

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 16

### Overview:

- Updates to Old Business
- Introduce items for discussion in New Business
- Group discussion
- Update Action/Open Task Items
- Roundtable discussion

### Notes:

1. 4/12/2022 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Overview from the 4/12/2022 meeting and a summary of focus for tonight's meeting.
  - Old Business:
    - Non-Profit Update - Shawn
    - Guest Speaker - Shawn
    - Research Committee - Pammy
    - Unlocking the Hidden Voice - Page
    - 50 State Contact/Coalition Project - Kim H.
    - Communication Committee - Gail/Sharon
  - New Business:
    - 2030 Reentry Plan - Rita
    - Speaker Information - Melanie
    - Open Task Issues (review from meeting minutes) - Group
3. Group Discussion:
  - Non-Profit Update:
    - The bylaws were completed and have been adopted!
    - We are preparing for filing the 501c3 certification with the IRS as United Voices for Sex Offense Reform DBA UV4SOR.
    - The PNC Bank account has been opened and the final signatures have been submitted.
    - The PayPal account will set up after the final banking steps are completed.
    - The previous board meeting was held on 4/24/22; the next meeting is set for Sunday, 5/15/22 @ 8:00 p.m. EST.

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### ○ Guest Speaker Update:

Shawn announced the schedule for our next meeting with the guest speaker and discussed generating interest and excitement for this event. She noted that future guest speakers will be added as we have the summer schedule in place.

- The next meeting on May 10th will be an abbreviated meeting with our guest speaker, Dr. Emily Horowitz, speaking at 7:45 for 45 minutes. There will be 30 minutes following her talk for questions and answers with her.
- [Emily Horowitz, Ph.D.](#), is an associate professor of sociology at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. She serves as a director at the [National Center for Reason and Justice](#), an organization that supports the falsely accused and/or wrongfully convicted and works for child protective laws based on science and research. She is on the advisory committee for the regional advocacy group [Restorative Action Alliance](#) and she was a featured speaker at [NARSOL's conference](#) last year. She authored the book [“Protecting Our Kids? How Sex Offender Laws are Failing Us”](#).
- We will make frequent posts on the Facebook group page to notify members and encourage attendance at this meeting. Member interaction on these posts will help keep this topic at the top of the page and all attendees of the meeting were asked to help by adding positive comments to the posts. We would like to get a good turnout at this meeting!

### ○ Research Committee Update:

Pammy has outlined the goals of the committee, which include mission, vision, strategies, and goals. She has prepared a document of Facts and Statistics of SO Crimes that is well researched and documented for use by the group and our other committees. We discussed various ways of making this available and how to eventually post it on the website as a protected document, possibly as a benefit of membership in UV4SOR.

### ○ Unlocking Your Hidden Voice:

Page reported on the webinar/class that she and Dawn presented on April 23rd. Their training focused on learning how to use our voices effectively for advocacy. Participants had the opportunity to practice speaking with confidence, how to articulate their speech to stay focused and to hold a listener's attention, and effectively be the voice of our loved ones. The small group format was successful, had positive feedback, and will be repeated for future classes. People who are interested in learning more can message Page or Dawn, or email Page at [quantumchoice@yahoo.com](mailto:quantumchoice@yahoo.com). You can view Unlocking Your Hidden Voice [HERE](#).

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- Kim H. discussed her project to create a “living” Facebook member spreadsheet. The goal in compiling information about our group members is to engage all members, build coalitions with representatives from all 50 states, and encourage active advocacy and group participation.
  - Kim H. has started going through our member list of 467 people to create the spreadsheet with information that includes location/state, contact information, federal or state involvement, and current level of participation on activity and posts.
  - Sending welcome messages to new members is a good way to inform them of our activities, explain how our efforts will help make change, explain our committees and goals, and invite them to attend meetings.
  - An idea to promote inclusion of new members is to partner them with active members in a buddy system until they can become a buddy to someone else.
  - This will be a detailed and ongoing project. This information will be beneficial to the various committees if we gather additional information such as charges, sentence length, supervised release conditions, and how many are currently incarcerated in which states and/or federal facilities.
  - Anyone interested in volunteering ideas to further this project should contact Kim H. or any of the other moderators or admins.
  
- Communication Committee Update:

Sharon and Gail reported that the committee is making progress on finalizing a response letter to the General Counsel (who had responded to our [First Step Act](#) letter). A watchdog letter regarding SB3951 - Protect Act of 2022, (which is the legislation [introduced by Senator Josh Hawley](#)), is currently being reviewed and will be sent to Senate and House Judiciary committee members upon completion. Although Senator Durbin objected and blocked this bill from passing in the Senate, it was referred on to the Judiciary Committee. The next committee project will be a follow-up letter regarding the [SMART report](#), and research has begun for this.
  
- Reentry 2030 Event:

Rita registered for a livestream event of the [Reentry 2030](#) National Launch. It was not an interactive event as advertised, but she watched it and was impressed by the emphasis on *reentry for every person!* The goals of this project are to work toward significant advances in reentry and reintegration on a national level by 2030. Comments by the director of the [CSG Justice Center](#) focused on the inequities of education, housing, and treatment, and on taking a humanistic approach in achieving reentry goals. Rita is going to work on finding out who oversees this project and will follow up with providing further information.

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- Melanie relayed a conversation that she had with her son’s lawyer when she took the opportunity to introduce him to her advocacy efforts and pulled up the [UV4SOR](#) website for him to look at. He was blown away to see the efforts that we are making toward advocacy and reform, and he asked what he could do to help. Melanie asked if he would be interested in speaking to the group, and he may consider it! They also discussed the possibility of having the counselor who did her son’s SO risk assessment, [Dr. Jason Newsome](#), as a potential guest. Melanie and Shawn will follow-up and update at our next general meeting.
- Reviewed Action Items/Open Task Issues and Updates (details below).

#### 4. Roundtable:

- New member welcome and introduction. Welcome to An, who was introduced to our group by Jenny. The arrest of An’s son prompted her to get her master’s degree in Criminal Justice! She is on the board of the [Utah Prisoner Advocate Network](#), which is a network of prison family and friends who can contact each other for help and support. Thanks to An for joining us!
- General discussion among members.
  - Ken mentioned that those on a Level 1 in Washington state are not on the public registry. Oregon was mentioned as another state that may have the same rule.
  - Elena mentioned a group [post which referenced](#) the DOJ Civil Rights Special Litigation Section and voiced concerns that this department does not mention the rights of those in federal institutions. She suggested looking into the [Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act](#) to research for more information.
  - There was a discussion about receiving spam texts and how that can lead to enticement and entrapment. The book “[Manufacturing Criminals](#)”, by Bonnie Burkhardt was recommended for further information on this subject.
  - The TV series “[Undercover Underage](#)”, which follows child advocate Roo Powell and her team at [SOSA](#) (Safe from Online Sex Abuse) was discussed (with some laughter to end the night as it was clarified that this is not RuPaul!).

See Action/Open Task Items Below:

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### Action/Open Task Items:

Item #	Meeting Date	Description	Owner	Completion Date
1.	8/3/21	Update the contact lists as elections occur.	Dawn, Gail, Melanie, Sharon	On-Going
4.	8/3/21	Research Federal (complete) and State (ongoing) Guidelines. Work to narrow down specific subjects for State, such as the registry. Post on the website.	Shawn, Sharon, Kim H.	On-Going
7.	1/11/22	Provide updated Non-profit status after board meeting on 5/15/2022.	Shawn	5/24/2022
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Attach PayPal account to the donate button and add non-profit description.	Shawn	5/24/2022
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny, Shawn	Ongoing
22.	2/1/22	Betty's Letter Writing/Story Campaign and Committee.	Betty	Ongoing
23.	12/7/21	Work to tweak website for emails to be forwarded to Shawn, Sharon, Kim and Gail. Review list of changes with Eric.	Shawn, Sharon	5/24/2022
27.	3/1/22	Update group on the ALI changes to the Model Penal Code for Sexual Offenses after their next meeting.	Gail	5/24/2022
28.	3/1/22	Post in group regularly about our recipe book fundraising project and solicit recipes from group members' LO. Publication details are TBD.	Pammy, Sharon	Ongoing
29.	3/1/22	Determine committees needed, establish committee heads, and solicit volunteers to join each one.	Group	Ongoing
31.	3/1/22	Update website adding new pages, buttons, and drop-down menus as needed.	Shawn, Sharon	Ongoing
32.	3/29/22	Research making appointments with elected officials to be scheduled during the March 2023 Washington, DC event.	Jenny, Shawn	6/2022
33.	4/12/22	Compile group member information for a spreadsheet to identify members by state, gather contact information, establish interests and skills of each person, and create a mentoring program.	Kim H.	Ongoing
34.	4/26/22	Follow and update on the Reentry 2030 project and future events.	Rita	Ongoing

9:45 - 9:50 p.m. Adjourn Meeting.

Next Meeting Date with a Guest Speaker is Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m. EST.