

DATE: January 6, 2014

In Attendance:

Steve Turley-conducting, Larry Bussio, Jerry Pope, Alfred Bigelow, Norma Bench, Judy, Glen Collett, Henry Ross, Theresa Ross, Annie Crawford, Becky Rathke, Lee, Chris Moon, Heather Fabian, Debbie Stone, Vicky Westmoreland, Molly Prince, Christopher LeJeane, Wayne Parker, Irma Music, Brianna, Tanya Schaffer, Kris,

Steve Turley is the new chair of the focus group. He is replacing Craig Burr.

Steve Turley then introduced himself, and asked that the group introduce themselves.

Steve then spoke about the following:

- He suggested that families attend the orientation for, “Families of New Offenders” being held on the first Tuesday of every month at the Fred House Academy at 6:00pm.
Fred House Academy is located at 14727 Minuteman Drive, Draper Utah, (801) 495-6601.
- He will ask to have a representative from: Inmate Funds Accounting, and the Inmate Mail Department, to be present at the next meeting.
- Steve explained the reason why some policies have been put into place.
- Call Lee Ann Jentzsch, at 801-576-7230, for public awareness information.
- If you do not know the name of your inmate’s case worker , contact 801-576-7000, and you will be given that information.
- Steve Turley’s email address is: sturley@utah.gov and contact number (801) 545-5633.
- Steve stated that this was not the forum to discuss issues regarding a specific inmate. Warden Alfred Bigelow would be the person to contact to discuss specific inmate issues.
Contact Warden Bigelow at (801) 576-7452 or email acbigelow@utah.gov.
- Schedule for the 2014 Focus Meeting as follows:
Monday, January 6, 2014: 6PM
Monday, April 7, 2014: 6PM
Monday, July 7, 2014: 6PM
Monday, October 6, 2014: 6PM

GROUP DISCUSSION:

Moving the location of the meetings was raised. The group stated it would like to keep meetings at the current location: Adult Probation & Parole Region III office, 36 West Fremont Ave (1100 South) Salt Lake City, conference room off of main entrance.

The Focus Group would like the minutes of the meetings, to be posted on the Utah Department of Corrections website as it has been done in the past. This was agreed and the minutes will be posted on the Utah Department of Corrections website and emailed to those who provided their email address.

Warden Bigelow introduced himself and gave his contact information:

acbigelow@utah.gov or (801) 576-7000.

Group Discussion of the following questions:

Update on the progress of the following questions will be provided by Deputy Warden Bussio

1. *Visitation at Uintah one, why does it take so long to get inmates into the visiting area?*

Warden Bigelow explained that it takes time to get visitors from the previous visit checked out and the next group of visitors checked in also, that evening visits start around dinner time and inmates eat before they come into visit. He will look into possibly adjusting the visiting schedule by 15-30 minutes.

2. *Inconsistencies of the officer on duty, some officers approve/allow a piece of clothing to be worn whereas another officer will not.*

Deputy Warden Bussio said, there has been a slight turnover of prison staff the past few months. He will also check into the training, officers have received and try to make the process more consistent.

3. *Dress code for visitors. Some officers allow visitors to change clothing and return, others will not.*

Deputy Warden Bussio stated the current dress code policy is under review and maybe amended on the next policy revision. Also, he will look into the discrepancies between the officers to make sure policy is being followed.

4. *Why there are handcuffs and shackles on some inmates during visitation?*

This is for safety and security reasons, policy will not be changed.

5. *Food/Drinks are not allowed to be brought into the visiting area?*

This policy is in place to keep contraband from being hidden in food/drinks. "Nothing in and Nothing out."

6. *Being turned away because visitation privilege has expired.*

Deputy Warden Bussio said, this policy is being revised to read : " Visitors, will be allowed to visit one time after expiration", which will give the visitor time to renew.

7. *What are the visitation rules for new born babies?*

Newborn babies will be allowed a 30 day visitation period after birth. After this 30 day period, they will be required to have the completed paperwork as any other child, approved for visitation.

8. *Question on new rule on seating in visiting area.*

New policy states "Visitors are to sit across from the inmate". This was put into place, to reduce and stop contraband from being passed between visitor and inmate.

9. *How many visitors allowed on visiting list, why are there only five non-family members on the list?*

Deputy Warden Bussio said that there is a limit on non-family members, because of the sheer number of applications that are received and the time it takes to process the applications. However immediate family is unlimited and the policy has been revised to allow step children to be included as immediate family.

10. *Why are toys not available in the visiting area for children to play with?*

DIO Director Pope, stated that toys are not allowed due to several issues such as: the sanitation of the toys, the noise level caused by children playing and the possibility that toys can be disassembled and taken back into housing units and made into weapons.

11. *Allowing children to take coloring pages home.*

This has been approved and children can now take home coloring pages.

12. *Are tours of the prison allowed?*

Warden Bigelow stated that tours are not given to the general public however he would be willing to take a group of 15-20 people from this meeting on a tour. Also, there is an, interactive panel with offenders called, "Public Awareness", where participants can ask offenders questions. This panel is available to the general public. Call his office to make arrangements or for further information.

If you have questions regarding any of these topics discussed. Please, contact, Steve Turley at sturley@utah.gov or (801) 545-5633.

Meeting was adjourned

