

Advocacy Group “Meeting of the Minds” Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 5, 2021 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 26

Overview: We welcomed new and existing members, identified 4 prongs of advocacy and discussed the issues/priorities supporting each prong we feel can be successfully reformed. Lastly the group voted on our name and identified points of actions to continue building our foundation.

Notes:

1. In roundtable form Shawn welcomed all participants. Introductions were made by each participant and each gave the location of where their LO is. The purpose of this is to see if there are LO's in the same location.
2. During the discussion it was agreed our Advocacy Group will advocate for all sex offenses with no judging. Keep training ourselves to eliminate the negative labels/terminology used to identify our LO's.
3. Review priorities and determine Group's focus. The 4 prongs of Advocacy are 1) Outreach 2) Legislative and 3) Registry 4) Mental Health.

OUTREACH	LEGISLATIVE	REGISTRY	MENTAL HEALTH
Education & Awareness	No Carve outs	Can't have a life	Root Cause
1. Change community perception/heart	1. Registry laws, mover to risk based, tier system	1. Resident restrictions	1. Rehab vs. prison, programs
2. Start early education, before college, general public, sexing in schools	2. No mandatory minimums. Assessing the case by individuals.	2. Internet issues	2. Have issues to address. Intervention. Pattern score, if below 0, it shouldn't matter what the crime was. On-going therapy.
3. Family safety is huge: publicizing the arrests, social media, Retaliation concerns against LO's and families.	3. Automatically linked to a violent offense and placed as such.	3. Scarlet Letter you wear for life. Family safety concerns, how do you get help? How do you get a job? People are thrown away for one incident.	3. Prison health care
4. Constitutional rights denied in the name of public safety data doesn't prove it	4. Sentencing reform, i.e. grouping, criteria, women get less time, 1st vs. multiple	4. Posting on social media	4. Something leads a person down the path resulting in the crime that was committed. Triggers the behavior
5. Correctional officers can be allies	5. Federal registry not based on state legislation	5. Private	5. Do more investigating the mind

6. Rehabilitation (beginning vs at end), programs	6. State Ombudsman/ 5 pictures is 5 charges, considered multiple offense	6. Abolish the registry	
7. Once they pay their debt to society, they should be a regular citizen	7. Federal vs. State Laws & Rules, i.e. Prosecutor Control		
8. Chat roulette - freedom of speech	8. Huge restitution costs. Federal Act		
9. Cautious of what to share – risk to employment	9. Mental Health before sentencing. Diagnostics with a therapeutic endeavors. Individual assessments.		
10. Housing – residency restrictions	10. Entrapment		
11. Prison Watchdog Issues – segregation due to charges, limited on what types of activities, prohibited from using intra-net email services.	11. Prison Reform – equal treatment of all people who are incarcerated. Eliminate discrimination against people who have been convicted of an SO.		

4. Drum Roll, please.... Our new Name: United Voices for Sex Offense Reform (UV4SOR). Thank you to all who submitted names for the poll. It is appreciated.
5. Heather Wagner updated the group about her Story and Heart to Heart Series with FAMM
6. Adjourn Meeting Next Meeting Date Tuesday May 18, 2021 7:30P

Action Items:

1. Keep working on foundation
2. Actions: Legislative, Outreach
3. What are some of the resources we can use?
 - a. Facebook page creation
 - b. Foundation identified