



Interstate Commission for Juveniles
ICJ East Region Agenda
August 26, 2025 – 3:30 p.m. ET
Hilton Cleveland Downtown, Cleveland, Ohio
Center Street Room B

Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Regional Representative T. Casanova (VT) called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee, Regional Representative
2. A. Roy Curtis (ME), Commissioner, Alternate Regional Representative
3. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
4. Francis “Mike” Casey (DE), Commissioner
5. Becki Moore (MA), Commissioner
6. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
7. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), Designee
8. David Willie (NY), Designee
9. Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA), Commissioner
10. William Dolan (RI), Designee
11. Eavey Monique-James (VI), Commissioner

Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Nadia Napier (CT)
2. Erin Breitigan (DE)
3. Shaina Kern (NY)
4. Shyra Bland (NJ)
5. Vaughn Walwyn (USVI)
6. Alicia George (USVI)

Ex Officio Member and Guest in Attendance:

1. Gilbert Soto, AAICPC
2. Dr. Samantha Sahl, NCMEC

Commissioners Not in Attendance:

1. Jennifer LeBaron (NJ), Commissioner
2. Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden (NY), Commissioner
3. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

C. Bickford (NH) made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Representative T. Casanova (VT) approved the agenda by unanimous consent without objection.

Minutes

R. Curtis (ME) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 29, 2025. Representative T. Casanova (VT) approved the minutes by unanimous consent without objection.

Check-ins

- S. Bland (NJ) reported that the Office of Probation now requires New Jersey's juvenile probation staff to access UNITY every 90 days in order to keep their UNITY accounts active. If they do not do so, they must complete all required UNITY training modules in the ICJ. TalentLMS system to re-activate the account. This is consistent with requirements for use of the national data system used for processing interstate supervision cases for adults.
- E. James (VI) reported that the US Virgin Islands ICJ Office is working on the appointment of new members for the state council.

Unfinished Business

Discuss State Barriers to Accessing Child Abuse Registry Information

- Representative T. Casanova (VT) reminded members of the previous discussion on accessing child abuse registry information and asked them to share what they had learned from their respective agencies.
- Only R. Curtis (ME) reported that he was able to obtain access to the Maine child abuse registry.
- M. Casey (DE) stated that only child-facing agencies can access the registry, and to obtain access, there would need to be a change to the statutes. He noted that the local Division of Youth Rehabilitation Services assists by running background checks.
- B. Moore (MA), T. Hunt (CT), W. Lautsbaugh (PA), and S. Bland (NJ) initiated conversations with their respective state agencies regarding the potential acquisition of child abuse registry information but were unable to obtain access.
- Both C. Bickford (NH) and E. James (VI) reported their state ICJ offices have access due to the registry being housed within the same department of their state agencies.
- Representative T. Casanova (VT) reminded members that the question was asked because there is no standard practice from state to state regarding whether background checks are run in relation to child welfare and home evaluations.
- Representative T. Casanova (VT) recommended the need for a resource that could serve as a practice guide for practitioners performing home evaluations.
- Director Underwood shared that there was a resource available, [Best Practice: Home Evaluation Consideration for Unconventional Families](#), that the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will be updating the resource in the year ahead.
- M. Casey (DE) and Representative T. Casanova (VT) recommended East Region members review the [Best Practice: Home Evaluation Consideration for Unconventional Families](#) to discuss together at the next East region meeting.

New Business

Discuss the proposed rule amendments

- Representative T. Casanova (VT) opened the floor for discussion of the rule amendment proposals.

- Members discussed the proposed rule amendments, particularly the East Region’s proposal to add a definition of “Human Trafficking.”
- Representative T. Casanova (VT) suggested that, if the proposed amendment did not pass, the East Region could propose adding a definition for “Child Abuse” to the ICJ Rules and refer to human trafficking as a form of “Child Abuse.”
- Director Underwood stated that the first step should be defining the problem that needs to be addressed.

Provide Feedback on Concept of Extending Rules Cycle to 3 Years

- Representative T. Casanova (VT) shared information about the proposal to extend the rules amendment cycle to 3 years. She highlighted opportunities to be more thoughtful, assess whether the changes are effective, and reduce the need for frequent updates due to rule changes. She reminded members that Legal Counsel T. Travis stated the ICJ Rules provide flexibility for changing the rules cycle.
- Director Underwood shared that ICJ Rule 2-103 states that rule proposals have to be presented in the next odd year, after they are presented to a Rules Committee.
- R. Curtis (ME) supported the proposal because it would allow more time to develop proposals and get feedback from the state councils.

Review election process and candidate list

- Representative T. Casanova (VT) reminded members that voting for officer positions would occur during the General Session on Wednesday. Officer candidate information was circulated to the Commission in July and included in the region meeting materials and Docket Book.
- Director Underwood shared that H. Wykes (AZ) was running for second term as chair, S. Jones (MD) was running for office of vice chair, and D. Dodd (NM) was running for office of treasurer.

Assess the need for a rule proposal regarding Transfer of Supervision eligibility requirements for Youthful Offenders

- Representative T. Casanova (VT) introduced the topic of whether ICJ Rules 4-101, Eligibility for the Transfer of Supervision, needed to be amended to include “youthful offenders.”
- Director Underwood suggested concerns could potentially be addressed without a rule change. She shared that the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) and the ICJ Rules define “Adjudicated Delinquent” as “a person charged with an offense that, if committed by an adult, would be a criminal offense.” This definition appears to be broad enough to include young people categorized as “youthful offenders” in many states.
- Representative T. Casanova (VT) stated that the discussion would be continued at the next East region meeting.

Reports

Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

- Mike Casey (DE) discussed the human trafficking poll results and directed members to the memo provided in advance of the meeting.
- Director Underwood reminded members to utilize the “Human Trafficking Information” data field in the UNITY data system, which is a way to increase transfer of information related to human trafficking regardless of whether the amendment was adopted.
- S. Bland (NJ) stated the data field was easily missed due to it being in the “Other Pertinent Return Information” data field, it would be easier to fill if it was in a more prominent location within UNITY.

- C. Bickford (NH) and N. Napier (CT) recommended the Commission create more resources for law enforcement.
- Director Understood suggested the East Region draft a law enforcement resource that could be used by all states.
- Representative T. Casanova (VT) stated it would be important to have representation from law enforcement officials to create a resource.

Next Steps

- Representative T. Casanova (VT) stated the meeting will include discussion of subcommittees to work on the different projects.

Adjourn

Representative T. Casanova (VT) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 4:58 p.m. EDT.