

Louisiana CURE Board Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2020

ATTENDING: (6) Betty Carter, Jay Jackson, Linda Fjeldsjo, Checo Yancy, Carl Taylor, Kelly Garrett

Because of the Coronavirus and the stay-home recommendation from the Governor, this meeting was conducted using Zoom, a video conference computer/mobile phone app.

Kelly Garrett started the meeting by assisting some board members with their sign-in and their video/audio connections.

Since the next general CURE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and the state would still be under the stay-home recommendation from the Governor, discussions centered on using Zoom as a means of conducting the meeting. Jay Jackson and Carl Taylor mentioned that the Zoom platform may be our only choice, if we were to have the meeting.

Checo Yancy mentioned the importance of holding the May meeting due to the state legislature has re-convened and they are discussing proposed criminal justice bills.

Upon discussion from the board, it was decided to "sign-up" for a 12-month subscription with Zoom that will allow up to 100 members to participate in our monthly meetings via computer or mobile phone. Once the stay-home restriction is lifted, LA Cure will resume holding public meetings but members living in other parts of the state will now be able to "sign-in" from their home and participate.

With our Zoom subscription, President Checo Yancy and Vice-President Kelly Garrett are the designated "host" for our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Jackson  
Secretary

## Louisiana CURE Zoom Meeting Minutes May 12, 2020

**Participating (13):** Checo Yancy, Kelly Garrett, Jay Jackson, Betty Carter, Carl Taylor, Dan Krutz, Kristen Antoine-Morse, Marianne Fisher-Giolando, Michael Naquin, Stephanie Hicks, Veronica Young, Tammy Jones, Avis Henderson

Checo Yancy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first La CURE Zoom meeting and then requested that everyone pause for a moment of silence.

Kelly Garrett briefly explained the process of using Zoom as a tool to conduct this meeting and the advantage of using Zoom in future meetings to make it more convenient for members living outside the Baton Rouge area.

Checo requested that everyone who signed in introduce themselves. Checo then mentioned several bills that the state legislature is currently voting on. Some senate bills were labeled as "bad bills" (SB 188, 322, 347, 352, 383 and 384) because they were counter productive to the prison reform bills passed a few years ago. Kelly and Checo addressed some Senate and House bills in particular, such as HB127, 338, 344, 643.

Communicating with legislative committee members is currently difficult because of the stay-home restrictions. Kelly used a split screen and showed members how to navigate the legislative website. Emails can be sent to committee chairs the day before to be part of the record and "direct testimony" is still allowed.

Kelly mentioned the US CENSUS being conducted and the importance of everyone completing the form.

Checo explained how to find and navigate the newly designed DOC website and the general opinion was that it is more difficult now to find out information than before the new design.

Kelly participates on the DOC Visitation Board and mentioned six helpful suggestions she is working on - such as children visits, food variety lacking, adding Thursday visits, and more.

Michael Naquin participates on the DOC Pre-Release Board and he mentioned six helpful suggestions he is involved with such as too many fees, lack of affordable housing, and more.

Kristen Antoine-Morse is a member of the DOC Sub Committee on Communications. She presented six recommendations, such as phone calls, inmates not receiving information and more.

Stephanie Hicks mentioned that elderly visitors are having difficulty getting transported once at the prison. Betty Carter mentioned that it appears that elderly requests are being ignored.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Jackson  
Secretary