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,

[Signature]

Jay Jackson
Secretary