

Interstate Commission for Juveniles
IT Committee Conference Call
2/17/2008

In Attendance:

- 1) Paul Gibson (KY) Commissioner
- 2) Ray Wahl (UT) Commissioner, Committee Chair
- 3) Susan Morris (OK) Commissioner
- 4) Alicia Ehlers (ID) Ex-officio
- 5) Donna Bonner, Commission Chair, Ex-Officio

- Mark Boger of Maine joined briefly. He wanted to let the committee know he had been called away to a meeting, but planned to participate in the future and would be willing to take on different responsibilities as needed.
- Ray Wahl thought it was best to try and get the group organized and also establish what is expected of the committee.
 - First asked Donna Bonner about how often the group should meet.
 - Donna noted that for now other committees are planning to meet once a month.
- Ray Wahl next highlighted the three primary issues Donna Bonner thought the committee would need to address. They are as follows:
 - Development of new commission web site;
 - The development of a system to track and supervise juveniles; and
 - The development of a data collection system as required by the compact.
- Chair Wahl asked if there was money set aside specifically for the development of the data collection system. It is his understanding from reading the compact that currently there is no money for this project.
 - Keith Scott from CSG joined the call and noted that this was correct and suggested that in the future the committee specifically earmark dollars for this use.
 - Initial development is slated to start during fiscal year 2010.
 - Paul Gibson raised the question about potential grant money for the development of projects such as this.
 - Keith thought this was a possibility.
 - Ray noted that this is something we may need to investigate at the federal level – “Byrne grants” and various other federal grants might be possibilities.
 - Paul asked if CSG staff would be able to take some time and research what grants may available for this purpose.
 - Knowing it is a nationwide system, federal dollars may be appropriate and possible.

- Ray added the adult compact received a planning grant designed to help with the development of the ICOTS system and its various data elements.
 - He has a PDF of the document and will circulate it to the committee following today's call for review.
- Donna Bonner liked the approach the group was taking and thought that searching for grants may eliminate some of the funding issues talked about above.
- Chairman Wahl next suggested reviewing different data collection systems with the goal of establishing what works and using that as a starting point.
 - Paul Gibson noted that there is a nationwide data sharing system, but not everyone reports to it, which results in incomplete data.
 - Kristine Prince in UT, as AJCA Secretariat, has overseen this process, although it is not real uniform or sophisticated.
 - Ray will talk with her about it.
 - Paul suggested we need to start somewhere without reinventing the wheel.
 - Because different states use different systems, the group is likely to find a real hodgepodge.
 - Key is to develop a starting point.
 - Ray thought a good starting point might be to ask the committee members present which states currently have good systems in place and then try and learn from those states about development and maintenance.
 - Paul noted TN, and GA to a certain extent.
 - Alicia Ehlers pointed to WA, though they have not been as effective recently.
 - Also noted OR was doing well for a while.
 - Donna Bonner added that LA is doing a good job. Their system works in real time and is consistently up to date. Donna suggested that the committee may want to use Beth Meng as a resource moving forward.
 - She also added that Dale Dodd in NM also does a good job and, in certain instances, CA does too.
 - Ray next asked how valuable it would be to have more information about the states that are doing good work.
 - Group thought this would be beneficial.
 - Ray then suggested taking one of two approaches.
 - First try and get more information about the information systems being used in the above states.
 - The other suggestion might be to use some kind of survey for each of the 35 member states.
 - The group acknowledged that not everyone would participate, however, the consensus was that most would be willing to take a few minutes and answer the survey.
- Chairman Wahl suggested the group work on two tracks to address the issues highlighted about:
 - First, the committee begin researching what grants and federal dollars might be available for planning and development.

- Ray volunteered to work on this assignment and requested assistance from Crady deGolian at CSG.
 - Second, the group develop a survey that could be circulated to all 35 member states for input.
 - Paul Gibson agreed to develop survey questions, but requested input from the committee before circulating the survey to a wider audience.
 - Crady suggested Survey Monkey be used. CSG has an account with them and has used numerous times in the past. It has been an effective tool for disseminating the survey to a wider audience.
 - Ray has used Survey Monkey and liked this idea.
 - Ray did note that it is best to put a plan in place up front – may take more time initially, but will likely save time on the back end.
 - The adult compact ran into some problems because they did not take this approach.
- Ray Wahl addressed the issue of web site development. He suggested that the committee consider the same person that developed/redesigned APPA’s web site, which looks very good.
 - Crady deGolian added that CSG staff has had some preliminary discussions with CSG’s IT team about the development of the new site.
 - Ray would be willing to contact the person who worked on APPA site.
 - Donna Bonner noted that ICJ.us is already taken for a domain name.
 - New ICJ.us is not being used.
 - First thing the group probably needs to determine is what they want to transfer from AJCA’s existing site onto the new site.
 - Might also be beneficial to work with the person who helped with that site design.
 - Donna stated that she would forward the contract between AJCA and the vendor to Ray. A lot of the minor changes are handled by the AJCA Secretary and Secretariat at no cost to AJCA.
 - Ray thought it best to determine what changes need to be incorporated into the new site and then consider how much those changes might cost and what is feasible.
- Ray Wahl concluded the call by suggesting the group consider this as a two track process.
 - First and likely easiest task is the development of the new commission web site. Can probably launch the new site pretty quickly.
 - Database to track and monitor is probably a much more involved and time consuming process.
 - This is probably the more long term goal
 - Paul Gibson thought that developing the web site and a uniform data system would be an excellent starting point.
 - Tracking system will be down the road.
 - Donna agreed with that – recommended developing some kind of strategic plan so there is a blue print and timeline in place.

- Ray Wahl next raised the question about the next meeting
 - Paul would like to go ahead and establish a standing meeting time and date.
 - Group settled on third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 MST instead of 2:00 works.
 - That works for everyone.