

Louisiana CURE

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021

Participating (20): Checo Yancy, Kelly Garrett, Jay Jackson, Taawanda Boatner, Kristel Neupert, Michael Hackett, Jacquelyn Germany, Tiffany Griffin, Dan Krutz, Kevin Harris, Linda Fjeldsjo, Sherie Thomas, Peggy Scott, Lyn Hakeem, Betty Carter, Chester Self, Carmenesia Hill, Pat Smith, Stephanie Smith, Shametria Gonzales

Vice President Kelly Garrett opened the meeting and requested a moment of silence. She followed by asking everyone participating to introduce themselves and mentioning their state representatives and state senators.

Betty Carter mentioned to everyone that Avis Henderson's son had surgery recently and Checo suggested that we pause and remember him in prayer.

Linda Fjeldsjo gave a treasurer's report:

- Catholic Campaign for Human Development account balance.....\$1493.16
- Louisiana CURE's regular checking account balance.....\$1832.55

Checo introduced Sherie Thomas from the Justice Accountability (JAC) organization to discuss upcoming legislation on expungements in Louisiana. She presented two YouTube videos to illustrate the campaign. Two bills introduced this legislative session are HB 604 and HB 232 are of special interest. Sherie mentioned that the state of Pennsylvania has already started the automated expungement process. Pat Smith mentioned that Tennessee is moving forward to something similar. Currently in Louisiana, the average cost to expunge someone's record is approximately \$2000 for legal fees and \$550 for processing fees. There are nearly 1.2 million Louisiana citizens with a criminal record.

If passed, records would no longer be available for public view and for employers. Judges, licensing boards and law enforcement would be the only groups with access.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Kelly mentioned that VOTE has a list of criminal justice bills they are tracking on their website.
- Linda Fjeldsjo mentioned that Tom Costanza has replaced Rob Tasman as Legislative Liaison for the Louisiana Catholic Bishops.
- Checo requested that we begin using the terms "Current Incarcerated Person" or Former Incarcerated Person" as opposed to "Offender", "Inmate", or Convict.
- Checo mentioned that DOC has volunteer training on the DOC website.
- Kelly mentioned that DOC has started posting a quarterly newsletter on their website and reminded everyone about updating their annual membership.

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Jackson
Secretary