

VERONICA'S Voice Offenders Accountability Re-education (OAR) Program "John School"

The VERONICA'S Voice OAR Program or "John School" is an intensive, educational class. The approach brings about intervention for the demand side of prostitution. The participants are men who have been arrested for solicitation of prostitution. They are generally ordered through the court system.

This pragmatic and restorative justice program moves law enforcement, criminal justice, and human services to a new level of performance in eliminating the tragic human consequences and high community cost of prostitution.

VERONICA'S Voice (VV) is aiding our communities in successfully reducing prostitution through this proven education and human service diversion approach. This program dramatically reduces recidivism among first-time arrested customers or "Johns" and has a solid track record helping women and girls escape prostitution and drug addiction and step away from the criminal justice system's revolving door once and for all.

VERONICA'S Voice charges a Five Hundred Dollar fee for this intensive class. This is the only fee-based program at VERONICA'S Voice. The fees for this program, which are paid by the "customer/john", go directly back into VV and are used for all services and programs VV provides to victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

This program is a real-world look at the risks and effects of prostitution. Components of the class include an overview of health education and risks, the effects of prostitution on the persons used in prostitution, the dynamics of pimping, recruitment and trafficking, the effects of prostitution and solicitation on the community, the consequences of continued criminal activity, and understanding sexual addiction. The most critical component of the OAR Program is the education of the customer.

VERONICA'S Voice's OAR program evolved from the San Francisco First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP) which was co-founded by Norma Hotaling of SAGE and the San Francisco District Attorneys office in 1995; it has been practiced throughout the US and internationally. The First Offenders Prostitution Program was the winner of the 1998 John F. Kennedy School Innovations in American Government Award.

Sited Results of FOPP & OAR

- Dramatic results in changed lives and improved communities
- Produces crucial cost savings in the criminal justice, health, and human service systems.
- As an alternative to prosecution, OAR/FOPP reduces the demand on overburdened courtrooms.
- As an *intervention* program, OAR/FOPP addresses root causes of criminal behavior, reducing repetitive arrests.
- As a *prevention* program, OAR/FOPP reduces risk of sexually transmitted diseases and their expensive consequences.
- As a *rehabilitation* program, OAR/FOPP reduces incarceration and dependency upon public assistance.

Veronica's Voice Offender Accountability Reeducation (OAR) Program

This is an intensive course featuring multiple speakers who explain the negative impact prostitution has on women, children and the communities where prostitution thrives. OAR participants are shown how, as buyers, they contribute to the perpetuation of criminal organizations that profit from not only global sex trafficking, but also the illegal drug and gun trades. Local demand for prostitution encourages pimps and traffickers to continue recruiting more local women and children into commercial sex in order to supply buyers with more human "product."

- 1.) Physical Health Education Component:** Education regarding sexually transmitted infections and HIV/ AIDS is a critical part of the OAR programming provided by licensed healthcare professionals from area clinics and health departments.
 - 2.) Mental Health Component:** Compulsive behaviors, addiction, and relationships are addressed by licensed counselors who specialize in working with sex addictions, impulse control problems, and relationships.
 - 3.) Neighborhood Impact Panel:** The panel gives the residents and business owners in the target areas the opportunity to directly address offenders about the impact of solicitation activity.
 - 4.) Survivor Impact Panel:** The survivor impact panel is composed of those who have survived and exited prostitution. The realities of prostitution (pimp control, homelessness, drug addiction, assault, rape, trauma, suicide, shame, and murder) are explained by these survivors.
 - 5.) Legal Issues:** This component of OAR speaks to the legal aspects related to solicitation activity, and how such activity can lead to municipal, state, and even federal charges and prosecution.
 - 6.) Evaluation and Wrap-Up:** At the conclusion of the program, offenders are given an evaluation that measures how their thinking about sexual exploitation has been altered. Anonymous demographics are collected based on information supplied by offenders. This information helps in the understanding of offender motives, drives, and mindsets.
- Fees paid by offenders are utilized for services and programming that directly assists those who have been victimized by the commercial sex industry.**