

COORDINATING SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN CUSTODY

- WHEREAS, It is the object of the PTA to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, community and place of worship, and to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, The mission statement of Youth Corrections is to: "Provide a diversity of community-based and secure correctional programs which, whenever possible and appropriate, shall be in close proximity to the youth's community and family"; and
- WHEREAS, Statistics indicate that certain counties have a disproportionate amount of troubled youth placed within their counties (i.e., rates of detention admission were highest in Iron [7.32], Grand [6.90], Washington [6.84], compared to Salt Lake [3.61]; numbers indicating detention admissions per 100 youth at risk), (Source: "National Juvenile Custody Trends 1978-1989." U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP, March 1992.); and
- WHEREAS, According to legal counsel for the State Office of Education, "Youth in custody students have been placed in counties without notice, without school records, without any indication whatsoever of the student's academics in the past, and without any inquiry to determine whether the school district has available programs or staff necessary to accommodate the particular students special needs"; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the State of Utah Division of Family Services and Division of Youth Corrections to establish a coordination and communication network among placing agencies and workers; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the Division of Family Services and Division of Youth Corrections to develop and enforce policies and guidelines that address the following concerns:
1. Prior notice of student placement to all involved parties.
 2. Appropriate transfer of student information.
 3. Limiting the number of YIC students placed in each district according to the availability of school district personnel and facilities and services to meet the specific needs of each YIC student.
 4. Appropriate placement of students within their home school district boundaries when feasible.
 5. Appropriate placement of students that safeguards the safety and well-being of all students; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the establishment of a local committee of all concerned agencies, including school district personnel and patrons, which would monitor placement of Youth in Custody, and ensure adherence to H. B. 39 passed in the 1993 Legislative Session.