

# Advocacy Group “UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 15, 2021 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 18

Overview: Shared friendly reminders, if volunteering please ensure you have time to commit including the follow-through, first advocacy draft letter was reviewed with changes identified for second draft and lastly please plan on calling the Department of Justice July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 10<sup>th</sup> to share preprinted script on why registries are wrong.

### Notes:

- 06/01/2021 Meeting minutes accepted with minor change. Minutes are available on the f/b page. If anyone is unable to access the f/b page then email Shawn to let her know and she will email them to you.
- Friendly reminders to recall and help others:
  - a. The UV4SOR umbrella covers reform for sex offense conviction and offenses. We are not differentiating between contact and non-contact. It all requires reform. We need to rethink how we look at each offense, how it impacts the person being sentenced and their families. We don't want to alienate anyone in our group.
  - b. We are an advocacy group that takes action and we need volunteers to help. It doesn't matter what your action is because collaboratively we will be successful. Your effort and follow through will make a big impact on our group's achievements.
  - c. We need to remove the negative labels when we communicate and have conversations about our LO's and/or people who have been convicted of sex offenses. We can call our LO's our son's, husbands, fiancé's, their professional titles, etc... which humanizes the person in a positive aspect. When we reference people who are or have been convicted as sex offenders or felons or reference the people who are incarcerated as inmates will always point towards a negative picture. We need a positive picture to change minds and it reflects a better conversation when sharing positive aspects with someone. We need to rethink how we communicate and have conversations without labels.
- Call for volunteer(s) to compile the contact information from members in a format that can be easily accessible. Project Chairs: Sharon, Melanie, and Gail.
- Information for Non-Profit is tabled until next meeting.
- FB page is growing! Currently at 165 members! Remember when inviting your network sphere send them the link, and not just an invite so membership vetting questions can be answered. Your Admins will appreciate it!!

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### Notes continued...

- Sending an endorsed letter addressing the issues of harm, lack of safety, mistreatment, protective custody of our LO's in the facilities.
  - a. Reviewed and edited draft correspondence letter created by Sharon, Gail and Shawn:
    - i. Safety of LO's in facilities
    - ii. Group dissected the letter and decided to create an introduction letter indicating who we are and the purpose of our letter.
    - iii. We want to include our Logo.
    - iv. We will change the format to use Information Mapping and provide a draft
    - v. Kathy, Sharon, Gail, Melanie and Shawn will reconvene to incorporate the changes for a second draft.
    - vi. Dawn to help with the contact for federal & state governors. Sharon also have contact to share. Jim, Karen & Marie have contacts to receive the letter. Asking everyone to share their previous governmental contact.
    - vii. Letter will go to the state Governor's and Heads of BOP departments,
    - viii. Use Google Docs to share draft documents.
    - ix. Send letter's through U.S. Post Office.
- Caution Click Campaign
  - a. Future action with our group. The National campaign is calling the Department of Justice (DOJ) with a preprinted script in opposition of the registry. Champaign is July 3 – 10<sup>th</sup>. We will receive the DOJ phone number to call and read the script. We want to flood the DOJ with this message. We can copy & paste the message and email to them. Shawn will post the script on our f/b page once the script is available. Family and friends are welcome to participate.
- Use of Advocacy Group Name
  - a. We are trying to be very stringent in creating correspondence that is sponsored by the group. As group members we can advocate on our own. If they advocate under the umbrella of our group then we prefer everyone to use the sponsored verbiage from the group, i.e. Letters.
  - b. Letter head protection of our material is under consideration to prevent misuse of information that is not sponsored by our group. We will try using a watermark in the meantime.

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### Roundtable

1. Welcome New Members
  - a. Jim from Toledo, Ohio. An activist in Criminal Justice in general, community of registered citizen. Was incarcerated and is successfully living in his community for 21 years. He created a good life with family healing and is so grateful for the love and support received.
  
2. Share “something good!”
  - a. It’s not raining!
  - b. Received a response to a letter sent to DOJ regarding her son’s safety! Feels very hopeful!
  - c. Seeing her son on July 10<sup>th</sup>! On professional side is connected with a sex therapist and with a local legal aid to go in incognito for fair housing to see what kind of discrimination occurs to those convicted of felons
  - d. Seen her son a week and ½ ago and gave him a big hug!
  - e. A friend is helping to pay for a republished book on his ‘Recovery’!

### Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	6/01/21	Organize the Federal & State Judicial leaders, Chair, Ranking member and government contacts compiled by advocacy participants.	Heather, Gail, Melanie, Shawn	
2.	6/01/21	Identify how advocacy members can find Director of Region of Prisons.	Heather	
3.	6/01/21	Research an Obama administration declaration set forth to all criminals being subjected the CO's deciding or allowance of treatment.	Page	
4.	6/01/21	Volunteer to research Federal & State Guidelines. Post on f/b.	Shawn	
5.	6/01/21	All advocacy members can email additional 'Letter' ideas.	Kathy, Sharon, Shawn, Gail	On-Going
6.	6/01/21	Draft Letter composed by 6/15/2021 meeting.	Kathy, Sharon, Shawn, Gail	6/15/2021
7.	6/01/21	Provide Nonprofit status.	Shawn	
8.	6/15/21	Identify federal contact & state governors	Dawn	
9.	6/15/21	Provide contacts to receive letter	Jim, Karen, Marie	

Adjourned Meeting. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday June 29, 2021 7:30P. Look at July Calendar\*\* May need to push out.