

January 5, 2015

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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DATE: January 5, 2015

In Attendance:

*Present UDC staff : Steven Turley-Conducting, Craig Burr, Michael Robinson, Brooke Adams, Monica Biorge. Also present; Deborah Stone, Andrea Peterson , Warren Rosenbaum, Audrae Rogers,, James Evans, Shauna Denos, Robert Denos, Molly Prince, Holly Moore, Heather Fabian, Sally Rodriguez, Becky Rathke, Tanja Schaffer, Charles Greenland, Miriam Greenland, Pam Day, Shane Day, Roy Droddy, Victor Cortez, Maria Cortez.*

Steve Turley is Division Director of Administrative Services for the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC). Steve provided a copy of the agenda and a list of the dates that the Focus Group Meetings will be held in 2015. He then asked for all present to introduce themselves and welcomed all the new attendees.

Steve Turley stated the reason the Focus Group was created. The Focus Group was formed with the intent to inform inmate families of the processes and practices at the prison. This meeting is not for, specific inmate and personal issues. These issues can be addressed with the corrections administrator over a particular area.

Steve 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. There are three sites under consideration and other sites may be presented. The three sites in consideration as of now are, the area west of the Salt Lake City International Airport, an Eagle Mountain location, as well as the Tooele/Grantsville area. The Legislature will determine where the new prison is to be built. The Legislature will convene in the next few weeks and more information will be available at that time.

Guest Speaker, Craig Burr was introduced by Steve Turley. Craig Burr is the Division Director of the Institutional Programming Division. Craig gave an update on the recent changes made within 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). The Institutional Programming Division is responsible for all offender treatment, education, life skills, and the volunteers that report to Utah State Prison and Central Utah Correctional Facility, as well as these services that are provided at the twenty one county jails that are contracted with UDC.

Craig announced that UDC's substance abuse programs, specifically, Conquest and Hope, have been nationally recognized by Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Programs as national programs. These two programs 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.

The Department of Corrections has started several new programs.

Such as, the Mentor Program for female offenders. This is part of our 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 and 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 and connect the offender with services to complete these six goals. Volunteer Mentors are required to complete two hours of Transition Initiative Training, also follow-up trainings on, aspects of strength based communication, professional relationship building and collaboration with resources and services.

Another new program is a program created to enable offenders to create an employment resume. The Draper, Institutional Program Education Team and South Park Academy Administration have been trained on this new program and their teachers will work with offenders to create a resume.

A pilot program is being established. The Utah Department of Corrections will be working with the Salt Lake County and Salt Lake City Housing Authority's, to place female offenders into public housing. This program is just getting started.

Craig also spoke about a report issued by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. This report 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. These recommendations are:

- **Recommendation #1-** Revise drug penalties to target chronic felony offenders and drug dealers, who sell in the presence of minors and where minors are likely to be.
- **Recommendation #2-** Revise criminal history scoring to avoid double counting and limit factors to those most relevant to the risk of re-offense.
- **Recommendation #3-** Revise Sentencing Guidelines for certain lower-level crimes.
- **Recommendation #4** – Establish formal graduated revocation caps for technical probation revocations
- **Recommendation #5** – Establish formal graduated revocation caps for technical parole revocations.
- **Recommendation #6** – Establish a system of earned time credits offered by Board
- **Recommendation #7** – Implement a graduated sanctions and incentives matrix
- **Recommendation #8** – Establish a system of earned compliance credits on supervision

- **Recommendation #9** – Expand treatment services
- **Recommendation #10**-Establish treatment standards and certification
- **Recommendation #11** – Establish standards for recovery and reentry support programs
- **Recommendation #12**- Enhance transition planning, supports, and services for offenders returning to their communities.
- **Recommendation #13** - Reclassify moving vehicle misdemeanors in order to focus jail resources on higher level offenders and relieve undue burdens on localities
- **Recommendation #14** – Establish evidence based jail treatments standards
- **Recommendation #15**- Establish a county performance incentive grant program
- **Recommendation #16** – Provide better support to victims of crime
- **Recommendation #17** – Provide enhanced training for decision makers and community supervision officers
- **Recommendation #18** – Require collection and reporting of key performance measures and establish oversight

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.

Guest Speaker Michael Robinson was introduced. Michael is a supervisor with the Sex Offender Registry. He spoke on the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP). The Board of Pardons and Parole will refer the offender for treatment. Referred offenders are given a 30 day Treatability Assessment upon entry into Receiving and Orientation. (R&O). 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 take 18 months to complete. Offenders participating in the treatment are expected to achieve satisfactory progress at both an intellectual and emotional level.

Follow-up treatment is often key, for those offenders who have already served prison time and have been released back into the community. These individuals must adhere to standards of supervision typical for all parolees, but they are supervised more tightly, normally spend 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. They must also adhere to State laws and register as a sex offender on Utah’s registry.

Steve Turley, thanked all for attending the meeting and stated, that, Doug Fawson the Victim Advocate for the department will be in attendance at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned

***PLEASE NOTE: Next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2015. The meetings will now be held in the training room at the AP&P Region III office.***