

Advocacy Group “UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 01, 2021 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 14

Overview: Participants shared their government contact information. Congress.gov is helpful although you'll need to do a little more digging in the site to find your local state official. We are creating our first 'Watchdog' Letter regarding LO's safety in facilities. New members were welcomed & introduced and lastly researching advocacy group non-profit status.

Notes:

- FB member count is at 137. Please remind everyone to answer all the questions if you are inviting people. Keep in mind there are phone limitations when answering the questions and people will need to keep scrolling down to see and answer questions.
- Webpage and Domain name is available. Try to be on these three social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter for storming and Instagram. Start getting familiar with these social media sites.
- Download chat if you have interest in saving the chat information after meetings. 5/18/21 meeting minutes approved with a minor change.
- Heather, Gail, Melanie and Shawn will organize the Federal & State Judicial leaders, Chair, Ranking member and government contacts compiled by advocacy participants. NARSOL has a state wiki page. Link is posted in the chat. Click on your state to see a lot of information to share.
- Discussion on LO's safety in facilities and how they are treated because of their charges. Some are placed in isolation for protection where they lose privileges. As a group our correspondence will call out this treatment as a concern to targeted audiences. We can use this correspondence to send to our government officials and others. A draft letter will be created by our next meeting on June 15, 2021.
 - a. Letter Structure:
 - i. Targeted Audience ideas:
 1. ACLU, Committees, DOJ, Civil Rights
 2. State Governors
 3. Federal:
 - a. Head of BOP, Deputy Director of BOP, Director of Region of Prisons, Correctional Program Division, Prison Wardens
 - ii. Letter Content ideas:
 1. Introduction
 - a. Nation Wide organization, Grass Roots,
 2. Body of Letter:
 - a. Use Wording from the BOP program statements.

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- b. Hold them accountable by counter pointing their statements diplomatically.
 - c. Show professionalism/understanding in all our concerns
 - d. Using COVID to limit goals in providing classes, activities and safety measures are routinely denied.
 - e. Things being denied based on what the warden decides.
 - f. Obama administration declaration depending on research found.
3. Timeline
- a. Come up with talking points.
 - i. A reason audience will want to read our letter to prevent something down the road.
 - ii. Offer a solution/suggestions for a solution
 - 1. Examples
 - a. Lumping everyone together. Not separating LO's from more harmful prisoners
4. Letter Composers:
- a. Kathy, Sharon, Shawn Melanie and Gail

Roundtable

1. Welcome New Members
- a. Introductions:
 - i. Karyn's lives in California. Her son is in federal (San Pedro) and has an in-law in state (San Quinten)
 - ii. Marie
 - 1. One of the MCFJ Founder group. Her son was previously incarcerated in a Michigan prison. Marie and her husband, Don are highly engaged activists and are known for knocking on our State government doors. Marie will help where she can.
 - iii. Nancy
 - 1. Is a NARSOL representative
 - iv. Debbie
 - 1. Her son received 15 years in Federal at Fort Dix.
 - b. Non-Profit Status
 - i. Shawn would like to have this status to receive funds. People are more apt to donate if they can get a tax break and there are tax breaks for the organization. Will also need to have a certification on accounting practices. List benefits of having a non-profit status.

Action Items:

- 1. Heather, Gail, Melanie and Shawn to organize the Federal & State Judicial leaders, Chair, Ranking member and government contacts compiled by advocacy participants.
- 2. Heather to identify how advocacy members can find Director of Region of Prisons.

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3. Page to research an Obama administration declaration set forth to all criminals being subjected the CO's deciding or allowance of treatment.
4. Volunteer(s) to research Federal Guidelines
 - a. Ask for volunteer on the Facebook page
5. Volunteer(s) to research State Guidelines
 - a. Ask for volunteer on the Facebook page
6. All advocacy members can email additional 'Letter' ideas to Kathy, Sharon, Shawn and Gail. Refer to 'chat' for email addresses.
7. Draft Letter composed by next meeting.
8. Nonprofit status. Shawn will have information next meeting.

Adjourned Meeting. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday June 15, 2021 7:30P