

employee newsletter

Utah department of
human services

Homefront

Youth at Mill Creek Youth Center (sitting, lower right) listen as Weber State Football players and coaches discuss the importance of teamwork at a football clinic in honor of JJS employee Alavini Latu who passed away in 2014.

The Services Shaping Juvenile Justice Reform

JULY 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

- [National recognition for DSPD](#)
- [This year's outstanding foster parents](#)
- And more...

Years of Service Awards



30 Years

Keri Allen

25 Years

Christine Cosgrove

Annette Garcia

David Petersen

Cindy Phillips

Lisa Shook

20 Years

Mark Davis

Patricia Graff

Lori Hales-Ramos

Barry Howard

Tamara Joiner

Anna Lameman

Sara Visser



Tonya Myrup, Interim Director
Division of Child and
Family Services

Leadership Message:

Prevention

Solutions Start with Shared Awareness


Prevention efforts often begin with a shared awareness of an issue leading to a common solution. At the **Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)**, preventing child abuse and neglect is not something we could ever do alone. It is a complex issue, which means that rather than being "owned" by any one agency or organization, it requires the collective efforts of many.

To keep children safely with their families, we work closely with the Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood (UCPC) made up of educators, advocates, faith leaders, legislators, legal partners and survivors. Each participant brings a different perspective that makes up our collective understanding of this issue.

A shared awareness is never complete or perfect and can always be improved. This year, DCFS and the UCPC had a goal to increase policymaker's awareness and knowledge of the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). To do this, the group worked with Representative Edward Redd during the 2017 legislative session on HCR 10, which outlines the impact of trauma and shows the importance

of prevention and early intervention. HCR 10 passed both the House and Senate unanimously and will be delivered to a number of child and family serving state entities like the Department of Workforce Services, the Department of Corrections and the State Board of Education.

This marks an important first step for child abuse and neglect prevention. By first being on the same page, we can make strides that will keep children safely with their families.



Homefront is now available online!

Check out past newsletters you missed and review all DHS happenings by visiting hs.utah.gov/newsletter/.

Have a story idea or feedback on DHS Homefront?

Contact the editor, Allie Jurkatis
ajurkatis@utah.gov



PREVENTION



SELF-RELIANCE



PARTNERSHIP




OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



PEOPLE & CULTURE

Supported Employment Success

The Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) was nationally recognized for its employment efforts that help individuals with disabilities live self-determined lives. Recognition and accomplishments include: 

- An invitation to share efforts and successes at an Employment First summit in Washington D.C., along with three other partnering Utah agencies, for creating improvements to the state system that will affect outcomes for people with the most significant disabilities
- National Dave Hammis Innovation award for DSPD program administrator, Tricia Jones-Parkin, from the Association of Person's Supporting Employment First, for her work to connect people with disabilities to jobs
- The Partnership in Employment Systems Change grant, awarded in 2016; DSPD is one of six states awarded support to improve employment outcomes for working age youth and young adults who receive DSPD services
- Increased competitive, integrated employment outcomes through successful pilot projects that encourage partnership between public and private organizations at both the state and local level



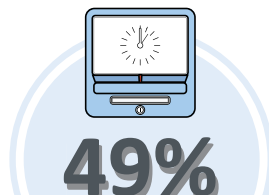
Utah's national ranking for the number of DSPD clients that have a paid job in the community



DSPD clients who received employment services in FY17



Individuals on the DSPD waiting list who received employment services



DSPD clients who received services and are employed



Average hours worked per week by DSPD clients



The Services Shaping Juvenile Justice Reform

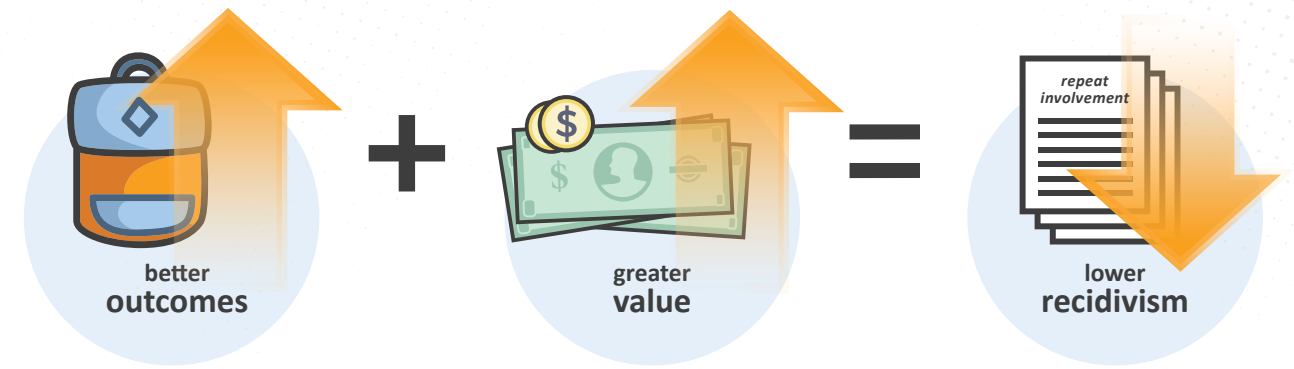
DHS has begun making changes toward juvenile justice reform as part of HB 239 passed in the 2017 legislative session. The **Division of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS)** has closed work camps, and beginning Aug. 1, 2017, will start a statewide effort to focus on early intervention to keep kids safely in their homes, schools and communities. In partnership with local communities, **DJJS** plans to offer the following services in:

- School-based Outreach — In-school evidence-based services to improve attendance and academic performance
- In-home Observation and Assessment — 30-day evaluation crisis intervention and treatment planning
- Brief Community Intervention — After school cognitive focused programming for moderate to high-risk youth
- In-Home Detention — Alternative to secure detention for youth awaiting court hearing
- Day Skills Intervention — Evidence-based skills programming to include on-site schooling for up to 90-days
- Adult Living for Transitional Achievement — Re-entry program for youth leaving secure care

Additionally, the Department is implementing performance-based contracts to ensure that youth in out-of-home placement are receiving intensive evidence-based treatment for shorter stays. The intent is to help youth return to their homes, schools and communities as quickly as possible while accounting for safety and measured outcomes. 🏠👤👥



WHY JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM?



Reform Components

<p>Establish pre-court early interventions to reduce school-based court referrals</p>	<p>Standardize statewide diversion criteria</p>	<p>Reduce detention placement with community-based alternatives in every district</p>
<p>Strengthen supervision and treatment by responding to youth's risk and needs</p>	<p>Use evidence-based interventions</p> <p>out-of-home placement: 3-6 months probation: 4-6 months maximums on hours, fees and fines performance-based contracts</p>	<p>Prioritize services in homes and communities for low-level offenses</p>

Juvenile Justice reform does not alter our commitment and practice to





Foster Parents of the Year

Families and community members who partner with us to provide safe and caring spaces for Utah children are critical to our work. This year's foster parents of the year awarded by DHS and the Utah Foster Care foundation are: 🌱🌿

Foster Dads of the Year

Randy Macari, Northern Region

Randy and wife Heather Macari, also awarded, are champions in supporting the birth families of foster children in their care and helping them to work toward reunification.

Nate Ingles, Western Region

Nate worked closely with a newborn girl's biological parents to encourage regained custody. When they were unable to successfully do so, Nate was their first choice to care for their daughter.

Paul Sullivan, Southwest Region

Paul fostered 91 children over 17 years and has made numerous home repairs to accommodate those in his care.

Marcus Orozco, Salt Lake Region

Marcus has never missed a court hearing, family team meeting or family visit and has sacrificed work time to help meet his foster children's needs, even if for a day at the zoo.

Dustin Rich, Eastern Region

With a difficult first placement of two children, Dustin did all he could to care for them, rather than having them moved from home to home. It has made all the difference for the children.

Foster Moms of the Year

Heather Macari, Northern Region

Heather and her husband Randy, also awarded, adopted six children through foster care in addition to four of their own.

Jessica Longmore, Western Region

Jessica works to better understand those she cares for by actively seeking new ideas and resources. Through her continued learning, she has become a strong advocate for foster children.

Jen Daughtery, Southwest Region

Jen goes beyond meeting the basic needs for children in her care, including committing to the difficult work of helping an infant who was very developmentally behind gain the skills they needed to be on-track.

Stephanie Olsen, Salt Lake Region

Stephanie cares for children with severe trauma, large sibling groups and teens. Her care helps many foster children to heal.

Karen Miller, Eastern Region

In the more than 20 years she has fostered teenage boys at her home in Price, Karen has been an unwavering mentor to the boys' parents to help them make the necessary changes for them to return to their biological homes.



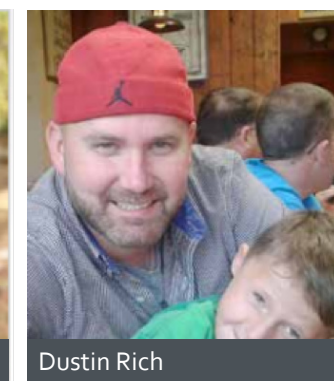
Paul Sullivan and family



Marcus Orozco



Jessica Longmore



Dustin Rich



Heather and Randy Macari

Around DHS



DHS asked **providers** for feedback and ideas on performance-based contracting, monitoring and incentives that will strengthen outcomes for those we serve. 🍇🌀

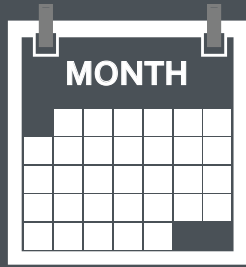
Transition-age youth shared their voice of hope through artwork displayed at the **Utah Transition Youth Empowered to Succeed (UT-YES) Annual Art Show**. For info on when the art show is coming to your area this year, visit systemofcare.utah.gov/utahyes. 🏠👤



DJJS gathered public feedback on guideline changes for admitting youth to detention. Hearings were held in St. George, Salt Lake City and Logan, Utah as part of the implementation of HB 239. 🍇👤

DHS and the **Utah State Hospital** settled a forensic lawsuit with the Disability Law Center after a two-year process. As part of the settlement agreement, the jail-based competency restoration program in Salt Lake County is expected to begin this fall, along with other strategies already underway that will reduce the time to restore individuals found mentally incompetent to stand trial. 🍇🌀





August Calendar

Child Support Awareness Month

Aug. 17 - Centenarian Celebration

Aug. 21 - Senior Citizens Day



In the News

- [New law to reduce youth detention population focus of public hearing](#)
- [Judge accepts settlement in state hospital waitlist case](#)

utah department of
human services



Lulu Latu, a counselor at Mill Creek Youth Center, speaks to youth at a football clinic with the Weber State University Football Team. Lulu coordinated the event in honor of her husband Alavini Latu, who passed away, after she saw the positive affect he had on teens as a Rugby coach.

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