

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”
General Meeting Minutes (with Guest Speaker)
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 39

Overview:

- Team updates will be discussed at our next general meeting on 3/5/2024
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s guest speaker and introduction
- Group discussion

Notes:

1. 2/6/2024 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Introduction and welcome to our guest speaker Joshua Hoe.

Formerly incarcerated, Josh has been a policy analyst, a social media and messaging consultant, an organizer, and is the host and creator of the [Decarceration Nation](#) podcast (currently on hiatus after 7 years of production). Josh has a background in public speaking, debate, and public policy research. He is a former National College Debate Champion and holds a master’s degree in international relations.

3. Discussion and group questions.

Josh discussed his journey over the past ten years, from the time he was released from prison. He spoke about getting started on a career path, how his podcast came about, his work with various Michigan advocacy groups, and his current work for justice reform with [Dream.org](#). Group questions were answered and discussed.

- Josh described his experiences with finding work and housing while being on probation, parole, and the registry.
- He discussed the importance of developing a well-rounded perspective and how to be in tune with and learn from others with opposing viewpoints.
- Questions were asked and answered regarding how to overcome emotional reactions and responses, the current political views of the First Step Act and criminal justice reform, the common depression and despair of those impacted by the registry, and how to put yourself in a position to have an impact.
- Josh can be reached at ypsifactj@gmail.com.

9:23 p.m. Adjourn Meeting - Next Meeting Date is Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:30 p.m. EST