

# Advocacy Group “UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 3, 2021 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 14

Overview: Group continues to make progress on the watchdog letter and working through the mailing process logistically. FAMM is aware of our group and will offer support in our advocacy efforts. The website is in development and we have email! We continue to work towards a non-profit status, we are looking for board members and developing a fundraising committee.

### Notes:

- 07/20/2021 meeting minutes were approved.
- **Old Business**
  1. Watchdog correspondence progress:
    - a. The editing is complete and getting ready to mail the letter. Finalizing the contact information and all spreadsheets are formatted correctly to streamline the mail merge.
  2. Reach out to FAMM for contacts:
    - a. Ashley contacted Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) to inquire about sharing their contact information. She obtained a confirmation and setup a meeting between Sam Martinez, Shawn and herself for Monday, Aug 2, 2021. They discussed a lot of good information which will be shared in our future meetings. There are many positives to have FAMM involved with our advocacy group. We can learn from them to boost our group’s advocacy work.
  3. Non-Profit update:
    - a. Four members have interests in becoming board members. We are hoping others will volunteer. We are seeking advice from other Non-Profits to inquire how they manage their status. This is an on-going process and working towards a non-profit status by end of September. Paulettra has worked with a lot of 501’s and will share her knowledge.
  4. Web Site Design – A ZOOM mtg. was scheduled with web designer on Friday 08/06/21. We have email! [Contact@uv4sor.org](mailto:Contact@uv4sor.org)
  5. Mail Merge Letters are formatted and ready to be mailed!
- **New Business:**
  1. FAMM agreed to look at our watchdog letter. They will provide feedback. FAMM will offer a lot of resources for us. More information to follow at our next meeting.

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2. Looking for volunteers to mail out our current Watchdog communication.
  3. The current letter is going to our Federal leaders. We plan to edit the Watchdog Letter specifically for the State Governors’ in the future.
  4. As we move forward with a 501 non-profit we are in need of a fundraising committee and grant writing experience. Once we are a non-profit we can apply for grants that support justice reform. It will be difficult to apply for them if we apply before we are a non-profit.
  5. Future Group Calls to Action?
    - a. Dawn is a podcast leader. Has resources in publicizing video messages. Dawn will give us mini explanations on mini trainings, providing the power of positive thinking in our advocacy and member spot light situations.
  6. Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes)
- **Group CTA (call to action) – UV4SOR Watchdog Campaign:**
    1. Thank you Sharon & Gail for reformatting the contact spreadsheets. The Spreadsheets used for mailing are updated.
    2. The Mail Merge that is using the mailing contacts is complete. We have approximately 97 letters to mail.
      - a. The letters are going to:
        1. BOP Regional Managers
        2. The DOJ
        3. The Judiciary Committee
      - b. Marie, Gail, Kathy volunteered to mail the letters. Shawn will email the files to volunteers to print.
      - c. Shawn will provide return mailing labels and mailing labels to our recipients.
        1. Use Avery 5160 and Staples has the same number which is a little cheaper.
      - d. We have a spreadsheet with all email communication although this phase is on hold until we hear back from FAMM who may help us with the email distribution process.
    3. Sam Martinez of FAMM volunteered to review the letter as well to offer any suggestions or edits. Waiting for his response, however how long do we wait?

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FAMM’s feedback will be valuable information that we can always use with our next initiate.

- a. Question to the group
  1. Do we wait or go?
    - a. Go - done is better than great.
    - b. Let’s not wait more than 48 hours.
4. We will tweak the Watchdog letter to better fit our approach when reaching out to State Governors.
  - a. Suggestions:
    1. Change from an ‘ask’ to an ‘informational/awareness’ and who we are as their constituents. Include ‘constituents’ verbiage.
  - b. The letter is also going to the Department of Corrections in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this initiative.
5. Anyone interested in starting a fundraising committee prior to becoming a non-profit?
  - a. Ideas for fundraising:
    1. Buy me a cup a coffee
      - a. Takes attention away from being a fundraiser
    2. Canvas the other groups
      - a. SO groups
    3. Online auctions
      - a. F/B, electronic prizes i.e. hotels, gift cards
  - b. Fundraising with a non-profit status will offer tax breaks vs. not being a non-profit at the time of fundraising.
  - c. What do we need the money for?
    1. To become a non-profit, website, filing taxes, etc...
    2. A budget is required for the bylaws of a non-profit status.
6. Future CTA’s
  - a. Dawn Long
    1. Mini Advocacy trainings, Positive encouragement and Member spot light.
      - a. Admin meet and greet to grab people’s attention with video
    - b. Free Training Tips
      - i. Skits on ‘how to say things’, sales pitch to tell your story.
      - ii. These videos will reside on the website to empower all of us and give us the chance to advocate in 3 minute snippets.

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- iii. Check out Dawn's YouTube to get an idea in how she operates to become familiar with the activity.
- iv. Once you develop a tool then no one can take that away from you – this is powerful!
- v. Tips to help create your story:
  - 1. Do an ego dump by writing everything down that comes to your mind on paper.
  - 2. Determine what your objectives are to my story.
  - 3. Identify 3 key points.
  - 4. three minute elevator speech is your name, your why and contact.
  - 5. Get your personal cards, Vistaprint has reasonable pricing. Include our logo!

7. Review Open Task issues and made updates.

### Roundtable:

- 1. New Member introductions.
  - a. Annette has a brother incarcerated for the last 4 years. She tries to help as much as she can. It's not easy. She is learning a lot and wants to learn more about many different situations.
  - b. Paulettra lives in Virginia and her son is in BDOC for SO and her husband is also incarcerated. In both circumstances, the charges are being excluded and not talked about at the government level. She is the founder of Sister's For Prison Reform to get violent and SO crimes added to legislation and bills. No matter the offense, people deserve to be respected and treated humanely.
  - c. Ken was recently incarcerated for 30 months in the Federal system. He likes our approach to help people currently in prison. It makes all the difference in the world having someone to reach out to while serving your time. Mental Health is a hot topic in how it impacts people. The system hurts everyone's mental health and it is very difficult to deal with when you have a label once you are out.
- 2. If time share "something good!"
  - a. Page came across an announcement with 3 representatives; Matt Guess, Marjory Taylor Green and one other person. They visited a local DC prison and attempted to go in and tour the facility but were not admitted past the entrance doors. They asked to speak with a supervisor and were told she was outside. Once outside the doors were locked behind them. This group is planning a full investigation on the facility and plan to do this on all of the facilities.

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- b. Rita’s son was admitted into Unicore. He was moved into a different unit with older people and is feeling a lot more peace.
- c. Page is a trauma counselor and offering her services to have a talk with anyone who wants to talk about their trauma. Kathy offered to collaborate too. Send an email to Page if you would like to talk.

### Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	8/3/21	<del>Organize Federal &amp; State Judicial leaders, Chair, Ranking member &amp; government contacts compiled by advocacy participants.</del> Update the contacts as elections occur	Dawn, Gail, Melanie, Sharon	On-Going
3.	7/20/21	<del>Research an Obama administration declaration set forth to all criminals being subjected the CO's deciding or allowance of treatment. Conversation between diplomats. Researching Clinton. Nothing is found and is a dead end.</del>	Page	8/3/2021
4.	8/3/21	Volunteer to research Federal (complete) & is ongoing for State Guidelines. Post on f/b.	Shawn, Sharon	On-Going
7.	6/01/21	Provide Nonprofit status.	Shawn	9/30/2021
9.	8/03/21	Provide contacts to receive letter. Ashley to check with FAMM.	Ashley	8/17/21
10.	8/3/21	Consider having a Board of Directors officers, what responsibilities go with each position, if this might be something of interest then let Shawn know.	All	9/30/2021
11.	7/20/21	Add the verbiage under the logo at a later date and will add it to the f/b page in the meantime.	Shawn	On-Going
13.	7/20/21	<del>Need to figure out numbers: how many email and how many snail mail. Review the spreadsheet to determine email addresses.</del>	Jenny, Gail, Cathy, Sharon	08/03/2021

8:55 - 9:00P Adjourn Meeting Next Meeting Date Tuesday August 17, 2021 7:30P