

CORRECTION CONNECTION

November 2008

A newsletter for Juvenile Justice Services' Staff and Stakeholders

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Next Month

Winners of the T-Shirt contest.

Update on the changes with the division and the budget.

Submit your questions events or brags to Lisa lschauer@utah.gov.



Director's Notes

SALT LAKE VALLEY DETENTION

As most of you are aware, Salt Lake Valley Detention is owned by the state but privately operated. The facility has been on a five-year contract cycle. The most recent contract period expired July 1, 2008. In advance of the contract ending, a Request For Proposal (RFP) development committee was convened and spent more than six months developing an RFP. The RFP was published early this year and private providers submitted proposals. Both the technical proposal and cost proposal were read and scored for each proposal submitted. Based on scores, the contract for Salt Lake Valley Detention was awarded to Cornerstone. Prior to the contract award Salt Lake Valley Detention had been operated by Abraxis Youth and Family Services (Cornell Corporation). Cornell contested the award to the State Division of Purchasing and General Services. During the appeal process the change in facility management was put on hold. In late August the decision was made to support the award to Cornerstone. Cornell filed a lawsuit in Third District Court but later withdrew the suit. Cornerstone officially took over the control of the facility on October 1, 2008. Nearly all existing employees have been retained by Cornerstone and services are expected to continue as usual. The transition from Cornell to Cornerstone went smoothly due to the cooperation from both agencies.

LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION

Due to the downturn in the economy, State revenue estimates used for the budget year FY09 are lower than projected. The Governor called a 2nd Special Session of the Legislature to address the revenue shortfall. The JJS management team submitted a 3% reduction plan. Ultimately a 4% General Fund reduction was required to be made to most agency budgets. For JJS, the State fund reductions equal \$3,620, 300. Due to federal funding within JJS programs, the actual annual reductions will total about \$4,320,800.

AREAS IMPACTED OR ELIMINATED WITH THE BUDGET CUTS:

JJS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- Cuts are \$85,000. Much of this will be realized via the departmental restrictions on travel, training, and computer purchases, along with not filling vacant positions in the state office.

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

- Almost \$1.5 million of the community placement funds were cut. This has the potential of eliminating services to about 31 clients per day. Since client counts have been lower than budgeted, it is anticipated that JJS will still be able to address the current client demand for these services through private provider contracts.

OFFICE OF RURAL PROGRAMS

- The Vernal Receiving Center has been closed, saving about \$400,000 annually. The closest receiving center for Vernal is now in Roosevelt. This closure impacts seven employee positions. The impact on local law enforcement is not known.

OFFICE OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

- State Supervision services are provided via private provider contracts. Cuts of \$1,180,000 annually will leave only \$960,000 for those services. JJS Management is still working out the details of how to service as many of those clients as possible.

OFFICE OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

- Mill Creek Youth Center will close a living unit to provide a savings of \$630,000. Clients will be redistributed to other living units. Ten employees will be reassigned.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- The Reflections female program will close at a cost savings of \$520,000. Eight employees are impacted.

Where employee positions are eliminated, the goal of management is to realize the savings through attrition, wherever possible.

WHAT IS GRAMA?

By Mary Hoffman

GRAMA stands for Government Records Access and Management Act (Utah Code Annotated, Title 63G, Chapter 2), which was passed in 1992. It governs how government records are classified, retained, archived, provided to the public and /or shared with other agencies. Because we are all government employees doing the State of Utah/Division of Juvenile Justice Services work, the records that we receive, retain, own and prepare are governed under this Act. A “record” includes books, letters, documents, paper, photographs, film, audio and video recordings, electronic data (including voice mail and e-mails) and documentary material. GRAMA recognizes two constitutional rights; the public’s right to access information about the government’s business and the right of privacy concerning personal information gathered by the government. GRAMA sets up five classifications that are used to designate what the public’s access to a record will be. These designations include Public, Private, Controlled, Protected and Exempt. A record is public unless otherwise expressly provided by statute. Public records are open for public review and includes information currently on the Division’s web site. However, most records that we create regarding JJS youth are classified as “Private”, which are open to the (adult) subject of the records or to the parent or legal guardian of a minor who is the subject of the record. We can also provide access to private re-

ords with a signed dated, notarized release from the subject of the record, or to other governmental entities, under the record sharing provisions of GRAMA.

- Controlled records typically include medical, psychological evaluations and psychiatric records about a client.
- Protected records include most government records that aren’t public.
- Exempt records means GRAMA doesn’t apply.

GRAMA also allows us to share our records with other governmental entities upon request and if it is necessary to perform their duties and functions.

All requests for records must be in writing including requests from other governmental entities. **THE EXCEPTION TO THIS IS WHEN WE SHARE INFORMATION REGARDING A YOUTH TO A CONTRACTED PROVIDER AS PART OF THE REFERRAL OR PLACEMENT PROCESS.** It is a class B misdemeanor if a public employee intentionally discloses or provides a copy of a private, controlled, or protected record to any person knowing that such disclosure is prohibited. To protect our employees, the Division has appointed and trained personnel who can process all GRAMA requests. The Division’s GRAMA Coordinators include:

Theresa Oram, Ogden
Vicky Turner, Salt Lake
Brandee Nuzman, Springville

If you receive a verbal or written request for any record, it is very important that you contact one of the Coordinators IMMEDIATELY. Written requests must be processed within ten (10) working days (this includes Friday).

Media requests are usually expedited (must be processed within 5 working days). All media requests must be sent to Dan Maldonado, JJS Director, or Gaby Anderson, Deputy Director, as soon as it is received.

Court Orders and Subpoenas must be sent immediately to the DJJS Administration Office, Attention: Mary Hoffman, JJS GRAMA Officer, for processing through the Attorney General's Office.

QUESTIONS? Contact Your GRAMA Coordinator or Mary Hoffman at the DJJS Administrative Office (801) 538-8279

TRAINING UPDATE

Tom Garriga has retired and terminated his contract with JJS. He will no longer be training on Positive Control. As a result the Division has been looking into other crisis intervention systems. A Request for Proposal was published and a small group of JJS employees were asked to read and rate the proposals. The committee is still in the process of determining which proposal best meets the needs of JJS employees. Once an award is made the new provider will schedule "training of trainers" sessions. Eventually all JJS employees who are required to have crisis intervention training will be trained in the new program. Sharon Osborne, JJS Training Director, and her team will keep you informed about this important issue.

Staff Recognitions

On September 29th the Executive Director's 3rd Annual Awards Luncheon was held at Gardner Village in The Gathering Place. Four awards were given: Supervisor of the Year Award, Cultural Excellence Award, Executive Director's Award and the Career Achievement Award. Debbie Rocha of Salt Lake O&A was nominated for both the Cultural Excellence Award and the Career Achievement Award.

Others honored that day were the Service Awards:

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mike Conn	Dave Melville
Craig Corless	Jackie Southwick
John DeWitt	Tom Sullivan
Jay Eldredge	Vicky Turner
Sharon Harris	Fafagu Ulugalu
Dave Duresa	Guy West

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Greg Giacomazza
Arnold Jones (AJ)
Ron Mervis
Debbie Rocha
Dinny Thomas
Emmett White

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Glen Ames
Howard Dahle
Randy Gangwer
Mel Laws
Sal Mendez
Garrett Watkins
Dee Weaver

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."
-Vincent Van Gogh

Reminder to all employees:

Please Check the JJS Web site for a review of all JJS Policies and Procedures. <http://www.hspolicy.utah.gov/jjs/>. An updated Policy and Procedure Manual has been sent to each facility and program.

RETIREMENT

In late September Richard Thygerson, Wasatch Youth Center Control Supervisor Retired after 22 years with the State. Congrats to him and enjoy...



Volunteer News

JJS Youth Hear a Buzz from the Salt Lake Bee's

By Maria Ponce



On May 9th, The Boy's Observation and Assessment Center received a visit from the Salt Lake Bee's Pitcher Shane Lukes. As Shane sat with the group, he shared his experiences with becoming a professional athlete and the benefits of hard work. He explained that he spends the majority of his day preparing for a game that night. He was encouraging and told the youth to do their best at whatever comes their way. Shane invited the boys and staff to a home game with free tickets.

On June 12th, Nick Green visited the Decker Lake Youth Center. Nick also shared his journey of becoming a Salt Lake Bee's pitcher. Nick told about the time when he made a poor choice and was kicked off his college baseball team. However, with humility and a second chance he worked hard to prove himself as worthwhile. He encouraged the youth to do the same when they are released. He reinforced that the staff are there to help them and to choose wisely who they associate with for friends.

Both players were a "hit" with the youth and staff. JJS would like to "pitch" a special than you and good luck to the Bee's players for visiting and sharing their inspiring stories.

Thriving Beyond Surviving

By Noela Karza

The youth from Springville O&A had the opportunity to help set-up for the Utah County Fourth Annual Suicide Prevention Walk, Saturday, September 12, 2008. They also were able to attend the program. Two youth from O&A were chosen to carry a banner and lead the walk, while some of the other youth and staff were on the route to direct walkers. All the youth and staff were able to join the group as they passed by their corner. Some of the participants made posters and some wore T-shirts that displayed pictures of a loved one lost to suicide. All were invited to write a message of HOPE for the wall of HOPE.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 24



Staff prepared the youth by holding a group using the curriculum from the Jason Foundation. The group focused on suicide prevention and the impact of suicide.

Go to www.jasonfoundation.com for FREE curriculum

We should all know the signs of concern for suicide: depression, abrupt changes in behavior, mood swings, crying spells, recent grief or losses, changes in school performance, giving away treasured belongings, suicidal threats and hopelessness.

The Spirit of Service is bridged by two unlikely populations-- Boy Scouts and JJS Youth.

By Maria Ponce

With the help of one Eagle Scout, Austin Woodall, JJS youth will continue to work on their crocheted hats and scarves for the Salvation Army to give to the homeless population. Austin was referred to JJS because his grandfather, Garn Woodall, is a long time JJS employee. Garn and the Split Mountain facility helped with gathering the donated hats, scarves, and yarn. On March 5, Austin delivered 16 boxes of neatly packaged yarn and hats to the Salt Lake JJS Office. On April 2nd Austin picked up the hats and delivered them to the Salvation Army where he was awarded a plaque and given a tour of the community dining hall. Thank you Austin and Grandpa Garn for partnering with JJS youth in this special project.



In June of 2008, the Salt Lake Early Intervention Boy Scout troop went on their annual trip to the “Big Event” Scout camp in the High Uintas. The scouts, chosen for their positive behavior and interest in scouting, planned and prepared for the trip during the weeks leading up to the “Big Event”. They learned about camping gear, survival skills and fishing skills before the trip and were expected to put their knowledge to the test during the camp out.

At the Big Event, the scouts had the opportunity to take part in “Rendezvous” style activities. Their favorite activity was the fishing, and the majority of their time was spent on the lakes trying to catch trout.



In the evening they were able to cook and eat the trout that they caught. There was a sense of teamwork and comradery as the boys shared the camp. For some it was the opportunity to use and share the skills that they have learned as Boy Scouts in the SLEI program. For others it was an eye-opening first experience in the wilderness. The scouts returned home with new and positive experiences to share and a better knowledge of our wilderness and what it has to offer them.



The Boy Scouts of America was created for these young men. We are proud to offer this opportunity to our at-risk youth. They are encouraged and guided through the process of joining scout troops in their communities after taking part in our program. Patrick Gooley, Counselor II at Salt Lake Early Intervention said, “This was a great success and we look forward to future events with the SLEI Boy Scout Troop!”

CREATE YOUR OWN WORLD.

BY Lonnie Burton - Salt Lake Valley Detention.

To fill the time when school was out for summer break, the residents in DT were asked to create their “own world.” We had a lot of fun with this and the kids came up with some great ideas.

Our girls created their world after the game “Candyland.” Who does not love a world based on yummy, sweet candy - especially chocolate!

One our boys sections fashioned their world after the “Justice League.” A world of super-heroes fighting evil --in outfits that resembled those of “Captain Underpants.”

Our grand prize winner was themed after “A Bug’s Life.” These boys made a fabulous re-creation of A Bug’s World. Their artwork was amazing! It is always fun to see what cool and creative things the kids come up with. It is a fun activity that gives a break from the routine of detention.



Welcome to Insectopia

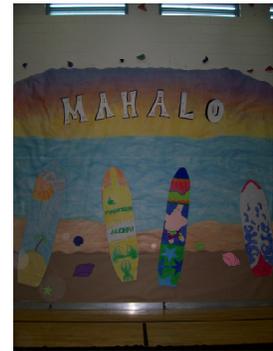


VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Imagine walking down a beautiful path with palm trees, tiki lights, and the ocean right next to you! That is the sight that greeted the volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation in Provo at Slate Canyon Youth Center. Under the direction of Heidi Tuttle, the youth had turned the gym and hallway into a Hawaiian paradise. The youth spent days making signs, decorations, palm trees, and a tiki hut to show appreciation to all the people who came in all year to volunteer. Our theme was “MAHALO,” meaning - Thank You to all the many volunteers that serve at the Slate Canyon Youth Center, Lightning Peak and Springville O&A. The food was out of this world. Thanks to Debbie Wawro, Toa Toelupe, Kingi Langi, Kijiana Storey and Vaosa Roberts for a delicious meal.

MAHOLO



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, STAFF OR EVENTS YOU WANT HIGHLIGHTED IN THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT LISA SCHAUERHAMER AT 801-538-4086 OR

Lschauer@utah.gov

ALOHA! Welcome to Decker Lake's Volunteer Appreciation. As you entered the patio area the girls gave each guest a lei and welcomed them. The decorations created by the youth were beautiful - from window painting to table decorations. Two pigs were roasting when we arrived. As with the other appreciation events the food was delicious. The weather cooperated and the entertainment was outstanding.



Those recognized were Jay Mallet, E. Farley Eskelson and Thelma Patterson. Ve'a Ofa cooked the pigs, Andres Ramos handled the sound stage. Lydia served as MC, as well as coordinating the event. All the staff helped with shift coverage, maintenance of the yard, setting up, etc. It couldn't have been done without everyone's help. These events are important so the youth that we serve can give back to the volunteers and show their appreciation for the time and energy that the volunteers give.

