

Advocacy Group “UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 18, 2021 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 16

Overview: We welcomed new and existing members, provided links in the zoom chat to offer self-care support and other advocacy groups to become familiar with. Recapped the purpose of our FB page. Compiling a list of our professional backgrounds to help with future advocate initiatives and lastly we reviewed our priorities as our plan of action.

Notes:

- Support Groups:
 - a. Friends & Family of Incarcerated persons-theffip.org. If you subscribe you will receive a monthly calendar of all their support meetings.
 - b. Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense - All4consolaws.org they have monthly call ins and also you can email Alex for emotional support group meetings at alex@emotionalsupportgroup@all4consolaws.org
 - c. Michigan Citizens for Justice-micitizensforjustice.com Support group for people who have been convicted of a Sex Offense and their families.
 - d. Cautionclick.com-monthly conference calls educating and working on all issues that go along with a Sex Offense conviction.
- FB member count is at 83. Thank you for inviting new members. Please remember to answer the questions. This ensures we are in a safe community and having accountability. Purpose of the FB is for advocacy and positive participation, a resource for people to ask for advice on how to help with items such as; legislative letters; or how to contact leaders; Contribute and share updates on national, state and local reform news, progressive elections, and pertinent information in general focusing on reform.
- Logo Design - design options will be available in a few weeks'. Next web site design. Current logo on FB is temporary. Shawn contacted a graphic designer to help create our logo to use for letter heads, fb page, etc.
- Reviewed our priorities and identified how we are going to achieve results within our Group focus.
 - a. Legislative
 - i. Examples:
 - 1. Communication thru correspondence via letters, emails, Op-Eds, visits, community leaders, coffee hours, legislative days. Attorney on board - drafting bills for sponsorship, Steps in lobbying.
 - ii. What is needed?

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1. Big picture, goal is to change laws, Write up the draft bill and give to legislative representative (Federal & State)
- iii. How do we get there?
 1. Letters
 - a. Although it has drawbacks and can be frustrating due to no response, passing the buck, no action is being taken.
 2. Know who your state leaders/legislatures are
 - a. Face to face meetings, Coffee Hours.
 - b. Congress.gov
 - i. Federal Level, Ability to Search for bills
 1. State Level
 2. Local Level
 3. Community Level
 - c. Public Defenders office, Jail billboard, Criminal Justice Research at University, Law Schools, Network Media outlet (CBS, NBC), Protests, Timing of when legislators are in office, Lobbying.
- b. Outreach
 - i. Examples:
 1. Spreading the word Podcasts, watchdog efforts, Social media, CJR rallies, conferences, public and private attorneys, case workers, congregations, Criminal Law groups, County Jails.
 - ii. What is needed?
 1. Consistency in our communication.
 - iii. How do we get there?
 1. Watch dog, i.e. MADD, facility/registry complaint, Concern on how LO's are being treated, Protests, Getting our name out to public attorney's, Talking; interviews, Podcasts, YouTube, Churches.
- c. Registry
 - i. Examples:
 1. Contacting citizens on the registry; community leaders, businesses and corporations hiring (HR).
 - ii. What is needed?
 1. Research
 - iii. How do we get there?
 1. An example there 48K citizens on the registry in MI alone, that we can get involved, Website resource to direct people on where to go, central warehouse for information, Collateral Resource Center.
 2. People who have overcome the registry
 - a. Your life on the List by Derick Loag.

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- iv. Mental Health
- v. Examples:
 - 1. Contact with mental health professionals and social workers (some on board with the group), Community Centers, Universities, Hospitals, court houses, County Jails.
- vi. What is needed?
 - 1. To elevate the root causes and to include in overall outcome.
- vii. How do we get there?
 - 1. Pre Trial Services, Private practices, Chicago School of Psychology, Book by Michael Barta, T.I.N.S.A.

Roundtable

- 1. New Business to discuss:
 - a. Social Media Twitter Storms!!
 - i. Everyone get a Twitter Handle
- 2. FAMM Social Media person inquired about the group and wants to support our group. They like how we are educating people on language.
- 3. Sharing information
 - a. Support links, books, and LifeTimes magazine.(lifetimesmagazine.org).
 - b. Other organizations
 - i. See support groups.

Adjourn Meeting Next Meeting Date Tuesday June 01, 2021 7:30P

Action Items:

- 1. Create a Twitter handle and share with the group to create followers.
- 2. Share your professional background with the group or Shawn personally.
- 3. Find out who your federal, state, and local government officials are and bring contact info to next meeting.
- 4. Keep working on foundation.