



# UPAN Newsletter Volume 5 Number 11 | NOVEMBER 2018

*“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Gratitude – Mail Guidelines – Jail Deaths Frustrations

**NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, Salt Lake City**

**TOPIC:** TBA or Family Meeting  
**All UPAN Meetings are free and open to the public.**

**NOTE: No UPAN Meeting In December 2018**

### **In This Issue:**

Meeting Announcements, UPAN Newsletter Contents in this issue and UPAN Disclaimer	Page 1
» <b><u>Appreciation and Gratitude</u></b> – A Sampling From Eight of Several Inmates	Pages 1-3
» <b><u>Guidelines for Mailing</u></b> Holiday Cards and Letters	Pages 3-4
County Jail Mailing Addresses in Utah 2018 For Sending Inmate Holiday Mail	Page 4
INVEST IN DADS TOO – A Training Program of Both Work Preparation and Job Skills	Pages 4-5
Higher Educational Opportunities at Draper	Page 5
Chyleen (formerly Arbon) Richey (of BOPP) Named Deputy Director of Utah Dept of Corrections	Pages 5-6
» <b><u>Jail Deaths Frustrations</u></b> And Substance Use/Withdrawal Treatment in County Jails	Pages 6-8
The Great Pumpkin Giveaway – Grown By Inmates, Given to Special-Needs School Kids	Page 8
CURRENT AND FORMER INMATES: Your Stories Wanted by <i>US AS ONE</i>	Page 9
UPAN November Meeting Summary	Page 9
» <b><u>Gratitude and Thanksgiving Statements</u></b> from UPAN Directors and Helpers	Pages 9-10
List of UPAN Directors/Officers and UPAN Addresses/Contact Info (also our Facebook page)	Page 10

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

### **A Few Thoughts of Appreciation Sent to UPAN from Incarcerated Individuals**

***This is a sampling of letters of appreciation UPAN has received this year in the spirit of Giving Thanks***

“I know you guys work very hard, everyone at UPAN, volunteers to donate their time, money and supplies to help us out. I really appreciate everything you guys do from the bottom of your kind hearts.” H.D.V.

“Dear UPAN, I cannot laud your combined efforts on our behalf enough. Thank you for all you do. I am so grateful for the sacrifices in your own lives you take for

me and everyone here... Wishing you all clarity of mind and strength of body.” Tom O.

“I will be paroling next month. I have received and read many of UPAN newsletters and wish to convey my many thanks to all who put this together. I can only imagine the work that goes into the UPAN newsletters. A hardy thanks to all who mail it to us. I hope that as

soon as I stabilize I can do something to help and return the kindness. I will continue to follow the newsletter online. Again, thank you all.” Howard H.

“Dear UPAN. I am reading the latest UPAN as of August 2018 and the history of UPAN and all you and the wonderful people that started and maintain UPAN do for us folks caught up in this nightmare. I would like to personally thank you all from the bottom of my heart: Molly and your husband Lacey, Deon Corkins, Shane Severson, Mark Henderson, Rusty Denos, Shauna Denos, Warren Rosenbaum, Faye Jenkins and sooo many others that have given generously of your soul to help us that can’t do a whole lot to help ourselves at this point. Thank you so much and I continuously send love and light to you all’s way.” Curtis Ellis.

“Dear UPAN, by the time you receive this I’ll be at

Bonneville Halfway House. I appreciate all the years of valuable information and help in being allowed to be recognized as alive. Being locked up is like being a ghost. You may be seen or heard, but you really don’t feel you exist in the world. The news that UPAN delivers to us lets us realize there’s a voice for us. Someone who cares and supports us in a more human-like manner. Thank you for being there. Sincerely Ricardo R.”

“Attn UPAN: I would like to say Thank You for all of your time and consideration for all of us! Your newsletters are very informative, desirable, and appreciated. I have no criticism. Only thanks, appreciation, love, and respect for all of the UPAN staff and volunteers. May you all be blessed with many blessings. ☺ I have been receiving the UPAN news since last year and I wish to continue to receive it at my new location at USP.” J.B.

### ***What I Am Thankful For*** **Justin Brinkerhoff**

In my eight years of incarceration, I have grown tremendously. I am truly grateful for having the chance to work on myself and become a new person, a little each day. When I came in, I was angry, selfish, lazy, bound by the heavy chains of depravity. I am now a loving, compassionate, patient, generous person.

I am thankful for all the family that has stuck with me all this time. I’ve met too many men in the system who have been cut off and abandoned by their families and it’s heartbreaking. Family is such a blessing. I’ve learned that they help keep me anchored to the outside world.

I am thankful for all the learning opportunities I have

had. I have been moved around. In one place, I learned drafting with AutoCAD. Another place allowed me the chance to thoroughly develop my singing and guitar playing. In this facility I am taking advantage of the Rosetta Stone software and various books to learn Spanish. In the nine months of my studies, I can read, write, and speak Spanish.

Lastly, I am deeply grateful for all of you at UPAN. Thank you so much for all the changes and breakthroughs you’ve helped usher in. Had it not been for that Board Audit, I likely would have received my whole matrix or more after my first board hearing. As it is, I got four years under my matrix. For all of this and more, I am thankful.

### ***Things I Am Grateful For on My Prison Journey*** by a very grateful inmate

I am an inmate at the Utah State Prison. These are the things I am grateful for on my prison journey:

Two mattresses. I had back surgery and am very grateful to have two mattresses.

Safety. I am very blessed to live in a very safe environment and housing.

Board. I am very thankful that the Board is making efforts to get caught up.

UPAN. I am so thankful for UPAN newsletters and what UPAN is doing to help me as an incarcerated person.

Officers that care. There are some officers that care in here. Examples:

- I was on the phone and an officer told me, “No matter what, do not do what I will say.” He then racked everyone in and let me have time to talk to my family for 5 – 7 minutes longer.
- When the lieutenant and captain found out that my bunk was suffering physically, they both came to see him. The lieutenant kneeled down and tucked

him in. That was a show of caring and compassion that does not always happen in here. My bunk died from liver problems a month later.

- Another officer opens up the big yard on holidays for us when he does not have to. These are little things that make life more humane in here.

3000 books. Barnes & Noble donated 3000 books to the prison. This was also organized by a caring person who had the ability to make this happen.

Bleach. I live in a housing unit that has many older or ill gentlemen. I have had to clean up urine, feces, vomit, blood, pus, and drool. So I am very grateful for bleach and being allowed to use it.

Mental Health. I have the opportunity to learn from a really good mental health therapist.

Volunteers. I love attending AA, LDS Addiction Recovery Institute, Church and Indexing. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers! You make these programs possible and I really need them.

Movies and programs at the Chapel. These not only can be uplifting but can help us continue to have meaning and hope.

Classes. I have learned so much in my LifeSkills and MRT classes that has helped me change my life and address my risk factors along with setting goals to repair damage I caused to relationships.

Hobby Crafts. Friends have made dream catchers from potato chip bags and duck feathers, jewelry boxes from rolled up newspapers, and dragons and unicorns from yarn. I love being able to share these things with my family and friends.

Ducks and Geese. I love watching the ducks and geese fly in and out and walk by our door. It reminds me that the cycle of life goes on.

Parole Length Guidelines. I am very excited about the opportunity to get "good time" reduction in my parole time when I get on parole.

Softball. I have played a lot of softball this summer. An officer plays with us sometimes and hit a home run over the fence.

It is all the little things that I find to be grateful for that help me get through the difficult moments in here.

Happy Thanksgiving. Signed – A very grateful inmate.

## GUIDELINES FOR MAILING HOLIDAY CARDS AND LETTERS by Molly Prince

### For Draper and Gunnison

It is that time of year again! Here are the guidelines for sending in holiday cards. These apply to both Draper and Gunnison prisons. For county jails, this information may be a guideline, but if you are sending holiday cards to them, please see next article in this newsletter to make sure you know their rules. You may also go to the jail website and see if there is any new information about the forms of mail accepted. Some jails only accept postcards.

### Mail Early For Timely Delivery

During December, it is anticipated that the mail room in Draper will sort and screen up to 10,000 pieces of mail. In order to make this process go more smoothly for the mail room staff, which results in our inmates receiving their letters and cards more quickly, it will be helpful to be aware of and comply with the following restrictions and recommendations.

#### Restrictions:

- Only plain bi-fold cards are accepted. No layers, including clear plastic cover layer, and no cards that have two pieces glued together. Sometimes the best place to find this type of card is at dollar stores. Hallmark is mostly layers and glitter these days.
- No musical cards or cards with anything sealed within them.
- No glitter, and no cards with things glued on them. This includes glitter pens / ink.
- Do not put perfume or scents on the contents.
- No stickers can be affixed to either the card or the envelope.
- Do not use crayon, markers, sharpies. Ball point pen is preferred and recommended.
- Seal the envelope the way it is intended to be sealed. Do not use scotch tape or decorative tape on the envelope or card.
- Do not include any blank envelopes or blank paper in the correspondence or it will be returned to you. The prison requires that any envelopes used by the inmates must be purchased through commissary.
- Do not use mailing envelopes with the plastic bubbles inside for padding.

- Sign the card. Cards without signatures will be returned. You can put your first name, Friends of UPAN, etc. The return address must have the same name as the signature inside the card.

#### Recommendations:

The prison mail room staff are required to examine underneath anything that is adhered to the envelope. That is because contraband can be underneath it. This includes stamps and any address labels.

- Write or type the return name and address on the upper left corner of the envelope rather than using adhesive return address labels. If address labels are used, they may be pulled back resulting in tearing.
- The mail room may tear the stamp off the corner of the envelope. This means they may tear the righthand upper corner of the envelope off. To reduce the damage to the envelope, please place your stamp in the far-right top corner. Metered stamps (printed on the envelope) will not be torn off.
- White envelopes are preferred. While there is not an official restriction on colored envelopes, it is recommended we use white envelopes to cut down on processing time. The reason is that colored envelopes are supposed to be taken apart at the glued seams to make sure there is nothing hidden there. They can often see through white envelopes to make sure there is no discoloration or contraband. They cannot see with colors. We were advised several years ago that the prison examines for drugs that may be dissolved and hidden in the seams of colored envelopes.
- If sending large envelopes, the prison recommends that rather than using the gold manila envelopes, use large white envelopes without a clasp. Clasps are glued onto the envelope so the mail staff will have to tear it off. This delays processing.
- MAIL EARLY. In past years, holiday cards delivery has been delayed way past Christmas or New Years due to the challenges for the mail staff to sort and screen. Each year it seems they have more tasks to do in order to screen the mail. Following these rules and recommendations will add to our incarcerated loved ones receiving their mail in a timely manner during the very busy holiday season.



## **COUNTY JAIL ADDRESSES IN UTAH 2018 FOR SENDING INMATE HOLIDAY MAIL**



*Compiled by Audrae Rogers, UPAN Christmas Card Coordinator*

**Note** – Please check the jail website for particulars. For example, some jails will **only** accept standard white postcards pre-stamped purchased from the Post Office. Others will accept some odd-sized postcards purchased at other places.

Beaver County Jail – (no greeting cards or postcards; accepts letters up to 3 pages up to #10 envelope)  
PO Box 391, Beaver, UT 84713  
Cache County Jail – (post card only) 1225 W. Valley View, Suite 100, Logan, UT 84321  
Davis County Correctional Facility – (postcard only)  
PO Box 130, Farmington, UT 84025  
Iron County Jail – (postcard only)  
2136 N. Main St., Cedar City, UT 84721

Purgatory Correctional Facility (aka Washington Co. Jail) (postcard only up to 6" x 11.5")  
750 S. 5300 West, Hurricane, UT 84737  
Weber County Jail – (postcard only)  
PO Box 14000, Ogden, UT 84412  
Garfield County Jail – (email only)  
[gcjailinmate@gmail.com](mailto:gcjailinmate@gmail.com) (Panguitch, UT 84759)

The following jails will receive **normal Holiday Cards** with no layers, stickers, or adornments (see previous article), as of October 2018 this is UPAN's website searches on the internet:

Carbon County Jail, 240 W. Main, Price, UT 84501  
Duchesne County Jail, PO Box 10, Duchesne, UT 84021-0010  
Juab County Jail, PO Box 133, Nephi, UT 84648  
Kane County Jail, 971 E. Kaneplex Dr., Kanab, UT 84741  
Millard County Jail, 765 South Highway 99, Fillmore, UT 84631  
Salt Lake County Metro Jail, 3415 South 900 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84119  
San Juan County Jail, PO Box 788, Monticello, UT 84535

Sanpete County Jail, 1500 South Highway 89, Manti, UT 84642  
Sevier County Jail, 835 East 300 North, Suite 300, Richfield, UT 84701  
Uintah County Jail, 641 East 300 South, Suite 150, Vernal, UT 84078  
Utah County Security Center (aka Utah County Jail), 3075 N. Main, Spanish Fork, UT 84660  
Wasatch County Jail, 1365 South Highway 40, Suite 140, Heber City, UT 84032



**NOTE:** Whether or not post cards or letters, **the return address** on the upper left side of the post card or envelope, **must have a first and last name**, return address, and **must not be a sticker**. Printed block letters are preferred.

### **INVEST IN DADS TOO – A Training Program of Both Work Preparation and Job Skills**

**Invest in Dads Too** is a program resulting from a partnership between several state agencies including the Department of Workforce Services, (DWS) Department of Corrections (DOC), Office of Recovery Services (ORS), Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Davis Applied Technical College (DATC), Granite Peaks, Mountainland Technical College and University of Utah Criminal Justice Center.

It is an intensive training program which will train qualified participants in one of the following Training Programs: Welding; CNC Machining; Machinist; or Medical Device Manufacturing. The participants will be required to attend and participate in Soft Skills Training beginning November 26th and occurring throughout their training program. The Soft Skills Training includes:

Life Skills; Work Readiness; Budgeting; Success in the Workplace; and Skills Workshops facilitated by Licensed Clinical Therapist

**Referral Requirements** The following requirements must be met to be considered for this program.

- Father of at least one child under the age of 18, living in Utah
- Criminal Background
- Have a HS Diploma or GED
- Unemployed or Underemployed
- Able to support themselves during the training. (will discuss during interview)
- Support could also be from family, friends and other
- Housing and living expenses will not be provided
- US citizen or meet authorized employment status (DWS will determine)
- If not living with the child or children, the applicant must be registered as a non-custodial parent with the Office of Recovery Services or be willing to register

#### ***Information Meeting and Testing required***

Interested applicants must attend an Information Meeting to learn about the program requirements. If interested in the program after attending the information meeting, clients will be asked to complete an application and a TABE test. Materials explaining how

to complete these items will be provided during the Information Meeting.

After completing the Application and TABE test, applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview or provided resources for additional services. DWS will determine income eligibility during the application stage.

**Eligibility** for an interview will be based on TABE scores, individual information provided on the application and employer needs. If not selected for an interview, applicants who completed the TABE test and application will be contacted and referred to other training and job search resources.

Interviews will be conducted November 12 – 24th. After all interviews are completed and applicants are selected. 15-20 men will be accepted into the program.

- Workforce Services and Corrections staff have been meeting with employers and training providers to develop partnerships and learn about each employer's interview processes and needs.

- It is important for each applicant to know there is no guarantee of a job. They will receive a referral to an employer or employers, if all benchmarks are passed off during the program. Case Managers will work closely with each participant throughout the program to pass off benchmarks and assist with job search and job readiness activities.

Contact any of the following *Invest In Dads Too* staff to schedule an Information Meeting:

Case Manager- Maren Stevens- 801-694-3497

Case Manager Suprvr- Karen Ellsworth- 385-235-0380

Program Specialist- Marion Eckersley- 801-419-4486

## **HIGHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT DRAPER**

Did you know that the State of Utah provides ongoing appropriations to Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) to support undergraduate coursework in prison?

Also the Univ. of Utah Prison Education Project (UPEP) works closely with SLCC to provide post-secondary educational opportunities to inmates in Draper prison—currently Timpanogos, Wasatch, and Oquirrh facilities.

If you are interested in higher education, please attend one of SLCC's testing dates and/or apply to UPEP.

SLCC provides placement testing throughout the year and all individuals who want to participate are enrolled.

UPEP holds its entrance exam each spring and admission is based on merit and commitment to leadership and civic engagement. Testing and applying are free for both programs and enrolled UPEP students pay nothing to participate.

If you would like to apply to UPEP or have questions about the program, please write to us at: 1721 Campus Center Drive SAEC #2220 Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

To test for SLCC, please write to: Salt Lake Community College Prison Education Program, Miller Campus, Room MPDC 205 B, 9750 S 300 W, Sandy, UT 84070.

## **Chyleen Richey Named Deputy Director of Utah Dept of Corrections**

*Source: UDC Public Information Office, November 8, 2018*

Mike Haddon, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC), has appointed Chyleen Richey (formerly Arbon) to serve as the UDC Deputy Director, overseeing the Training Bureau, Planning and Research Bureau, Administrative Services Bureau, Facilities Bureau, Utah Correctional Industries and the Clinical Services Bureau, as well as assisting with Legislative work. Both Deputies, Jim Hudspeth and Chyleen Richey, will work closely with UDC leadership team in making strategic decisions that lay ahead. "I've known and worked with Chyleen for more than 20 years," Director Haddon said. "She brings to the Department a very unique skill set including a strong understanding of initiatives we are currently working on and experience both with correctional issues and legislative processes. We are very fortunate to have her join our team."

Chyleen moves to the UDC after serving almost seven years on the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP), including her appointment to Chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole in November 2017.

"As a Board member and Chair of the Board, Chyleen demonstrated leadership and vision by advancing quality and process improvements in the parole and pardon process," said Greg Johnson, executive director of BOPP. "In her new capacity she will continue to improve the criminal justice system as she draws upon her ability to bring agency partners together to support common public safety goals."

Chyleen says she will continue to focus on making improvements in Utah's criminal justice system through strategic implementation of evidence-based policies. "It has been a privilege to work with the dedicated professionals at the Board of Pardons and Parole in improving the safety of our communities," Chyleen said. "I look forward to the opportunity to contribute in a different capacity with the same vision."

Chyleen was born and raised in California. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English (1994) and a Master of Public Administration (1996) from Brigham Young University, receiving her Ph.D. in Political Science (2004) from the University of Utah. She worked as a criminal justice policy analyst for the Office

of Legislative Research and General Counsel from 1997-2003 and then as an assistant professor for the Romney Institute of Public Management at BYU from

2003-2010. She then served on the Utah Board of Pardons & Parole. On November 1, 2017 Governor Herbert appointed Chyleen as Chair of the Board.

## **Substance Use Treatment and Withdrawal in County Jails Workgroup** **This Group Faces Challenges from County Sheriffs and Jail Administrators**

by Molly Prince

This article is based on news articles by Mark Shenefelt, Ogden Standard-Examiner, October 3 and 31, 2018; Robert Gehrke, Salt Lake Tribune, November 4, 2018; and 2018's general session SB205 found at <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/SB0205.html>

### **SB205 Incarceration Reports**

Representative Carol Spackman-Moss of Holladay and Senator Todd Weiler of Bountiful sponsored SB205 in the 2018 General Session. This bill relates to in-custody deaths and alcohol and substance use treatment policies in Utah's county jails and the Utah Department of Corrections. The bill requires the UDC and all county jails to report to the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice regarding:

- in-custody inmate deaths;
- treatment policies for inmates with a substance or alcohol addiction; and
- medications dispensed to inmates during incarceration.

### **SB205 also requires:**

- ▶ the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council to convene a workgroup to study alcohol and substance use withdrawal in county jails; and
- ▶ the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice and the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council to report to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.

Many families of incarcerated individuals in Utah were pleased to learn that Rep. Spackman-Moss and Sen. Weiler care enough about the sanctity of human life to get this bill passed in the wake of numerous jail deaths in the past several years, putting Utah with the highest rate of jail deaths in the nation in 2014 (the most recent year that data is available for by the Bureau of Justice Statistics). Utah was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 2012 and the 7<sup>th</sup> highest in 2010. There are 3,283 local jails, and 79 Indian Country jails in the US. *So being highest, or 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for jail deaths is an appalling and terrible statistic for Utah and speaks to the need for improved triage, assessment, and treatment for individuals placed into the care and custody of our jails.*

### **County Jail responsibility –**

The law further requires that in order for Utah to oversee the inmate health care system, each county jail shall submit a report to the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) before August 1 of each year that includes: (a) the number of in-custody deaths that occurred during the preceding calendar year;

- (b) the known, or discoverable on reasonable inquiry, causes and contributing factors of each of the in-custody deaths;
- (c) the county jail's policy for notifying an inmate's next of kin after the inmate's in-custody death;
- (d) the county jail policies, procedures, and protocols:
  - (i) for treatment of an inmate experiencing withdrawal from alcohol or substance use, including use of opiates; and
  - (ii) relating to the county jail's provision, or lack of provision, of medications used to treat, mitigate, or address an inmate's symptoms of withdrawal, including methadone and all forms of buprenorphine and naltrexone; and
- (e) any report the county jail provides or is required to provide under federal law or regulation relating to inmate deaths. For more information go to the actual bill <https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/SB0205.html>

### **CCJJ Responsibility -**

The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice is then responsible to:

- (a) compile the information from the reports provided by the counties;
- (b) omit or redact any identifying information of an inmate in the compilation to the extent omission or redaction is necessary to comply with state and federal law; and
- (c) submit the compilation to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee and the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council before November 1 of each year.

The Substance Use Treatment and Withdrawal in County Jails Workgroup was formed this summer and had its first meetings in October to review the first year's reported data and talk about recommendations for legislators to help jails prevent deaths due to mental health and substance abuse problems.

The information required from each county is intended to provide enough data for the Workgroup to identify areas of concern and formulate recommendations to move forward with policies and procedures which would result in appropriate and effective medical monitoring and care for individuals who are at risk for death for various reasons. Jail inmates have died of drug overdose or withdrawal while in custody, and others have untreated mental illness, thus the inclusion of the Utah Division of Mental Health and Substance abuse in this workgroup.

## **Almost 40% of Utah Jails Did Not Supply Complete Jail Death Data**

Not all of Utah's 29 county jails submitted their reports with all of the required information by deadline for the workgroup and CCJJ to begin working with. It is a disappointment to learn that 10 county sheriffs did not supply any information at all on their jail deaths for the years 2013 - 2016. It was said that part of the reason was a vague description of what was required by SB 205. However, Sen. Weiler believes that they know what they are supposed to provide and simply are not doing it.

CCJJ data coordinator Perillo stated that in the data they did receive, jails only reported causes of death by major or general categories rather than giving the kind of detail necessary to identify the fundamental issues. For example, suicides may have been a result of mental illness or substance abuse, but underlying causes were not reported. In another example, he indicated that one county listed a death as an illness, specifically heart failure, but information that the inmate had been going through drug withdrawal was not indicated as a factor.

## **Beaver County Sheriff is defensive and criticizes the concern about inmate deaths and purpose of the law.**

According to Shenefelt's article on October 31, 2018, Sheriff Cameron Noel, who is also a past chairman of the Utah Sheriff's Association, minimized the fact that Utah has had 71 people die in jail custody between 2013 and 2017. It is estimated that approximately 500,000 people were booked in the Utah's various county jails during that time period. While 71 seems like a small number, to disrespect the sanctity of human life and make comments that blamed those who died, saying it was the life they chose to live and they chose to die, that is callous. He stated, "We've basically been hammered the past few years because of some of these few deaths." He was referring to county jails and sheriff's offices. He also was reportedly defensive and insisted that Utah's county jails do an "excellent job" dealing with people who need medical attention, despite the numbers.

Shenefelt quotes Spackman-Moss as responding to Noel by saying, "It's not just the numbers, sheriff," People are dying and we need to find out. How could it not benefit everybody to find these best practices?" UPAN whole-heartedly agrees!

## **Workgroup Members' Comments**

The October 31 Standard Examiner article outlined comments from a variety of workgroup members. Mary Jo McMillen, executive Director of Utah Support Advocates for recovery Awareness (USARA) responded to Sheriff Noel's blaming the deceased inmates for their deaths, "It's not just their choice. They are suffering from a diagnosable condition. This is a suffering person who may not have anybody to help."

"We need to find out why" the 71 deaths occurred, said Marina Lowe of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Utah. "We have an opportunity to dig in. We can always do better. It's still 71 deaths that could have perhaps been prevented."

Santiago Cortez, CEO of Clinical Consultants and chairman of the state substance abuse treatment committee, said the workgroup may be able to identify solutions to help the jails and inmates overall. "There are tons of people who go into jail with withdrawals," Cortez said. "We could eliminate lots of problems and some deaths. This is not about casting blame."

Darcy Goddard, a Salt Lake County district attorney and the chairwoman of the workgroup has concerns that the available data from the first year of collecting it from the counties may not be enough to see meaningful solutions.

In an earlier meeting of the Workgroup on October 2 concerns about the relevance and timeliness of the data were expressed. The 2017 data being collected now is almost a year old. Dr. Joseph Miner, Utah Department of Health executive director, said "more real-time data" is needed. He said it might be possible for the committee and the justice commission to get faster access to state medical examiner reports on causes of death, according to the October 3<sup>rd</sup> article in the Standard Examiner.

In that same meeting, Thomas Dunford, who manages state jail certifications for the Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health (DSAMH) is quoted as saying, "We need to look at what the trends are" on addiction and withdrawal in the jails. You may miss what's trending." He also indicated that current drug program certification requirements the state sets for the county jails are not overly stringent. "We did not want to force the counties into something they couldn't do, so we left it broad," Dunford said. "We wanted to be friends with the counties rather than an enemy. Some felt they were forced to provide this extra help that they had no funding for."

Dr. Edward Redd, a legislator representing Cache County, is also a medical services provider for the Cache County Jail. In the October 2 meeting he is quoted as saying, "My concern is that every county is a little different. How can we improve the problem and reduce deaths? What are the standards of care and how can we help the smaller counties? That's going to be a big deal."

In the October 30 Workgroup meeting, Angela Perillo, the data coordinator for the Utah CCJJ referred to the information gathered as "a jigsaw puzzle." The workgroup needs all the pieces to get a picture of the myriad of issues that contribute to the problem.

"We need to focus on the best way to get people off of drugs when they get to jail, and share those policies,"

said Reed Richards of the Weber County Attorney's Office. But Tim Whalen, director of Salt Lake County's behavioral health services, cautioned that an earlier screening program in the jails by the justice commission two years ago had limited success. Health privacy concerns limited data sharing and then funding dried up.

Sen. Todd Weiler appears disgusted by the resistance some of Utah's sheriff's are demonstrating. In Robert Gehrke's commentary in the SL Tribune on November 4 quotes Weiler as saying, "I get it. For Noel and his fellow sheriffs, all of this concern over people dying in their jails has got to be a real inconvenience. But policymakers ask these questions for a reason, so we know if we have a problem, where we can do better, and how one jail can learn from another jail's experiences."

Gehrke's comments suggest that if Beaver County Sheriff Cameron Noel does not like what is happening nor want to provide data and finding ways to improve needed care in the jails, "then maybe the solution is for the state to pull its 150+ inmates out of Beaver Co. Jail along with all the state taxpayer money that goes to fund keeping state inmates in county jails. Gehrke states in his article, "This year, according to Beaver County's budget, they are planning on \$7.3 million in taxpayer money to warehouse state inmates" in their jail.

UPAN does not know which ten counties failed to supply the information to the Workgroup. At the end, the workgroup voted to collect more mental health and substance abuse screening policy

information from the counties before it can move forward.

The justice commission and the drug task force are working on tight timelines. They must finish their work and report to the 2019 Legislature before the start of the year. However, almost all county sheriff's offices missed the deadline to file their first annual report of jail deaths and withdrawal information by August 1, and most counties didn't get their reports in by Aug. 31, said David Walsh, deputy director of the Utah CCJJ.

**LATE UPDATE as of November 16<sup>th</sup>.** The panel had until the end of November to submit its final report to the Legislature. It has managed to get information and the report was released. It shows 38 of 71 reported jails deaths from 2013 through 2017 were suicides, and that 31 deaths occurred within the first seven days behind bars. The Utah State Prison submitted 2017 data indicating that of the 20 inmates who died in 2017, 15 died of illness, two from suicide, two from drug or alcohol intoxication, and one was listed as "other/unknown" according to Jessica Miller's article in the SL Tribune on November 15. The panel members hope to be able to recommend some sort of additional support to the counties via the Legislature in the form of more funding for effective screening. **EDITOR'S NOTE: Everyone** who has access to a computer should read the Standard Examiner article. **Google:** Ogden Standard Examiner Mark Shenefelt Oct 3rd 2018 Scroll down about five entries to find it. Jessica Miller's November 15<sup>th</sup> Salt Lake Tribune article is available at [www.sltrib.com](http://www.sltrib.com). It is all eye opening and frustrating! Ed.]

## THE GREAT PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY

*Adapted from a Posting on the UDC Website Public Information Office, Oct. 26, 2018*

Inmates at Utah State Prison may never see the faces of the special needs students at Kauri Sue Hamilton School in Jordan School District as well as students at Jordan Valley School in Canyons School District. Yet they know those faces brightened at the sight of hundreds of pumpkins donated to their school Tuesday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The inmates spent the last six months growing pumpkins from seeds, a process that's continued for the last quarter-century -- with both the students and inmates benefiting from the program.

"Our students never meet the prisoners," said Rita Bouillon, principal at Kauri Sue Hamilton. "But there is a strong bond there."

Inmates participating in Utah Correctional Industries' greenhouse program grow several types of pumpkins, including special varieties such as the Warty Goblin and Cinderella. Most, however, are the traditional orange that are a staple of Halloween decorations. Each year, hundreds are donated to schools for special needs.

"It's one of the few opportunities for them to give back to the community," said Todd Barszcz, a Utah Correctional Industries program specialist. "And [the inmates] know that [the pumpkins] go to the people who need them the most." Though they don't see the distribution of the fruits of their labors, the inmates know the impact it has.

"There is no other program in prison that has changed my heart like this one has," wrote one inmate working on the program. "I will never look at a pumpkin again without thinking of what it means to these children."

"Making a small sacrifice of sweat and hard work to grow pumpkins that may light up a child's life for a day makes me feel like a part of society and like the man I want to be," wrote another.

The students are allowed to pick one for themselves, and the opportunity to make their own selection is one of the highlights for the kids, according to Bouillon. Many will walk around until they find the right one.



Others will tap “yes” or “no” cards when shown a pumpkin.

“It’s like magic,” noted Bouillon. “Many of our kids are

non-verbal; when they make a choice, it warms my heart. It shows they have an opinion, a thought on things.”

## **CURRENT AND FORMER INMATES: Your Stories Wanted By US AS ONE**

**Us As One** is an organization that is dedicated to telling stories and experiences in order to increase understanding, compassion, and connection. We conduct interviews where we ask people to shed light about an aspect of their identity or life experience so that others can become more aware of what it might be like to walk a mile in another’s shoes. We have published interviews on our website ([us-as-one.com](http://us-as-one.com)) from various perspectives, such as: veterans, LGBT, Muslims, the elderly, and police officers.

We are looking for people who are or have been in prison to share their story as we feel this is an important group to feature. We can conduct interviews by email or through letters and our interviews are posted anonymously on our website, [us-as-one.com](http://us-as-one.com).

If you are interested in being interviewed, or have questions, send a letter to: Andrea c/o *Us As One* PO Box 900952 Sandy, UT 84090 or contact Andrea at: [andrea@us-as-one.com](mailto:andrea@us-as-one.com)

### **November UPAN Meeting**

On a chilly, Veterans Day Holiday evening, about 43 persons attended the November UPAN meeting. After several announcements and updates on pending rule changes and legislation, the balance of the time was spent as a family meeting. Personal and widespread problems were brought to the group by several attendees. Comments and exchanges of information and recommendations to satisfy those problems were freely given by experienced and knowledgeable attendees. This, is a priority benefit of attending UPAN monthly meetings.

Audrae Rogers presented on the Christmas Card Design Contest winners and honorable mentions who were announced as their submission was shown to the group. Several caught the audience off-guard with the detail and creativity shown and they applauded the cards as they were shown. Details on mailing holiday cards to inmates was presented. Also, the county jails’ varied mailing rules was covered. More volunteers for mailing agreed to help via a signup clipboard.

Britnee Webb updated us on the First Step Act, proposed legislation at the **federal** level. This will greatly improve the criminal justice system for families, terminally ill inmates, and rehabilitation (improved-behavior therapy classes) and shorter sentences for qualified offenders. Help pass this legislation. Go to [FirstStepAct.org](http://FirstStepAct.org) notify the senators suggested, then

place the prepared statement on Twitter, Facebook, and email some friends. This may trickle down to the State level as an approved precedent.

Faye Jenkins spoke on the criminal code review and minor changes passed unanimously by the review committee, now awaiting passing in the coming Utah legislative session. Molly covered some of the UPREP problems at CUCF with non-accredited classes needing security that is unavailable (and needs funding). Other subjects discussed were: risk assessment for community treatment, SO therapists’ qualifications, restricted housing, and inmates visiting privileges with their own children. New supervision guidelines (on parole) will take effect January 2019. Also stressed were civility, respect, and gratitude as primary guides when dealing with prison staff. A grateful “Thank you!” goes a long way.

Last but far from least, UPAN needs volunteers to follow up on the several subjects discussed above. Think about helping UPAN’s overworked directors and current volunteers. Talk to Molly or Shane. This year we have added Deon (inmate newsletter mailing list), Faye (SO issues), Mark (tech assistant), Brittnee has expanded her role (federal level CJS issues), and Ernest has become involved. Other critical issues need volunteers to monitor, advocate, and report on.

### **What I am Grateful For on Our Prison Journey – Faye Jenkins**

**Reminder, An Anniversary** – My husband was incarcerated the day before Thanksgiving one year ago. Thanksgiving Day will be his one-year mark. In spite of this difficult reminder, while reflecting on this past year I can identify many reasons to be grateful.

**New Friendships** – From day one, my husband has been surrounded by good, kind men who supported him during his transition into prison and others who continue to be there for him during the highs and lows of incarceration. Additionally, I have found my own network of

support – friends I’ve made while visiting the prison, through involvement with UPAN, as well as others I’ve met who embrace similar interests and goals of improving the criminal justice system.

**A New Perspective** – My eyes have been opened to the power that comes through humility, acknowledging and accepting complete responsibility for one’s offenses, and using that humility to change - softening a hurt or broken heart which opens the path to healing. I now see incarceration as an opportunity for new

beginnings. Likewise, I have been awed by the strength of family members who carry on for 5, 10, 20 or more years caring for their responsibilities at home while providing important emotional and financial support to their incarcerated loved ones. These are powerful examples of endurance and love.

**A Changing Criminal Justice System** – The CCJJ, Sentencing Commission, Courts, UDC, and BOPP are changing policies to focus on treatment, risk, and helping individuals successfully transition back into the community. Examples of these changes include assessing a person's risk when implementing bail or passing judgement, such as allowing for treatment in the community during probation in place of prison; multiple treatment paths for sex offenders in prison; BOPP allowing earlier releases than before for low risk offenders; AP&P's community reentry program; and the

new supervision length guidelines. There is a noticeable attitude change within the criminal justice system for which we are now realizing positive results.

**The Courage To Act** – Doors have been opened for me and others as we advocate for change. I am excited and hopeful to see bills coming forward soon with positive changes to Utah's sex offender registry. UPAN, created 5 years ago by some like-minded courageous people, provides the organization needed to bring people together as a collective voice to build relationships, address problems, and seek better solutions.

Sure, it's hard. I miss my husband and my kids miss their dad. Regardless, it is easy to recognize many positive blessings this Thanksgiving season.

### *A Thanksgiving "Thanks"*

It's time to recognize the commitment of many toward reform in the workings of the Utah Justice System. First, to Governor Herbert several years ago for wanting a more just system, announcing the "Justice Reinvestment Initiative," referred to as the "JRI" on the hill. Thank you to the Legislature, committees and departments of government that have pushed forward the Governor's plan with improvements of the criminal

code, and more rational sentencing and parole rules. Thanks to a more progressive management in the Department of Corrections that has shown a great spirit of cooperation with UPAN. THANK YOU to all the people that serve, in and out of prison, that give so much to support UPAN in its advocating for Utah prisoners. A Special Thanksgiving to YOU! Submitted by a former inmate, ER.

### **Gratitude Thoughts from UPAN Director and Newsletter Editor – Warren Rosenbaum**

I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute toward helping families and inmates with information pertinent to their current involvement with the criminal justice system. Also, I'm grateful for the small role I'm allowed to play in improving the system toward rehabilitation of deserving offenders. Offenders, for the most part, often experience remorse for their offense(s) and are eager to make amends and return of families with a non-recidivism attitude. These offenders should be quickly identified and programmed into a plan that will support and facilitate that attitude. Then, those considered as

low risk should have that assessment confirmed by tests and behavior patterns followed by a BOPP hearing, and release should happen ASAP. Last but not far from least, I hope some of my efforts will result in treating offenders as human beings with smiles, kind words, fair treatment, and with the respect all human beings deserve. These criminal justice system steps are part of my reasons for being grateful and playing a small role as the system progresses toward these improvements.

***Gratitude for the good things, Helping Others, and Making Parole Successful – now that's all cool. Ed.***

### Utah Prisoner Advocate Network

P.O. Box 464, Draper, UT 84020  
Website: [UtahPrisonerAdvocate.org](http://UtahPrisonerAdvocate.org)  
Email: [Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [Facebook.com/UtahPrisoner](https://www.facebook.com/UtahPrisoner)  
(go here to view recent UPAN meetings)  
President: Shauna Denos  
Past-President & Treasurer: Molly Prince

Vice-president: Unfilled  
Secretary: Unfilled  
Director of Communications: Shane Severson  
Newsletter Editor: Warren Rosenbaum  
Inmate Newsletter Volunteer Coord: Deon Corkins  
Director of Sex Offender Policy Issues: Faye Jenkins

**"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**

*UPAN WISHES ALL INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS & THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!*