

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

East Region Meeting



June 21, 2022
Meeting Minutes
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. ET
Via Zoom

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Becki Moore (MA), Commissioner, East Region Representative
2. Patricia Casanova (VT), Designee, East Region Alternate Representative
3. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
4. Mike Casey (DE), Commissioner
5. Roy Curtis (ME), Commissioner
6. Francesco Bianco, Jr. (NY), Designee
7. JoAnn Niksa (RI), Designee

Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:

1. Nordia Napier (CT), Designee
2. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
3. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
4. Jennifer LeBaron (NJ), Commissioner
5. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), Designee
6. Sheila Poole (NY), Commissioner
7. Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA), Commissioner
8. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner
9. Eavey Monique-James (USVI), Commissioner

Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Cecily Rexach (CT)

Guests in Attendance:

None

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
3. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
4. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
5. Joe Johnson, Project Manager

Call to Order

Representative Moore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Emma Goode, ICJ National Office, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

R. Curtis (ME) made a motion to approve the agenda. J. Niksa (RI) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

T. Hunt (CT) made a motion to approve the minutes from March 30, 2022 meeting as presented. J. Niksa (RI) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Committee Updates

Finance Committee

- M. Casey (DE) updated that all 2022 dues have been collected. The Finance Committee met and discussed the travel reimbursement for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The Finance Committee is recommending an increase in the amount to be reimbursed for airfare to the 2022 ABM to offset increased travel costs.
- He also reported that there has not been an overall increase in ICJ dues since the Commission established in 2008.
- Director Underwood updated that there has been a 33% inflation rate since inception in 2008. The Finance Committee is reviewing potential proposals for the best method for an ICJ dues increase which will be presented at the full Commission during the ICJ 2022 ABM.

Technology Committee

- R. Curtis (ME) updated the Technology Committee held an extended 2-hour meeting last week to review the recommendations from the UNITY Enhancements Subcommittee.
- He applauded the work of the Enhancements Subcommittee for their tireless work to review over 100 enhancements request submissions. Their work involved sorting, analyzing, categorizing, and re-analyzing the requests. The subcommittee has recommended the first group of enhancements that would be most beneficial to the operations of the Commission. K. Torres (IA) and Abbie Christian (NE) provided an exceptional presentation of the enhancements grouped into 9 packages. The Technology Committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee an approval for all of the enhancements as presented in group 1.
- Additionally, the Technology Committee received an update from Joe Johnson on UNITY bug fixes and support cases.

Training Committee

- T. Hunt (CT) provided an update in the absence of Nordia Napier. The Training Committee Chair Nate Lawson changed positions in his state; however, he will remain involved with the Commission until further notice.
- The committee plans to work with the National Office to update an ICJ Rules training power point for states to access should they wish to download and modify for their in-state trainings.
- A training session was offered in collaboration with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) regarding the new Transportation Identification Form.

- Training Committee members have assisted with the UNITY monthly workshops. The workshop series will be paused in July until after the ABM.
- Primarily, the Training Committee has been planning for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting training sessions. One of the sessions planned is a human trafficking panel discussion. Each region has been asked to submit someone from their region with expertise in the topic area to participate as a panelist.

Rules Committee

- Director Underwood updated that the Rules Committee has proposed four rule amendments around the term “relocate” and travel permits. She encouraged the East Region to act soon if they wished to submit a rule proposal to the ICJ Rules Committee for consideration in 2023. The deadline for submissions is February 28.
- Representative Moore indicated that rule proposals be included on the East Region Meeting October 4th Agenda in Vermont.

Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee

- B. Moore (MA) updated that the Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on their four goals for the year.
- The 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) keynote speaker on Wednesday, was recommended by the Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee. Dr. Maryam Jernigan-Noesi will speak on how to work through an equity lens.
- Similarly, the ad hoc committee is reviewing the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s “Race Equity and Inclusion Action Guide: 7 Steps to Advance and Embed Race Equity and Inclusion within Your Organization” as a recommended resource to the Commission.
- Co-Chair Jones (MD) has been overseeing development of potential recommendations from the ICJ Data Walk session with the Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee and the Leadership Exchange Series group.
- JoAnn Niksa (RI) and April Simmons (IN) have been developing a communications guide on unbiased report writing. J. Niksa (RI) shared she had located a comprehensive guide on report writing to share with the ad hoc committee. J. Niksa (RI) will forward the link to Representative Moore.
- Each month in the “ICJ Updates”, a new related resource has been included.

Executive Committee

- T. Hunt (CT) updated that the Executive Committee adopted Juneteenth as an official holiday for the Commission.
- Staff Recognition Nominations are now open. It is time to recognize staff doing the day-to-day work of the Compact who surpass expectations to provide assistance. The persons nominated will receive a certificate, be recognized at the ABM, and be included in the monthly “ICJ Updates.” Information and the online form are included on the [website](#).
- The 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) will be on-site this year in Burlington, Vermont. The Executive Committee is also looking ahead for a 2023 ABM location in the West Region.
- The ICJ Strategic Plan was thoroughly reviewed to ensure the Commission is advancing its mission and vision. The Executive Committee decided to recommit to current priorities and developed new action steps with an understanding of the work that needs to continue.

- She also noted that elections are coming up soon and to stay tuned.

Strategies Round Table

Runaways and After-hours Procedures: Intrastate scripts for front-line workers and list of other states' procedures

- Representative Moore presented a proposed draft resource entitled: "After-Hours Protocol for ICJ East Region States." States were asked to submit their states' after-hours protocols and procedures to the ICJ National Office. The resource includes the information received. The ICJ East Region members reviewed and edited the resource as presented. States indicated that they needed to re-visit their submissions and agreed to forward any updates to Emma Goode by July 21st.
- **J. Niksa (RI) made a motion to adopt the draft "After-Hours Protocol for ICJ East Region States" for the purpose of information sharing among the ICJ East Region states and with the full Commission, subject to state-provided edits to the initial document and any future updates after posting. T. Casanova (VT) seconded. The motion passed.**

Should "detention" or "custody" be defined in the ICJ Rules to clarify when 24 hours begins for application of ICJ to runaways (per ICJ Rule 6-101)? (PA)

- Representative Moore (MA) presented for discussion the question raised by Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA) during the January meeting. After the January meeting, the Pennsylvania Compact staff, Roy Curtis (ME), and Caitlyn Bickford (NH) met to discuss the question in more detail. Their proposed language was modified for clarity and presented as follows as a request from the East Region for an ICJ Legal Advisory Opinion:
 - Regarding release of non-delinquent runaways within "the first 24 hours of detainment" per ICJ Rule 6-101, what triggers the start of "detainment"? Is it the moment that the youth is picked up by the police, taken into custody and brought to a police station, or when the youth is actually placed into a detention facility?
- R. Curtis (ME) agreed with the modified statement to be the intent of the group.
- **T. Hunt (CT) made a motion that the East Region submit a request for a Legal ICJ Advisory Opinion: "Regarding release of non-delinquent runaways within 'the first 24 hours of detainment' per ICJ Rule 6-101, what triggers the start of detainment? Is it the moment that the youth is picked up by the police, taken into custody and brought to a police station, or when the youth is actually placed into a detention facility?" T. Casanova (VT) seconded. The motion passed.**
- Representative Moore and Director Underwood will forward the request to Rick Masters, Legal Counsel, on behalf of the East Region.

Detention of juveniles over 18-year-old who identify as "non-binary" (RI)

- J. Niksa (RI) requested guidance during the March meeting regarding detention of juveniles over the age of 18 who identify as non-binary. She had to exit that meeting early. J. Niksa (RI) updated that she read the March minutes and liked the options in UNITY for gender identification and nicknames. The specific question is in regards to juveniles who are 18 years or older. Rhode Island has a voluntary extension of care program whereby juveniles in the child welfare

program may receive services beyond age 18. If that juvenile runs to another state, the other state then determines whether or not and where to detain the runaway. In Rhode Island, 18-year-old runaways are not detained without a warrant, but placed in an appropriate place. Detaining a non-binary juvenile over 18 years of age in an adult facility and returning the 18-year-old under the ICJ Rules can be problematic.

- B. Moore (MA) offered to share the Massachusetts juvenile and LGBTQI policies. T. Hunt (CT) commented their operations are similar to Massachusetts and offered the Connecticut policies as well.
- Representative Moore asked other states with similar experiences or relevant information to contact JoAnn Niksa (RI) directly.

Transfers of Supervision for “Youthful Offenders” – Juvenile or Adult Compact? (VT)

- T. Casanova (VT) updated that Vermont considers youth on probation up to age 22 as “youthful offenders.” A recent transfer of supervision raised awareness that “youthful offenders” are not mentioned in the ICJ Rules. A Vermont “youthful offender” transferred to Pennsylvania, where they were considered an adult.
- B. Moore (MA) commented that state legislatures are moving in the direction of “raise the age.” She questioned whether ICJ should consider rule changes to address “youthful offenders.”
- R. Curtis (ME) noted that the Maine Legislature is now trying to define “youthful offenders.”
- The East Region members shared multiple scenarios and varying state laws. Representative Moore agreed to include the topic for a future East Region meeting.

State Updates / Concerns

- Representative Moore (MA) opened the floor for state updates/concerns noting that if there are no updates, states are not obligated to report.

Connecticut

- C. Rexach (CT) updated there have been many retirements within juvenile probation resulting in numerous staff changes. Recently, over 20 JPOs were hired and are undergoing training.
- Connecticut was successful in obtaining their American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation.

Delaware

- M. Casey (DE) updated that the ICJ State Council has a meeting slated for July 20. ICJ training was conducted with the youth rehabilitation services; they plan to continue in the future as rules and staff change.
- The Delaware Interstate Compact Unit has combined with the Family Court Liaison Unit, which serves as a liaison between the department and the community. As a result, regular meetings are now occurring with the Chief of Communications Services and Regional Administrators.

Maine

- R. Curtis (ME) updated that Galan Williams retired and the new Maine Compact Administrator is Christine Thibeault. She plans to attend the Annual Business Meeting and future East Region meetings.
- Maine too is dealing with major staff shortages in both the state facilities and the communities.

Massachusetts

- Representative Moore (MA) updated that the Parole Department of Youth Services is not experience the staff shortage due to low volume that residential settings may be experiencing.
- Planning for a State Council meeting in on the radar.

New York

- F. Bianco (NY) updated that it is business as usual on the parole side. However, they continue to deal with the issue of detention beds shortage due to the closing of facilities and staff shortages. The New York State Council will meet in September.

Rhode Island

- J. Niksa (RI) updated that she has conducted a lot of training recently of new staff.
- Recreational marijuana is now legal in Rhode Island and the impact remains to be seen on the adult probation side.
- She shared a case with New Jersey and applauded Shyra Bland (NJ) with the safe and timely return.

Vermont

- T. Casanova (VT) updated that Vermont continues to experience an increase in crime with guns among youth. Lack of detention beds continues to be problematic, as well as an increase in drug trafficking.
- Vermont is excited to host the 2022 ICJ Annual Business Meeting in October in Burlington.

New Jersey

- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) had to leave the meeting early and chatted that: "Probation has started their telework program where they are in the office three times a week and teleworking two days a week. Parole is revising its organizational structure to focus its efforts on youth returning/entering the community for the first sixty days which should allow for even better outcomes for the youth."

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

East Region Member for Human Trafficking Panel at Annual Business Meeting

- Representative Moore opened the floor for a volunteer to serve as a panelist for the 2022 ABM Training Session on Human Trafficking. T. Casanova (VT) volunteered.

Adjourn

Representative Moore adjourned the by acclamation at 11:34 a.m. ET.