

Advocacy Group “UNITED VOICES 4 SEX OFFENSE REFORM” Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 7:30P EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 9

Overview:

- Second phase of watchdog letter targeting all Governors has been completed.
- Non-profit overview with second meeting scheduled for 10/3/21 with the goal of filing for non-profit status no later than the end of the first quarter of next year.
- Initial overview and presentation of SMART report watchdog letter and discussion of issues and goals.
- Updates on projects to contact the producer of the Compassion Prison Project, our social media accounts, and introduction of Caution Click letter.

Notes:

1. 09/14/2021 meeting minutes approved with changes.
2. Overview from last meeting and brief summary of focus for tonight’s meeting.
 - Old Business:
 - Governor Watchdog Letter - Sharon
 - Non-Profit update - Shawn
 - Web Site Design -Shawn
 - DOJ SMART Report – Gail
 - Review contacting Compassion Prison Project - Page
 - Fundraising – Shawn
 - Social Media accounts - Shawn
 - New Business:
 - Mariana van Zeller – Topic for Docuseries – Jenny
 - Table to next meeting
 - Unheard Voices Taping – Jenny
 - Table to next meeting
 - Caution Click’s media letter campaign – Rita
 - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes)
3. Group Discussion:
 - Governor Watchdog Letters were all mailed.
 - Shawn checks the mailbox weekly, no returned letters so addresses are all good so far.
 - Do we want to consider a plan for follow up of letters?

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- Non – Profit Update:
 - Our first meeting was held on Sunday 09/19/21, 8:00P EST.
 - We discussed initially appointing board positions and will hold elections after we are established.
 - Reviewed what responsibilities and time commitments that board positions entail.
 - Discussed skill sets and what each person can bring to the board and how that will benefit our cause and mission. There is a lot of diverse passion amongst those who participated in the meeting and have interest in board positions.
 - Agreed to the goal of filing for and obtaining non-profit status by the end of the first quarter of next year (3/2022).
 - Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 10/3/21 @ 8:00 pm EST.

- Web Site Design:
 - Mission and Vision statements are completed.
 - Continue working on content to upload to the site.
 - Asking for input on “Our Story” page - how our group came about.
 - Anyone can contribute items to add to “Resources” page – books, websites, articles (anything for those incarcerated, families, victims).
 - Finalize verbiage for liability form for photos submitted. Include restrictions similar to those in parole restrictions (i.e., no minors, weapons, drugs).
 - Anyone who would like to have their LO’s photo included on the “About Us” page can submit it to Shawn.
 - Completion of website is set for 10/12/21. The website designer, Eric, is to be our guest at the meeting on that date to present the finished website.

- DOJ SMART Report:
 - Gail and Kathy met in person last week to work on the Watchdog Letter and to get to know each other!
 - Gail gave an overview of the SMART report and her ideas for addressing this.
 - Gail presented the initial letter draft for review by the group. All points were taken from the report, using its wording. The letter highlights:
 - No points made in the report have been addressed at all by the DOJ.
 - Key points of concern.
 - Requesting feedback and opportunities to discuss issues.

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- Questions were reviewed about bringing up alternatives to prison sentences and if mandatory minimums were addressed in the report.
 - Shawn will email a copy of the initial letter draft to attendees who are interested in reviewing it and making any suggestions.
 - Discussion about recipients of the letter - DOJ, Judiciary Committee members, SMART office. Are there any others that should be included?
 - Let's expedite this project to get it mailed by the end of October. A final draft will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Page updated about contacting Fritzi Horstman's Compassion Prison Project and coming up with specific questions to engage the Facebook group.
 - Fundraising Committee – still looking for ideas, volunteers and chair.
 - Social Media update by Shawn. We need help with tweets for Twitter account. We received a message from NARSOL requesting to have our information once we are up and running to be placed on their website! And they are looking forward to working with us!
 - Rita introduced Caution Click's letter campaign to reach out to media.
 - Letter addresses ineffectiveness of registry and misinformation about it.
 - Our name can be added to their list of groups that support this campaign.
 - Rita has some media contacts and invites anyone else to share any that they may have.
 - Shawn will email a copy of the letter draft to attendees who are interested in reviewing it and making any suggestions.
 - Caution Click's next meeting will be on 10/11/20 @ 8:00 pm EST and posted on our Facebook group.
 - Reviewed open Task issues and updates.

4. Roundtable:

- New Member introductions.
 - J. Robert Parker was a guest on Dawn's podcast and was previously incarcerated and is a certified hypnotist.
- If time, share “something good!”
 - Gail and Kathy had a great in person meeting which included chatting, laughing, and working on the SMART report letter. Kathy introduced Gail to Starbuck's Chocolate Chip Frappuccino, which is only 440 calories! Maybe more of us can have a meet and greet in the future.
 - Page had an exciting client today who came in with no hope but left with hope and joy in her heart. This is evidence that any level of trauma is treatable and shows the importance of trauma therapy.

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- Shawn was blessed with a new granddaughter- on National Daughter’s Day! She will be traveling to Chicago in two weeks to help out with the grandbabies as her daughter-in-law is in a wedding. These life events are joyful, yet hard for our LO’s who are missing out on them.
- Betty has four children. Her youngest daughter is expanding her children’s clothing boutique which will include more children’s clothing and adult clothing as well. The name is Forever Young in Muncie, IN.
- Rita is moving her mom who will now be closer to her. She is looking forward to spending more time with her! Her mom has purchased her very first home at age 67!

Action items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	8/3/21	Update the contacts list as elections occur.	Dawn, Gail, Melanie, Sharon	On-Going
4.	8/3/21	Volunteer to research Federal (complete) & is ongoing for State Guidelines. Post on Facebook.	Shawn, Sharon	On-Going
7.	6/01/21	Provide Nonprofit status.	Shawn	10/12/2021
9.	8/03/21	Provide contacts to receive letter. Ashley obtained some information from FAMM about the software that they utilize. Now waiting on more contact information from them.	Ashley	3/2022
11.	7/20/21	Add the verbiage under the logo later and will add it to the Facebook page in the meantime.	Shawn	10/12/2021
15.	8/17/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button.	Shawn	10/12/2021
17.	9/28/21	Submit any additional contacts for the SMART Report letter mailing.	Sharon	10/12/2021

8:55 - 9:10P Adjourn Meeting. Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 7:30P EST.