

WHAT'S NEW

The Youth Parole Authority is a citizen board responsible for determining length of stay of an adjudicated youth in secure care. It further mandates treatment objectives and expectations of youth while they are in secure confinement. These individuals serve terms of 4 years and are appointed by the Governor with approval from the Utah State Senate. The Authority consists 15 individuals with training or experience in social work, law, juvenile justice, education, or related behavioral sciences. The Authority is a bi-partisan group representing a balance of race, gender, and geographical location throughout Utah.

Earlier this year the Youth Parole Authority underwent a major recruitment to fill five vacancies that existed on the Authority as a result of expired terms of service, or resignations of previous Authority members. New to the Youth Parole Authority this year are 3 women and 2 men. We have: **Pamela Beatse** of Salt Lake City who is an attorney in private practice specializing in family law. **Sharlene Christensen** of Orem is a licensed counselor with prior experience with DCFS and is currently in a private counseling practice. **Athelia Woolley** of Holladay is a life long homemaker with extensive volunteer service with her church, the Juvenile Court, and Salt Lake and Jordan School Districts as a certified conflict resolution mediator. She has experience with these skills as a victim mediator and truancy reduction specialist. **Simon Nicolia** of Sandy is a licensed therapist specializing in substance abuse and victims of domestic violence issues. He also has experience as a social science researcher. **Rick Westmoreland** of Ogden is a Deputy Davis County Attorney. He is a former youth counselor with Youth Corrections while he was completing law school.

These new Authority members bring a wealth of training and experience to the Authority and are making a significant contribution to the function of the Youth Parole Authority. We are pleased to introduce them and welcome them to Juvenile Justice Services and the Youth Parole Authority.