

# UNITED VOICES for Sex Offense Reform

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 22

### Overview for Meeting

- Group Discussion
  - Call to order, review, and approve the last meeting minutes
  - Non-profit update
  - Team Updates
    - Three-minute updates by team leaders with additional time for Q&A
    - Use the “Raise Your Hand” function to ask questions
    - Please refrain from discussing political agendas, issues, or opinions unless it is in direct alignment with advocacy missions.
- Other Business
- Roundtable

### Group Discussion

1. Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM EST and review of last meetings – Group  
The 7/8/2025 and 7/22/2025 [meeting minutes](#) were approved and will be added to the website.
2. Non-Profit Organization Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director
  - Board members meet monthly to collaborate on organizational business, review current projects, and work on processes and applications to be implemented.
  - UV4SOR is working with a National Government Relations Committee on creating correspondence to legislative leaders on the perils of the latest [Executive Order](#) (EO) signed by President Trump on 7/24/2025. This EO targets homeless registrants and demands increased use of civil commitment. Two main takeaways from this legislation are being discussed by the committee.
    - GPS/Electronic monitoring is ineffective and costly.
    - Civil Commitment is VERY bad as it creates a way for the government to detain citizens indefinitely with no judicial oversight. The group discussed various thoughts on addressing these issues broadly and/or with a narrow focus.
      - While framed as a public safety issue, this EO is already generating pressure to expand civil commitment as a solution to homelessness among registrants. It directs that the AG shall ensure that homeless individuals arrested for Federal crimes are evaluated to determine whether they are sexually dangerous persons and certified accordingly for civil commitment.
      - The EO calls for measures to “revise regulations to allow, where permissible under applicable law, federally funded programs to exclusively house women and children and to stop sex offenders who receive homelessness assistance through such programs from being housed with unrelated children.”
  - The next board meeting is scheduled for 8/10/2025.

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### 3. Advocacy Participation Team (APT) – Sharon M.

The team works closely with the other team leaders to explore member's priorities and increase member involvement. Team members are discussing having an occasional Member Spotlight segment in the general meetings and the teams will develop guidelines for it. Sharon asked for input and thoughts. The idea of creating podcasts was discussed by the group.

### 4. State Coalitions Team (SCT) – Jenny L.

- SCT meetings are held bi-monthly on the last Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 9/29/2025 at 7:00 PM EST. Meeting details are emailed to all members and posted in the FB group.
- At the last meeting on 7/21/2025 members attended from ten states. Discussions included identifying sub-groups and topics to be addressed at the next meeting.

### 5. Welcome Team – Ann S. and Shep S.

The team reaches out with an email to new members who have attended their first meeting to welcome and encourage them, give helpful information for resources, to support them, and to answer any questions they may have. Ann and Shep are active advocates in NC.

### 6. Communication Team (CT) – Kathy D.V.

A team meeting was held on 7/25/2025. The team is developing a plan to create topic sheets and handouts with facts, statistics, and resources. In coordination with the other teams they will identify subjects of interest.

### 7. Call to Action Team (CTA) – Shawn L.

- The CTA team needs help and is asking for volunteers to assist teams and members in bringing forth and presenting action items to the group along with providing direction for resources and contacts. Please contact [smonroe@uv4sor.org](mailto:smonroe@uv4sor.org) if you are interested!
- UV4SOR is a member of NCACR, which is a national group of advocacy organizations. The group has developed talking points about legislative carve-outs and is addressing the Executive Order as referenced in the group discussion above.

### 8. No More Silence Project – Betty B.

- This ongoing storytelling initiative collects personal accounts from individuals and families impacted by incarceration, the registry and related laws. Members are encouraged to participate or help others share their stories.
- The team is preparing follow-up letters for those who have been sent story packets.
- The group discussed reaching out to religious leaders and pastors who may be willing to engage and educate their congregations.

### 9. Fundraising Team – Updates will be presented at the next meeting.

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### 10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L.

- Kim Avery was our guest speaker at the last meeting on 7/22/2025. She discussed the subject of women on the registry and is promoting a [healing circle project](#).
- Members who have ideas for possible future guest speakers can submit suggestions through the [referral form on the website](#).
- Michigan members participated in the annual Michigan highway cleanup project on 7/19/2025. The stretch of highway where UV4SOR has a road sign is on M106 near Stockbridge, MI.
- Walt Pavlo, who is the founder of [Prisonology](#) and is a popular contributor to Forbes where he writes on white-collar crime and the criminal justice system with a focus on the BOP, reached out to Shawn. They spoke about how persons convicted of a sexual offense that are incarcerated in the BOP are discriminated against in the federal prison system due to the nature of their convictions.
  - This issue came to Walt's attention as he was made aware of the hardships for those with mental health conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who are incarcerated in the BOP. He discovered that "When an individual has both ASD and a sexual offense conviction, the combination can be profoundly damaging - amounting to a near-constant psychological assault on someone who may struggle to fully comprehend their offense or the intense hostility they face behind bars."
  - Walt wrote an [article](#) which was published in Forbes on 7/31/2025. Shawn and UV4SOR are mentioned in the article and he points out the impact on families of those incarcerated due to a sexual offense and a few of the failures on the part of the BOP to ensure their safety.
  - If the article is behind a paywall (Forbes allows access to four free articles) you can view a PDF version [HERE](#).

Other Business – Group  
No other business.

### Roundtable

- Susan V. from IL attended her first meeting tonight. She introduced herself and was welcomed by the group.
  - Several members shared some good news in their lives and updates about their families and their advocacy activities.
- The Roundtable portion of our meetings is always rich with conversation, insight, and shared experiences. While we don't capture all of the details in these minutes, the discussions offer valuable perspectives and information that are not fully conveyed in the meeting minutes. We encourage members who haven't yet attended a meeting to join us - it's a great way to stay informed, connect with others, and be part of the ongoing advocacy dialogue.

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The next general meeting date is Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:09 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.