

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

East Region Meeting



January 25, 2022
Meeting Minutes
11:00 a.m. ET
Via Zoom

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Becki Moore (MA), Designee, East Region Representative
2. Patricia Casanova (VT), Designee, East Region Alternate Representative
3. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
4. Nordia Napier (CT)
5. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
6. Roy Curtis (ME), Commissioner
7. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
8. Francesco Bianco (NY), Designee
9. Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA), Commissioner
10. JoAnn Niksa (RI), Designee

Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:

1. Mike Casey (DE), Commissioner
2. Jennifer LeBaron (NJ), Commissioner
3. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), Designee
4. Sheila Poole (NY), Commissioner
5. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner
6. Eavey Monique-James (USVI), Commissioner

Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Donna Reed (MA)
2. Robert Lemieux (MA)
3. Patti DiMassa (NJ)
4. Shyra Bland (NJ)
5. Kelly Palmateer (NY)
6. Raymond Tashjian (NY)
7. Amanda Behe (PA)
8. Natalie Primak (PA)

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

Call to Order

Representative Moore called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and quorum was established.

Agenda

T. Casanova (VT) made a motion to approve the agenda. C. Bickford (NH) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

C. Bickford (NH) made a motion to approve the minutes the October 5, 2021 meeting as corrected. J. Niksa (RI) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Committee Updates

Compliance Committee

- S. Bland (NJ) updated the Compliance Committee reviewed all the current ICJ Performance Measurement Assessment (PMA) Standards for ways to streamline compliance efforts, with the knowledge that UNITY now provides real-time data. Several standards were recommended for removal from the list, as UNITY does not allow cases to progress unless certain requirements are met. She noted that removing a standard from the list does not remove the action from the ICJ Rules nor the requirements.
- Lastly, the 2021 ICJ State Council Reports are due to the National Office by January 31, 2022.

Technology Committee

- R. Curtis (ME) updated the Technology Committee met January 20, 2022. It was interesting to see the large number of UNITY Enhancements Requests that have been submitted.
- Additionally, the committee received an update on the Tableau Reports available and in development. Reports will be highlighted from time to time during the monthly UNITY Workshops.

Training Committee

- N. Napier (CT) updated the Training Committee met January 6, 2022. The Training Committee is planning and developing training in the areas listed:
 - ICJ in Action Courses;
 - new Transportation Identification Form; and
 - 2022 ABM training.
- A new resource will be coming soon entitled “UNITY Spotlight” e-newsletter. The monthly electronic publication will include tips and tricks and information relative to UNITY, in a format similar to the former “JIDS Spotlight.”

Rules Committee

- C. Bickford (NH) updated the Rules Committee met in December. Rule proposal discussions are in their initial stage of the 2-year rules cycle.
- A Rules subcommittee was formed to review the definition for “relocate.” The term as defined is not consistent within the context used throughout all the rules.
- The next meeting is in February.

Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee

- B. Moore (MA) updated the Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee met January 18, 2022. The 2022 goals were developed and approved. One area of focus is moving past the mindset that we cannot make a difference in our Compact Office administrative roles. One strategy being discussed is training on writing reports and taking a deeper dive into words and phrases to avoid biased reports.
- The Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee members will attend the Leadership Exchange Series March 29th “data walk” meeting.

Executive Committee

- T. Hunt (CT) updated that the Executive Committee has been busy ensuring all committees are in place and planning for the 2022 Executive spring extended meeting in March.
- After the spring meeting, the Executive Committee will have more information to share with the regions in the areas of: Implementation Science, the ICJ Strategic Plan, and the 2022 Annual Business Meeting.

Strategies Round Table

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

- B. Moore (MA) opened floor for discussion of state procedures related to runaways “after-hours”. She shared that fortunately Massachusetts has a 24/7 unit for all emergencies of which ICJ is a part.
- C. Bickford (NH) updated that New Hampshire’s Juvenile Justice Services has staff available for after-hours who are well versed about ICJ and runaways. Law enforcement do not always know who to contact and sometimes call the other state. She suggested a letter to all law enforcement in each state making them aware of the state’s protocol for runaways.
- W. Lautsbaugh (PA) shared that compact office personnel met with the Pennsylvania Chief Probation Officers and asked them to communicate within their locale about who to contact and what they should be doing. They shared this information a couple years ago and have not received any negative feedback. A. Behe (PA) added they developed an “ICJ Information Tree” to share within their state and shared with the Pennsylvania Detention Compliance Monitor Director. Fortunately, he has been an advocate for ICJ. When he shares the ICJ information within the state it carries a lot of weight to state staff and the state police.
- T. Hunt (CT) shared that Connecticut has a partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) who are familiar with the Interstate Commission for Juveniles. Law enforcement officers are trained to call the DCF hotline when they locate an unaccompanied youth. She commented on the importance of that

partnership for sharing information and resources. They conduct regular check-ins, particularly where there is staff turnover to ensure the resources are helpful and consistent.

- T. Casanova (VT) supports the idea of developing a “cheat sheet” for after-hours and would welcome something to have to share. She trains that during working hours all the ICPC and ICJ calls/communications go through her which also indicates her availability after-hours. It would be helpful to know the “after-hours” response/contact information for the East Region states. Vermont has a Compliance Director within her agency whom she will reach out to.
- R. Curtis (ME) shared their number one of topic of conversation is law enforcement education on how to deal with runaways. When law enforcement officers encounter non-delinquent runaways, they typically contact Health and Family Services rather than Department of Corrections. When law enforcement makes the right call at the beginning, things get handled appropriately. ICJ is on the agenda to conduct a Compact training to all new cadets this year at the Criminal Justice Academy.
- Representative Moore asked members to forward to her their state’s process for after-hours in February. The East Region continue the discussion at the next meeting.

When Does the Clock Start for Detention?

- W. Lautsbaugh (PA) posed the question: When does the clock start for detention? (in relation to holding non-delinquent minors for return)
- N. Primak (PA) shared that an ICJO staff member posed the question and she noted that the rules do not address “when the 24 hours countdown starts”.
 - Is the intent the moment the juvenile is picked up by police?
 - Is it once housed in a facility?
 - Does it depend on how secure in the policy station? Does that time count in the 24 hours?
- A. Behe (PA) shared another situation where a state police officer called and had a juvenile with them. The police sergeant stated when with police, they are not under arrest and are free to go, otherwise they are “babysitting until mom comes.”
- T. Hunt (CT) recommended reviewing the standard and definitions established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as a good place to start.
- Representative Moore agreed to table the discussion for the next meeting.

State Updates / Concerns

- Representative Moore opened the floor for updates should states have any to share. She noted they are not obligated to report if there are no updates.

Massachusetts

- Representative Moore (Parole) started by saying she had nothing new to update for Massachusetts Parole.
- D. Reed (Probation) updated they have hired a new staff person who is in training. When ready, she will share the information with the National Office to update the online directory.

Vermont

- T. Casanova (VT) updated that Vermont has now closed all detention centers and that contracting space with New Hampshire is no longer an option. She testified recently to the Vermont Legislature about the need for detention.
- Additionally, they have had an increase in crime and several juvenile males have been on the run for a month.

Connecticut

- N. Napier (CT) updated they have a new staff member in training and are looking to possibly hire an additional new staff position soon.
- Connecticut is involved in a pilot program with Washington, DC regarding training probation officers on how to better connect with people.
- Recently a state council meeting was held and a new member has been added to the State Council membership.

Delaware

- C. Norris (DE) updated they recently conducted their first ICJ State Council meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- They wrapped up 2021 by conducting ICJ training throughout all regions.
- Commissioner Casey has met with the new Chief of Community Services.
- Staff continue to work remote and home visits are being conducted in the homes.

Maine

- R. Curtis (ME) updated that the state continues to revamp their Juvenile Justice Department. A new Juvenile Justice Associate Commissioner has been appointed. A new superintendent will begin near the end of the month, Lynn Allen, who is relocating from Massachusetts.
- The ICJ State Council is active and holding productive meetings.

New Hampshire

- C. Bickford (NH) updated that New Hampshire is reforming its Juvenile Justice System. The newly established Juvenile Justice Reform Commission will now serve as the ICJ State Council, which was disbanded. Their first meeting is Friday. She plans to attend and become more engaged with the group.

New Jersey

- S. Bland (NJ) updated that probation staff are working in the office two days per week and considering returning full-time. They have been conducting training on the new ICJ Rule Amendments going into effect March 1, 2022.

New York

- F. Bianco (NY - Parole) updated that it is business as usual with parole; however, there continues to be a detention facilities bed shortage.
- K. Palmateer (NY - Probation) shared a recent issue regarding ICJ reports and documents. She received pushback when filing a violation using documents made available through UNITY. Information and supporting documents were deemed to be "hearsay" and excluded from evidence. She has shared the related ICJ legal White Paper, but to no avail.
- Representative Moore asked members to email Kelly any information they have on the topic and discussion will continue in the next meeting.

Pennsylvania

- W. Lautsbaugh (PA) updated they, too, have a detention center closing. She also shared the difficulty administering the Compact with the increase in COVID cases and expressed concerns regarding ICJ compliance. She commented that perhaps the Rule 2-108: Emergency Suspension of Enforcement was ended too soon.

Rhode Island

- J. Niska (RI) updated that their State Council is progressing better than ever before. A question was raised regarding ICJ Article VI being in conflict with their state's constitution.
- She shared her concern for trauma for juveniles over 18 who identify as "non-binary" being placed in adult facilities.
- Representative Moore agreed to include on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Lastly, she updated on the numerous ICJ trainings she will be conducting in her state.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

Representative Moore adjourned the by acclamation at 12:16 p.m. ET.