

## **AVP California Steering Committee**

### **Minutes**

**November 12, 2015**

#### Present

Steve Gelb, Stephen Matchett, Nancy Vimla, Ann Leonard, Linda McCue, Stacy Hughes, Joyce Banzhaf

#### Absent

Steve Lomas, Gori Urling, Sam Lewis, Karen Brower, Sue Torrey

Reviewed and Approved Minutes from SC Meeting at Fall Gathering

Updated file name of Steering Committee Liaison Positions. Please double-check to make sure everything looks accurate.

Updated Steering Committee Members List (there are a few of us whose terms are noted to expire November 2015)

Website development update:

- Moving along in our communication with Tino. Added two members to our team, Bridging Barbara Atwell (and her project management ability) and Journeying Justin Lin. Steve G. will forward Barbara's project timeline to the Steering Committee. Aiming to decide on which template to use at our next meeting, in one or two weeks.

Database development process

- Moving forward guided by George Ramos. Steve G. has introduced a good database resource person - Gene, created a database for the Immigrant Legal Resource Center - to George, in hopes that he will help with the AVP-CA database process.

Addressing the issue at Solano raised by AVP Facilitator meeting released person

- Issue raised regarding inappropriate relationship between facilitator and recently released person at Solano: Everyone read the letter that has come from Ellen Eggers, and comments from others, in order that we are able to discuss and address this issue at another time.
- Communication processes in addressing problems / concerns
- DOM and gray area of interaction between released persons and AVP people who knew them before their release.
- Steering Committee has looked at letter from Ellen, heard some further explanation from some SC members, and moving forward will be in hands of the Crisis Committee.

- Confirmed that Crisis Committee is the appropriate group to start the dialog and work on this issue, including reaching out to Solano Coordinators and Ellen.
- This issue reminds us of the need to clarify policy regarding contact with people we've known and worked with inside, after they are released.
- Crisis Team has support from SC to reach out to Ellen, recognizing that this issue has developed in a way that did not include her.
- SC will reply with a brief, supportive message to Ellen to send after the meeting:

Draft (by Stacy and Stephen):

Dear Ellen,

Thank you for your letter today, which we had an opportunity to consider at our meeting tonight. We want you to know that we are very concerned about the issues you raise, and certainly want to find a way to move forward in a way that best serves this program we all love and embodies its principles. We have asked Crisis Team members Ann Boone, Stephen Matchett and Vicki Rumbaugh to take the lead in responding to this situation, and one of them should be in touch with you soon.

Stacy Hughes, on behalf of the Steering Committee

Fall Gathering Showing of "In An Ideal World" and John Picirillo's discussion after that raised some concerns.

- Some people were concerned about post-showing discussion with John.
- Noel Schwerin did not know John was going to speak after the showing, and this is a point of concern, considering that John can present in ways that are not well-reflecting on AVP, the film, etc. Normally Noel is able to moderate the content covered by John and others.
- Question raised about how much we assume the film is a representation of AVP, and to keep in mind that the film covers more topics than just AVP (prison integration efforts, prison reality, etc).
- We learn a few lessons from the experience about facilitating discussions; recognizing potential voyeuristic tendencies toward violence; the value of understanding where people began in order to understand how far they have come, etc.

Closing - "What did you get out of this meeting?"

Next meeting - December 10

- Clerk - Stacy
- Assistant Clerk - Karen
- Notes - Ann

Tabled to next meeting:

- Location for 2016 Steering Committee Retreat
- Video Conference Calling Possibility
- Communicating with AVP-CA: content for next Newsletter / VR mailing
  - Report from Fall Gathering
  - Happy Holidays
  - “steeringcommittee@avpcalifornia.org” email address
  - Links to download Stacy’s photos
  - Introduce new Steering Committee Members