

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM” General Meeting Minutes (with Guest Speaker)

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 28

Overview:

- Team updates will be discussed at our next general meeting on 04/02/2024
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s guest speaker and introduction
- Group discussion

Notes:

1. 03/05/2024 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on the [website](#).
2. Introduction and welcome to our guest speaker Allegra Pocinki.

Allegra is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She has taught undergraduates at Rutgers for the last four years in a variety of subjects, including criminology, statistics, demography, and race relations. Currently, Allegra works with support groups across the country to mitigate the stigma of having a loved one incarcerated and advocates for families. She has served on the Board of DC Project Connect, a member of the Advocacy in Action Coalition, and is a member of the International Family Conference, which is renamed Connecting for Justice. Before her current activities and research, Allegra worked at the Brookings Institution, a public policy think tank in D.C. in the Center on Children and Families.

3. Discussion and group questions.
 - Presented on disenfranchised grief and the families connected to a person incarcerated. The focus of Allegra’s study has been seeking out organizations that exist to support women and families rather than children and the role an organization plays.
 - Allegra shared her conversations with leaders of organizations and their general experiences providing various levels of support, information, or education. One woman referred to her experience as a “hidden sentence...I was a victim, and I was serving the sentence with him.”
 - Questions were asked and answered regarding Allegra’s research.
 - You can contact Allegra by email, allegra.pocinki@rutgers.edu

9:00 p.m. Adjourn Meeting

Next meeting dates.

- General Meeting; Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 7:30 p.m. EST
- Meet the Board and Distinguished Board Members; Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 7:30 p.m. EST
- Bonnie Burkhardt is releasing her second book and Shawn will provide details.