

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

East Region Meeting

Minutes

January 21, 2020

Webex

11:00 a.m. ET



Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Becki Moore (MA), East Region Representative
2. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
3. Roy Curtis (ME), Designee
4. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
5. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee
6. Eavey-Monique James (USVI), Commissioner

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Melanie Grimes (DE), Commissioner
2. VACANT (NJ)
3. Sheila Poole (NY), Commissioner
4. Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA), Commissioner
5. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Jason Criscio (CT)
2. Mike Casey (DE), Designee
3. Robert Lemieux (MA)
4. Francesco Bianco (NY), Designee

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Administrative and Training Specialist
3. Leslie Anderson, Logistics and Administrative Coordinator

Call to Order

Representative Moore called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Executive 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

- **R. Curtis (ME) made a motion to approve the October 30, 2019 meeting minutes. E.M. James (VI) seconded. The motion carried.**

Discussion

Executive Committee Updates

Representative B. Moore (MA) reported the following updates:

- The committee affirmed the substitute language suggested by the Rules Committee and adopted by the Technology Committee regarding the utilization of the language “Judge/Court” in lieu of “Judge” on all related ICJ Forms to correlate with the rule amendments that go into effect on March 1, 2020.
- The committee discussed the possibility of establishing term limits, including advantages and disadvantages. The committee discussed how term limits would impact efforts to promote new leadership and maintain institutional knowledge. The Committee Guidelines Policy and term limits is currently under active discussion by the Committee at this time. Updates will be forthcoming.
- Executive Director Underwood reported that the Rule Amendments Training registration is open. The dates scheduled are February 13, 2020 and February 19, 2020 at 2:00 pm ET with OnDemand trainings to follow.
- Executive Director Underwood reported that the UNITY Business Analysis Team members will meet in Covington, KY from January 21-24, 2020, with staff from Optimum Technology to review the work they have made to the Travel Permit workflows. She highlighted that the system will be moving away from our previous forms-based system to a data entry system that will generate the required forms based on case information. She also reported that the UNITY Training Team and Reporting Team have held their first meetings and the UNITY system is scheduled to launch in the fall of this year.

Strategies Roundtable

- Gang Affiliation
 - Representative B. Moore (MA) introduced for discussion the topic of gang affiliation and its impact on ICJ transfer and return cases. She opened the floor to T. Casanova (VT) for further discussion.
 - T. Casanova (VT) requested information from fellow region member on if and how they had defined gang affiliation and gangs in relation to the ICJ. She also asked if there were any members that were utilizing any screening tools to determine gang members or affiliation and if so, what services were available to assist the juvenile once affiliation had been confirmed.
 - Representative B. Moore (MA) indicated that the state of Massachusetts is also discussing these issues as well as the possible implications of labeling a juvenile as a gang member in state case records.
 - T. Hunt (CT) noted that Connecticut has been conducting research regarding these same concerns such as lack of definitions and neighborhood gang affiliation vs national level gang affiliation response. The state has developed the Restore Unit which is a sub-section of the probation supervision unit that specializes in juveniles with gang affiliation or juveniles that are at high risk for gang affiliation. The state developed a screening based on self-identification, family identification, law enforcement identification, risk factors and assaultive behaviors. This screening has not been validated and is utilized as a guide to determine if the juvenile meets criteria for placement in the Restore Unit. The state also found that research suggests the utilization of cognitive behavior treatment and aggression replacement therapy to be useful. Connecticut has

- also been working to train probation officers to recognize at risk behaviors in juveniles they are working with.
- F. Bianco (NY) reported that identification of gang/gang affiliated juveniles was conducted by the case manager before the juvenile is placed within a facility. Their state is also addressing these issues through facility level trainings to recognize at risk behavior. F. Bianco (NY) advised he will research and provide additional information about how the facility level trainings are conducted and if the State of New York currently provides any community-based options regarding gang affiliated juveniles.
 - Representative B. Moore (MA) reported that Massachusetts is working to build a system for ensuring accurate and appropriate identification is entered into their data management system. She also noted the importance of potential impacts information in records could have if used for court or various other purposes.

State Updates/Concerns

- Connecticut
 - J. Criscio (CT) reported that their office is continuing to plan and discuss juvenile justice reform initiatives and that their State Council Meetings have been going well. Their office continues to collaborate with ICPC regarding runaway cases. J. Criscio also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the UNITY Training Team.
- Delaware
 - M. Grimes (DE) reported that the Delaware State Transition Plan is nearly complete and will be submitted by end of month. A State Council meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2020 with their newest appointed member scheduled to be in attendance.
- Maine
 - R. Curtis (ME) reported that the state held their State Council Advisory meeting on November 15, 2019. They focused on developing strategies for the year that are in line with the Commissions Strategic Plan and appointing new membership to replace the four (4) existing vacant positions due to attrition. One of those strategies has been to develop a system where all ICJ cases will be handled in one court in Portland, ME. This ensures adequate and consistent training of the judges and court administrators. The first case in that court is scheduled for later this week. R. Curtis (ME) reminded the region that he is serving on the Rules Committee this year and thanked the members for their input with the recent review of Rules 100-300 and invited their input regarding sections 400 and 500 which are currently under review.
- Massachusetts
 - B. Moore (MA) reported that she conducted a presentation on the ICJ to state juvenile court judges and court personnel in cooperation with D. Reed (MA).
- New Hampshire
 - C. Bickford (NH) reported that their office will be hosting a training for the juvenile court judges and court personnel on ICJ rules and procedures in the near future. It was also reported that the New Hampshire State Council is operating as a part of the pre-existing Statewide Advisory

Council for Juvenile Justice which has caused some confusion regarding the role of the State Council members to ICJ. Their office has scheduled a meeting with C. Bickford (NH), the ICJ Director and the Council Chair to better address the duties and responsibilities of the State Council and request more focus and input be placed on ICJ-related topics and issues.

- New York
 - F. Bianco (NY) reported that the state of New York rolled out the change in age of majority from 17 to 18 years of age on October 1, 2019 that has resulted in the increase of juvenile cases. They are currently working with the Governor's Office to fill vacancies on their State Council as well as continuing preparations on training for the state judges in conjunction with their State Council.
- Vermont
 - T. Casanova (VT) reported that she is currently preparing a training on Friday for the Juvenile Justice Workgroup to discuss youthful offender transfers and how the age of majority impacts those transfers. The State Council has not met this year due to personnel changes.
- Virgin Islands
 - E. M. James (VI) reported that twelve (12) appointments had been made to the state council since September with one final appointment from the Governor's Office pending at this time. They hope to have that position filled and a State Council Meeting held in the near future. E.M. James requested information from fellow region members regarding how often their State Councils meet and what types of ICJ topics they assist with.
 - Representative B. Moore (MA) requested this be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Old Business

- Representative B. Moore (MA) reminded members that the ICJ Transition/Succession Plan template and asked all region members to complete their succession plans by February 2020.
- Representative B. Moore (MA) encouraged members that had interest in serving as the East Region Alternate Representative to contact her directly.

New Business

- Representative B. Moore (MA) reminded members that the deadline for the State Council Updates, signed Conflict of Interest Forms and Training & Resources Survey is January 31, 2020.

Adjourn

Representative B. Moore (MA) adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 11:59 a.m. ET.