

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”
General Meeting Minutes (with Guest Speaker)
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 20

Overview:

- Updates to Old Business will be discussed at our next general meeting on 3/7/2023
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s guest speaker and introduction
- Update of Action/Open Task Items will take place at our meeting on 3/7/2023

Notes:

1. 2/7/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Introduction and welcome to our guest speaker Dr. Stephanie Jerstad, Ph.D.
[Dr. Stephanie Jerstad](#), a professor of Criminology at Millersville University in PA is our speaker tonight. Dr. Jerstad’s research focuses on corrections, barriers to re-entry, collateral consequences, and housing instability (i.e., homelessness, access to long-term care facilities). Specifically, her research concentrates on macro- and micro-level policies with an emphasis on sexual offense policies.
 - Stephanie’s Ph.D. [dissertation research](#) at Southern Illinois University focused on the willingness of long-term care facilities to accept persons convicted of sexual offending into their care as residents. The study examined state policy, state punitiveness, organizational characteristics, and attitudes and perceptions of long-term care facility administrators regarding policies that prevent them from admitting someone on the registry or with a prior sexual offense conviction. Her scholarly works focusing on the willingness of long-term care facilities to accept persons on the registry is pioneering in the field, with the goal of effectuating change and making long-term care accessible to everyone, even those with a prior sexual offense conviction, at the local, state, and federal levels.
 - Stephanie is very passionate when it comes to organizational policies and state laws which limit certain groups of people from accessing long-term care when everyone should have the right to receive long-term care, regardless of their criminal history, during their last days of life.
 - Work on two current studies:
 - One ongoing study is relating to narratives received from concerned individuals in a southern state regarding the obstacles of receiving approval to a long-term care facility for those on the registry or with a prior sexual offense conviction.

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- A second study examining the public health model and its impact on individuals on the registry or with a prior sexual offense conviction is to be published soon. “Using a public health framework, this present study examines state policies addressing long-term care facilities (LTCFs) admission and management processes for people convicted of a sexual offense. The findings revealed that 12 states have laws, policies and procedures addressing the admission and management processes for individuals with a sexual offense conviction seeking to reside or residing in long-term care facilities. While these policies were not found to be consistent from one state to the next, our understanding of prevention efforts in the field of sex offender management can be advanced through the lens of a public health framework. Implications for policy, practice, and future research are discussed.”

3. Group question and answer session and discussion.

Various questions were asked regarding past and current state legislation, public health responses to long term health care for those with a prior sexual offense, and the current and future problems that are creating barriers for re-entry and the right to health care. Stephanie emphasized the need to sound the alarm to legislative decision makers about how this will impact the future of our aging population and the monetary consequences to all. Her unique research will provide facts to use in education and lobbying for reform. She intends to speak first to state legislators and then address congress about these critical issues.

9:07 p.m. Adjourn Meeting - Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m. EST

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Action/Open Task Items (for review at the next meeting):

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.	Ongoing	Research Federal and State Guidelines. Work to narrow down specific subjects for each state, such as the registry. Post on the website.	Shawn, Sharon, Kim H.	On-Going
7.	Ongoing	Provide updated Non-profit status after board meeting on 2/26/2023.	Shawn	3/7/2023
15.	12/7/21	Web Design Changes: Add the non-profit description once certification is received.	Shawn	4/2023
19.	10/12/21	Documentary Series and Guest Speakers follow-up.	Jenny, Shawn	Ongoing
22.	2/1/22	No More Silence Story Telling Campaign and Committee.	Betty	Ongoing
23.	Ongoing	Work on website for contact form submissions to be forwarded to the UV email account. Review list of changes with our website designer Eric.	Shawn, Sharon	Ongoing
28.	3/1/22	Post in group regularly about our recipe book fundraising project, solicit recipes and artwork from group members' LO. Publication details are TBD.	Rita, Pammy, Sharon, Shawn	Ongoing
29.	3/1/22	Determine committees needed, establish committee heads, and solicit volunteers to join each one.	Group	Ongoing
31.	Ongoing	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, D.C. event. Update at 3/7/2023 meeting.	Jenny, Shawn	Ongoing
33.	4/12/22	Advocacy Participation Project: Compile group member information for a spreadsheet to identify members by state, gather contact information, establish the interests and skills of each person, and create a mentoring program. Initiate volunteers to head each state coalition.	Kim H.	Ongoing
34.	4/26/22	Follow and update on the Reentry 2030 project and future events.	Rita	Ongoing