living location, and the offender will live with a stigma that stays with them for a long time and possibly the rest of their life.

Opportunity of a Lifetime Is Happening NOW!

Now is the time, before the next legislative session convenes, to write our legislators, encouraging them to spend criminal justice funds on treatment for offenders and not on more prison beds. In other words, reduce the size of the prison population by treating offenders rather than incarcerating them. The benefits will be threefold: 1) returning a human being into a productive life, 2) cutting the one billion dollar cost of the new prison by half, and 3) reduced costs of lengthy prison sentences that have not shown to improve public safety nor reduce recidivism.

Excerpt from Anna Brower (of ACLU of Utah) Thank You for Attending Email:

The recommendations related to drug possession penalties are getting a LOT of pushback - so a great first step to take, if you'd like to voice your support for these reforms, is to write to Governor Herbert, House Speaker Greg Hughes and Senate President Wayne Niederhauser. You can say that you think the reform recommendations are great, ESPECIALLY the ones about our drug laws, and that you hope Utah will pass *and fully fund* the Justice Reinvestment recommendations.

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Summary of January UPAN Meeting

UPAN’s New Website

Shane Severson, our Website Designer, demonstrated our new website with all its features. Using a projector and screen Shane showed us all details of our very professional website. He mentioned there will be a learning curve that may include some problems and for us to have patience as this addition to UPAN becomes a principle form in our quest to keep people informed.

A New Year With Specific Goals And Action Plan

UPAN President Molly Prince welcomed the group as we start the New Year, 2015. Molly presented on-going and new business, the subjects and action plan details presented on page 1 and 2 of this newsletter. Molly also pointed out that UPAN has two purposes, one being sharing information between members and the second being to focus on specific projects to address to legislators. (This year being the 3 points shown on page 1.)

Volunteer Attorney or CPA NEEDED For Filing Non-profit Status

UPAN’s non-profit status was a point of discussion. Molly stated that UPAN recently received a \$200 donation to move us closer to the \$400 filing fee needed when we seek IRS non-profit status. Now that the filing fee is nearing satisfaction, our next stumbling block is finding a volunteer attorney or CPA who is familiar with the complex forms that need to be completed to the satisfaction of the IRS. A point was made that funds to help with UPAN’s monthly expenses would more likely to be donated from sympathetic

donors when we have the non-profit (tax deductible donations) status.

Further Discussion On Several Subjects

Sex Offender issues were a major point with about an hour invested regarding individual cases and examples. This is a high priority subject with the attendees recognizing and vocalizing many SO issues that need changing. (See Point #3 of Molly’s Action/Change Priorities for 2015 for further details if you haven’t read it.) A school Superintendent/LDS Volunteer in prison/jail issues indicated that Daggett County Jail is offering some college prep classes and that a Building Trades program is under consideration. He said that Utah Workforce Services endorses these efforts and will be helping released inmates prepare resumes for employment.

The John Howard Society of Canada

Also mentioned was the John Howard Society of Canada as a program to review on the internet and model for its help in assimilation of released inmates back into outside society. [Editor’s Note: Every prisoner advocate should Google this organization and read their home page and mission statement. It is encouraging to read what the Canadians have been doing for scores of years to improve their criminal justice system from incarceration to early avoidance of lawlessness and to return released inmates to society by nullifying the stigma of a felon and considering the punishment and penalty ended at release – not continuing for the balance of the former violator’s life.]

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Best Of The Series So Far

This meeting of the Breaking Every Chain series was the most heavily attended so far with over 60 people present. Three half-hour workshops were available allowing everyone to select two of the three within the meeting's time frame.

Health Care & Criminal Justice

This workshop focused on at-risk people because of substance abuse or mental health issues who end up in prison. Incarceration can be avoided in many cases by treatment and therapy. To prove this point, before incarceration, 80% of the men and 100% of the women were living below the poverty level and unable to obtain professional help to overcome substance abuse or obtain mental health services. The poverty level statistics were obtained by testing whether the offender qualified for a public defender. There presently is no source of funds for early treatment, the cost being \$3,500 to \$7,000 per year so the at-risk person ends up in prison at a cost to taxpayers nearing \$30,000 per year. This is a costly double failure with potentially productive citizens being prevented from reaching their potential and at the same time costing taxpayers the difference between incarceration and timely treatment, or well over \$20,000 per year per person.

Low incomes of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per year do not qualify for Medicaid. This is called the "Medicaid Gap." Medical coverage for this group of people could be resolved by the extended Medicaid option that Utah legislators have refused from the federal government. The solution is obvious – fund treatment instead of imprisonment and experience a win-win situation. With an estimated 120,000 substance abusers and 75,000 mental health victims in Utah, a focused reexamination of funding is critical. Attendees were encouraged to contact their legislators and point out it is cheaper to treat "out" than "in." Work on prevention before at-risk people enter the criminal justice system.

Real Reform On The Hill

This workshop included presentations by Mary Jo McMillen, Executive Director of Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) and Anna Brower (ACLU of Utah) on drug law reform, support for ex-offenders, and the problems with the so-called "Good Landlord" program. An At-Risk matrix was drawn on the whiteboard with six boxes to represent

High and Low risk for Mental Health Issues, Substance Abuse Issues, and Crime. Using "x's" an example was shown of a person with high risk for mental health and substance abuse issues but low risk of crime. This indicates that treatment of the mental health and substance abuse issues will likely clear up the crime risk therefore efforts should be made to treat the major problems and jail or prison time for the crime issue should be the lower priority for dealing with this person. A point was made that legislators are unaware of these multi-faceted problems that affect Utah families.

[NOTE: The following points were made by Anna Brower of the ACLU.] GLP stands for Good Landlord Program, however the "Good" description is questionable because of restrictive legislation. The problem could be rectified by giving the landlord the flexibility to decide whether to rent to a convicted felon or not, using the landlord's judgment rather than being encouraged or prevented by law. Where are the released felons going to live when the law prevents them from living near other felons and there is a landlord restriction not to rent to anyone within 4 years of their conviction? An example: A woman is paroled but her husband and kids live in an apartment under the GLP. She cannot move back in with her family. To reunite the family the husband and kids with the paroled wife must relocate if they can find living arrangements that are allowed to include her. Any apartments in the GLP are legally prohibited from allowing them to live there. Anna encourages people to let their legislators know this is an important issue and highly recommends reading on-line the City Weekly article titled Jailhouse Roundabout, dated Nov.12, 2014 about GLP.

Direct Impact Through Volunteer Service

This workshop presented ways to make a difference by direct service with an organization doing good work supporting people in the criminal justice system. Representatives of The Sojourner Group, Journey of Hope, the UDC Mentoring Program for Female Inmates, and the PrisonEd Foundation made presentations explaining their missions, goals, and the benefits derived from participating in their groups. Presenters included Shannon Cox, Captain Bryan Taylor, Don Wright, Virginia Ward, and Patrick Beachley. Volunteers are needed and the personal rewards for helping the less fortunate are valuable memories and build long lasting friendships.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

UPAN February 2015 Meeting -- Monday February 9, 2015

Join us at the Holladay Library at 2150 East Murray Holladay Road, 6:30 – 8:30 PM. The closest freeway exit to this location is 2000 East off of I-215. This will be the night before the Rally. The Denos' will be presenting on preparing for their son's board hearing.

RALLY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Tuesday, February 10, 2015 Noon -- State Capitol, South Steps.

Several groups are joining together to support Utah's "Justice Reinvestment" Criminal Justice Reform Legislation. This package of legislation is an important step in improving Utah's approach to a variety of problems plaguing the criminal justice system. This idea came from Debbie of Utah Prison Support and Anna Brower and the ACLU have connected a diverse combination of community groups that have the common goal of criminal justice reform.

Some of the groups involved in this rally include:

- ACLU of Utah
- Utah Prisoner Advocate Network (UPAN)
- Utah Prison Support
- Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness
- NAMI-Utah
- Disability Law Center
- Drug Policy Project of Utah

For more information contact annabrower@aclu.org
or visit www.aclu.org/criminal-justice/item/936-rally4reform

UPCOMING FOCUS MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Monday March 2, 2015 - Doug Fawson invited guest. Doug handles victim – offender meetings for the prison.
- Monday May 4, 2015
- Monday July 6, 2015
- No meeting in September due to Labor Day Holiday
- Monday November 9, 2015

FOCUS meetings are held at 6 p.m. at Adult Probation and Parole, Region 3 office 36 West Fremont Avenue (1100 South), Salt Lake City. NOTE: The meetings will be held in the training room. Please contact Steve Turley with questions or concerns. 801-545-5633 or sturley@utah.gov

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Details On Groups Needing Volunteers and Useful Information

Female Offender Transition Initiative

This transition program has been in the making for a number of years with the goal of assisting inmates to be successful after their release. The mentoring program has a unique aspect of allowing mentors to work with the inmates inside the prison and continue working with them after their release. This affords the mentors and inmates the opportunity to establish a relationship which has been beneficial in working through challenges together.

All mentors are volunteers and there is no requirement for special education or skills. All that is required is a concern for others and a desire to serve. It is expected that this program will have a significant impact on reducing the recidivism in our state prison. There is a desire to recruit mentors representing all facets of life. On-going training will help any individual be successful in this program. For any interested in serving or for further information please contact.

Bryan Taylor (801-834-7201), Shannon Cox (smillercox@gmail.com), or Viola Murray(vm3223@gmail.com)

Utah Poverty News -- Facts And Stories For People Who Care

When the Utah Poverty News blog is officially launched on January 12, 2015, the goal is to produce a reliable source for accurate information about poverty in Utah. This blog is a project of Crossroads Urban Center but they are interested in working with individuals and organizations who share the commitment to making life better for low income Utahns. If you are interested in posting, or cross posting, content on this blog please contact Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center, 801-364-7765 ex 107.

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Greetings Associates and Friends of PrisonEd,

Below is a summary year-end report of activities. For any interested, attached is an extended report. We are gearing up for significant expansion in 2015 including additional courses such as Entrepreneurship, Write Your Own History, Personal Finance, Ethics, Vocabulary, and others.

We are looking for people who are interested in assisting with courses and providing administrative assistance. Please refer likely candidates to us. There is much good to be done. Thank you for your interest, participation, and support. We wish you a magnificent 2015!

PrisonEd Directors – Don Wright, John Kimball, Vilja Johnson

PrisonEd Summary Report December 31, 2014

Inmates Enrolled By Month:

8	June 30
17	July 31
34	August 31
49	September 30
61	October 31
73	November 30
101	December 31

DISCLAIMER: Formulate your own opinions about the information presented, intended for neutrality, not intending any opinion or comment to be UPAN's position. This information is presented for the reader's enlightenment and evaluation.

ABOUT UPAN: The Utah Prisoner Advocate Network is a non-profit community organization that aims to make navigating that new life less complicated and lonely for inmates' supporters while also advocating for better conditions inside Utah jails and prisons.

Our Mission: To provide a safe and understanding place for families and friends of incarcerated individuals to connect and share their challenges and receive support and information to help them more effectively cope on their prison journey. When a friend or loved one ends up in prison, it's a grueling experience for all involved as the inmate and his or her supporters try to adjust to the rules, regulations and restrictions of a life separated by bars.

Our Goals 1) To create a network of prison family and friends who can contact each other for help and support when various issues come up. To guide each other on who to talk to when a serious problem arises so that we can all effectively learn how to navigate the prison system for the benefit of everyone involved.

2) To identify challenges and problems faced by inmates as they serve their sentences, and then work WITH prison officials and Utah Department of Corrections administration to resolve these problems. The mission of UDC and the prison policies and how

Participation By Facility:

Draper	38
Gunnison	10(significant expansion underway)
Jails	53

Note: Enrollees include 14 female students. We have received assignments back from 65% of students registered in various courses to date.

3 Student Comments

"I am 35 years old, been in prison 10 times – state and federal, come from good parents. Your course has really given me that push to realize that I can turn all this into something positive and helpful to others even though it has started through greed, addiction and selfishness on my part."

"I've been incarcerated for 11 years come July 10th. Over the last 4 months I've been struggling to hang on to hope, hope of freedom, or hope of a higher quality of life for myself, and those around me. You and your associates have given me back hope, and a renewed belief in the good of the human race."

"You are great for trying to help the way you do. Most people despise "inmate criminals," and you see us as human beings with potential for good, who have value and deserve love and help. I love you for that. It is a rare quality to not look down on such as us."

they are carried out impact the quality of life for those living portions of their lives in prison. This, in turn affects their families and support networks. Since the Dept of Corrections has committed to collaborate with other agencies and organizations and systems to provide both community safety and rehabilitation of prisoners, UPAN can hope to become one of those organizations that help to contribute to solution of problems and the rehabilitation of inmates.

3) We want to improve the level of understanding of what happens in prison and how things work for the families of inmates, as well as educate the public about the TRUTH and WHOLE picture of having a loved one in prison. To dispel the MYTHS that all inmates lay around getting special privileges and perks at the taxpayer's expense.

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network

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