

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 23

Overview for General Meeting

- Group Discussion
 - Call to order, review, and approve the last meeting minutes
 - Non-profit update
 - Team Updates
 - Three-minute updates with additional time for Q&A
 - Please use “Raise your hand” function to ask questions
- Other Business
- Roundtable

Group Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM EST and review of last meeting – Group
The 5/14/2024 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Non-Profit Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director
Board members are working on previously tabled projects and making progress.
 - The Annual Executive Board Meeting was held on 5/28 and 6/2/2024.
 - The next board meeting will be on Sunday, 7/7/2024.
 - A Team Leaders meeting was held on 6/4/2024, to discuss reorganizing, introducing new email accounts for team leaders, and initiating Team Leader Reporting forms.
 - The UV4SOR website has been transferred from Bluehost to Lost Swordfish hosting service, which also hosts the NARSOL website and many of their state affiliate’s websites. The domain registry has been transferred to Hover.com.
 - CiviCRM will be implemented with projected training to begin this summer.
3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.
 - UV4SOR was approved for the Michigan Adopt-A-Highway project. All Michigan members are invited for a cleanup event on 7/13/2024 and Kim is hosting a picnic afterwards. The members are teaming up with a Michigan Citizens for Justice support group on this project.
 - A new Welcoming Team is being formed by Ann and Shep S. to reach out to new members after they attend their first meeting.
4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.
 - The team is at a crossroads and working to determine interest and direction for the immediate future. These items will be reviewed at the next meeting which will be held on 7/22/2024.
 - Any members who are interested in collaborating with other members in their state can contact Kim for information and ideas.

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5. Communication Team – Kathy D.
 - The team met on 6/7/2024 to update its purpose and goals for the future with discussion of the history of letters that have been sent, revising the UV4SOR Myths and Facts document to reflect current and accurate information, and defining a focus on families and LOs.
 - Kathy D. will take over as the team leader. The date for a future meeting is pending.
6. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.
 - Elena reviewed the CTA to the Louisiana legislature and is collaborating on drafting a letter to the LA governor to address the passage of SB371 (forced vasectomy).
 - The HUD CTA responses were due on 6/10/2024. Feedback on this has been positive with member participation.
 - The United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) is asking for informal public comment for their 2025 priorities with responses due on 7/15/2024. This opportunity has been posted in the FB group and in several federal groups. An email will be sent to all members to encourage participation.
 - The next CTA will address the issue of email privileges for our LOs in federal custody.
7. Mental Health Team – Pammy D.
 - Terrific Tuesdays (initially called Healing Tuesdays) will be scheduled where there is a fifth Tuesday general meeting in a particular month.
 - The team is working to add a subgroup/support chat that will meet a few times a year, with five different members at a time and a MH leader. This project is in the planning stage; currently developing an introduction that will be presented to the board when it is finalized. The focus will be on providing information for resources needed and for coping strategies, giving participants a safe place to ask questions and interact with other members.
 - A future project is to focus on MH intervention as a diversion program for those newly arrested.
8. No More Silence Project – Betty B.
 - Betty reviewed the project’s story challenge and goals. She emphasized how all stories can play a significant role in getting our voices heard.
 - The next step will be to compile a list of recipients for this first stage of the project.
9. Social Media Team – Rita B.

The team continues to monitor the FB group and encourages advocacy posts and comments that include asks and offers for solutions to the frustrations that are voiced in posts and comments.

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10. Fundraising Team – Rita B.

- Funds earned to date from the [Tru Earth](#) fundraiser will be wired this week.
- Rita reviewed the Kroger rewards program and is encouraging anyone who shops at Kroger brand stores to sign up to have UV4SOR as their designated rewards recipient.

11. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.

- Our next guest speaker is scheduled for 6/25/2024 when we will welcome Kendra Phillips. Kendra is a playwright who is writing a play on the population that we advocate for. She will discuss what she has learned during this process of the punishments and sentences associated with these charges and how her perspective has been changed.
- Future guest speakers include member Madeleine Vache on 7/23/2024 and a possible law professor who was referred by a member through the [referral form on the website](#).
- UV4SOR is in the initial phase of participation with over twenty other organizations who have a similar focus on criminal justice reform and advocacy, with a goal of identifying the strengths of each group and finding a consistent message to be utilized by all. A steering committee is being formed. Updates will be shared with the group.
- UV4SOR received a positive response from our request to participate in a Listening Session with Collette Peters, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

Other Business

No other business tonight.

Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

The group welcomed Blennie K. and Lisa B. Introductions were made and questions were asked and answered by the group with discussion on various issues relating to sentencing and policies and how this varies between state and federal jurisdictions.

2. Share Something Good

- Dwayne D. shared that his church is the first in NC to allow all visitors without regard to residency restrictions and is the first shelter to allow access for anyone.
- Betty B. will get to meet up with Kathy D. for coffee.
- Steve F. shared that his probation is up at the end of this month!
- Jonathon M. shared that he had a conversation with a friend regarding sexual offense specific advocacy.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. EST with guest speaker Kendra Phillips.

9.00 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.