

# “UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

## General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 22

### Overview for Group Discussion

- Review the Last Regular Meeting
- Board Updates
- Team Updates from Team Leaders/Spokespersons
- Other Business
- Roundtable

### Group Discussion

#### 1. Review of Last Meeting - Group

The 9/5/2023 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).

#### 2. Board Updates – Shawn L., Executive Director

- Board members are working on previously tabled projects and making good progress.
- The Board is working on implementing a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) database to improve outgoing communications and streamline efficiencies with reporting information. The goal is to implement this program by 1/1/2024.
- The website designer will be making our requested improvements to the website.
- The next board meeting will be on Sunday, 10/22/2023.

#### 3. Advocacy Participation Team – Kim H.

- The team continues to monitor new member requests. Those who request membership but do not respond to our email/message are declined.
- The Holiday Greeting project is being worked on and will be presented to group members in the next week.

#### 4. State Coalitions Team – Kim H.

- The team finalized the membership survey after test findings were reviewed and addressed.
  - The revised survey has been sent to the board members for one final test along with the proposed message to members for feedback and approval. Once approved, the survey will be sent to all members in our email contact list, and it will be posted to the FB group.
  - Future discussion is needed with the board and the new member admins about how the survey can be incorporated into the “new membership” process.
- The next team meeting is on Monday 10/9/2023.

#### 5. Call to Action (CTA) Team – Elena A.

- The team has finalized the CTA regarding federal prison phone calls and the importance of keeping them at no cost for anyone who is incarcerated. This will be posted once it is determined if there will be a government shutdown at the end of the month which is also the end of the fiscal year.

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- A CTA was posted to the group regarding pending federal legislation that will severely underfund Federal Defenders and CJA panel attorneys. Many of us and our LO depend upon public defenders and this funding cut will degrade the overall quality of federal indigent defense and undermine the administration of justice for countless federal defendants.
  - The team shared a FAC (Florida Action Committee) CTA to oppose an ordinance that will make living in Crestview City, FL for future registrants a criminal act, also known as banishment.
6. Communication Team – Gail L.
- The team has drafted a letter to be sent to legislators regarding the ALI’s approved revisions to Section 213 of the Model Penal Code: Sexual Assault and Related Offenses.
    - The list of legislators and leaders to whom the letter will be sent is being compiled in a spreadsheet.
    - An email has been drafted to send to other advocacy organizations/networking resources asking if they are interested in collaborating on this project with us. Discussion ensued with suggested organizations to contact for inclusion.
    - Further research is ongoing to determine the exact details of the approved revisions which will be included in the letters.
  - Shawn requested that that the team compose a master letter with different common subjects that can be kept for use when requests are received in the mail from people asking for our help.
7. Fundraising Team – Rita B.
- Rita is continuing to collect gently used shoes and clothing as a fundraiser and she has a garage sale planned for this weekend. She has some items on consignment with a local consignment store and the proceeds will go to UV4SOR.
  - The Kroger Community Rewards program is set up and Rita is submitting applications to other Kroger divisions. She will provide information in another FB post to the group.
  - The Sockathon fundraiser will be launched in October, and it will run until December.
8. Mental Health Team – Pammy D.
- The team held a meeting on September 6, 2023. They had a meet and greet with their new team member.
  - The team members are all working on individual things and will schedule another meeting when they are all at a point to collaborate.
9. No More Silence Team – Betty B.
- Betty reviewed the No More Silence project, explained the use of letters that we receive, and encouraged all members to submit a personal story. She will post an update in the FB group and another email will be sent to all members in our contact list.

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10. PR/Marketing Team – Shawn L. and Jenny L.
  - Dwayne Daughtry was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. He will return as a guest speaker in November, with a workshop on developing a five-minute elevator speech to legislators.
  - Emily Horowitz will return as our guest speaker on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023. She will be reviewing her new book, [“From Rage to Reason”](#).
11. Grant Writing Team – Shawn L.

Shawn has posted in the FB group and sent an email about the need for a Grant Writing team leader and team members.
12. Other Business – Shawn L.

Ken shared that he filled out the survey that was sent in our email blast. This survey was for a study that examines the impact of incarceration on mental health after release as well as success after release. He was impressed with the survey and explained how he was let go from his job after someone looked him up and reported it to his boss. Discussion ensued about the lack of mental health support prior to, during and after incarceration.

### Roundtable

1. New Member Welcome and Introductions

Kim is in NE and her son is serving a 5.5-year sentence in IL at USP Thomson. In NE, he will be on the registry for 25 years. She spoke about the need for mental health and the importance of family support.
2. Share Something Good
  - Nafisa’s husband was granted parole!
  - Jenny found out today that she is going to be a grandma and it’s a girl!
  - Elena will be visiting her son this weekend!

The next meeting date is Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. EST.

9:08 p.m. EST meeting adjourned.