

UTRSOL WEEKLY

Utah for Rational Sex Offense Laws

Week of August 17 – August 21, 2026

This week, we officially transmitted Part II of “The Registry’s Reach: Purpose, Composition, and the Case for Systematic Review” Publication No. 2026-39, Edition 1 to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (LECJ) Interim Committee, continued building toward formal state recognition for AfterMath Alliance, deepened several coalition partnerships across housing and reentry services, and kept tracking the Board of Pardons and Parole vacancy. Here’s the rundown, track by track.

LECJ INTERIM STUDY ITEM 3: REPORT TRANSMITTED

On Monday, August 17, we officially transmitted Publication 2026-39 to the LECJ Interim Committee and a distribution list of over sixty stakeholders across Utah state government and advocacy community. This caps months of work from our Clinical Research Working Group, from individual clinical reviews through structured comment resolution to a final round of last-minute corrections completed over the preceding weekend. Study Item 3 remains an approved 2026 study item whose scheduling is determined by the committee’s chairs, Sen. Calvin R. Musselman and Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox. The three remaining meetings of the interim are scheduled for September 16, October 21, or November 18.

AFTERMATH ALLIANCE: BUILDING TOWARD RECOGNITION

Beyond running our regular sessions, we spent time this week laying groundwork for AfterMath Alliance’s long-term future. We’re researching a formal state administrative rulemaking pathway that would recognize AfterMath as its own population-specific peer support model, a process that typically requires six to twelve months of stable, documented operation before a petition can be filed, so we’re using this early period to build that track record deliberately. We also distributed our AfterMath Handbook to our facilitator team and continued outreach to members interested in joining our virtual sessions, held the first and third Wednesday of each month and our in-person meetings held the second and fourth Friday of each month.

Alongside this, we’ve begun the formal process of filing for 501(c)(3) status under AfterMath Alliance Foundation, UTRSOL’s planned charitable arm dedicated to direct-service programs like this one. Our attorney is finalizing updated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the Foundation, and we’re working through the associated filing fees as we prepare to submit. Establishing this separate charitable structure will let AfterMath Alliance and future direct-service programs operate on solid organizational footing, distinct from UTRSOL’s advocacy and policy work.

COALITION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We formally requested inclusion in the Sex Offense Task Force's (SOTF) quarterly training meetings this week, which bring together approved treatment providers and state agency staff. We also reached out to the Board of Pardons and Parole's Monthly Outreach Committee, a standing group of advocacy organizations that meets regularly with Board leadership, to request a seat alongside groups like the ACLU of Utah and Utah Prisoner Advocate Network (UPAN). Lastly, we requested a standing invite to the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) monthly advocacy meetings to review prison and parole issues.

On the housing and reentry side, we learned that Cache County's long-running reentry resource fair as well as Tooele County's reentry fair have been formally discontinued due to low attendance. Between the two counties, approximately 450 registrants have lost a dedicated, in-person touchpoint for connecting with housing, employment, and treatment resources, a gap we believe is worth the effort to close. We began coordinating with a faith-based reentry support network whose district spans several Utah counties, with new locations opening soon in Utah County, on exchanging housing and reentry resources. Separately, we deepened our partnership with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities' statewide housing team, and accepted an invitation to present UTRSOL's work directly to a case management team that has referred clients to us in the past.

This week, three UTRSOL board members registered to attend the 2026 Utah Trafficking in Persons (UTIP) Task Force Conference, held August 25 and 26 at the Capitol and co-hosted by the Asian Association of Utah and the Attorney General's Office. We're attending strictly as learners, not to present or distribute materials, given that nearly half of AAU's case management clients are labor trafficking survivors and UTRSOL's own legislative work on where labor trafficking fits within Utah's registry framework directly touches the population that conference exists to serve. It felt important to show up and listen in that room rather than continue that conversation only over email.

BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE: VACANCY UPDATE

We continued tracking the current Board of Pardons and Parole vacancy this week. The application window closed with roughly forty-six applicants, and a slate of finalists still expected before the end of the August 24-28 week, followed by a public comment period. Under Utah Code 77-27-2(3), the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) is required to recommend five candidates for every Board of Pardons and Parole vacancy, weighing each applicant's knowledge of the criminal justice system, state and federal criminal law, judicial procedure, corrections policy, and behavioral sciences. Once CCJJ submits its slate through the [BOPP - Vacancy Appointment Letter](#), the Governor reviews the five names and makes his final appointment. This is the same process that played out in 2025, when Brett Varoz was ultimately selected from a similar five-candidate slate, and it's the process we expect to see again once this vacancy's finalists are announced.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday August 25 — Utah Trafficking in Persons Task Force (UTIP) Conference

- 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM | North Capitol Building | 350 N State St, Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Tuesday August 25 — Utah Valley Job Fair

- 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM | Utah Valley Convention Center | 220 W Center St, Provo, UT 84601

Wednesday August 26 — Utah Trafficking in Persons Task Force (UTIP) Conference

- 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM | North Capitol Building | 350 N State St, Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Wednesday August 26 — Victim Services Commission meeting

- 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Google Meet <https://meet.google.com/oqt-dzck-cvc>

Friday August 28 — AfterMath Alliance in-person support group

- Email communications@utrsol.org or call 801-871-5215 to learn more

August

- August 30–September 1 — Rental Housing Association (RHA) Housing Conference
- End of August — Board of Pardons and Parole finalist list expected

September

- September 2 — Weber County Community Reentry Coalition Meeting
- September 11 — Salt Lake Housing Stability Division HEART Homeless Resource Fair
- September 14 — Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) Advocacy Outreach
- September 16 — Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Hearing
- September 29–October 1 — UDC Ranger Simulation

AfterMath Alliance

- September 2 — AfterMath Alliance Meeting [Virtual]
- September 11 — AfterMath Alliance Meeting [In-Person]
- September 16 — AfterMath Alliance Meeting [Virtual]
- September 25 — AfterMath Alliance Meeting [In-Person]
- September 30 — AfterMath Alliance Meeting [Virtual]

UTRSOL is an evidence-based policy research and advocacy organization. This newsletter is distributed to external partners, coalition members, and stakeholders to share updates on our research, legislative activities, and organizational initiatives.