

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES



East Region Meeting

Minutes

October 30, 2019

Webex

11:00 a.m. ET

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Becki Moore (MA), Designee, East Region Representative
2. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
3. Melanie Grimes (DE), Commissioner
4. Roy Curtis (ME), Designee
5. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
6. Edwin Lee, JR. (NJ), Designee
7. Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA), Commissioner
8. Patricia Casanova (VT), Designee

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Sheila Poole (NY) Commissioner
2. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner
3. Eavey-Monique James (USVI), Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Jason Criscio (CT), Designee
2. Donna Reed (MA)
3. Robert Lemieux (MA)
4. Stephania Cueva (MA)
5. Candice Alfonso (NJ)
6. Karen Kapsimalis (NJ)
7. Francesco Bianco (NY)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
3. Leslie Anderson, Logistics and Administrative Coordinator

Call to Order

Representative Moore called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Executive Director Underwood called the roll and quorum was established.

Agenda

E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Grimes (DE) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

- **E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) made a motion to approve the September 10, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. C. Bickford (NH) seconded. The motion carried.**

Discussion

Executive Committee Updates

- Representative B. Moore (MA) reported the following updates:
 - Jacey Rader (NE) was recognized as the new Chair for the Commission.
 - At the 2019 Annual Business Meeting, 98 attendees were present. Fifty-two (52) states and territories were represented with 50 voting representatives present at the General Session. The post ABM survey results have been received. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the respondents provided an overall rating of excellent for the 2019 ABM, printed materials, Training Day, General Session, National Office Support and efficiency of technology. Several suggestions were received for the upcoming Annual Business Meeting.
 - Vacant Commissioner updates were provided to include the resignation of Chuck Supple in California and the expected appointment of Heather Bowlds, Acting Director. Hawaii's Commissioner position remains vacant at this time and is awaiting State Senate confirmation.
 - FY 20 dues have been received from most states meeting. Several other states are due at a later date due to variances in their fiscal year calendar.
 - A two-day meeting was held in Lexington with Optimum Technology where the contract was officially signed for the UNITY data system. The development phase of the project has begun with the formation of several committees to ensure implementation and development.
 - Representative B. Moore (MA) took a moment to recognize the FY 20 East Region members involvement on the various committees, which is much higher from the East region than in previous years.

Strategies Round Table

- Managing Status Offenders
 - Representative B. Moore (MA) opened the floor to T. Hunt (CT) to discuss recent legislative changes regarding the decriminalization of status offenders resulting in these individuals no longer being referred to juvenile court as of 2020. T. Hunt (CT) requested suggestions from other region members on how similar legislation has impacted the ICJ in their state. Of specific concern was any possible mandates or best practices that states were utilizing in regards to non-delinquent runaways and providing services to the juvenile and their families that were reluctant to engage in the court process.

- C. Alfonso (NJ) and E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) reported that their state has developed a collaborative effort with the Department of Child Protective Services to assist in providing financial assistance in returns as needed and the creation of a Families in Crisis Program that provides supportive services to assist in determination of the cause of repeat runaways to help end the cycle. They also collaborate closely with the educational and justice departments on early detection by educators who can reach out to families and law enforcement to assist in prevention.
- T. Casanova (VT) reported that Vermont's Department of Child Services is required to conduct a screening within seven (7) days of the return of a juvenile to their state. During this process, factors related to the running away are explored, and a multidisciplinary team works with the juvenile and families to identify triggers and provided personalized services to the juvenile and families. She also noted that Connecticut has a Human Trafficking Task Force within the Department of Child Services that could possibly provide services for high risk runaway youth.
- T. Hunt (CT) thanked the members for their suggestions and input.
- Representative B. Moore (MA) asked the committee what they would like to discuss in the Strategies Round Table discussion at their next meeting. The region agreed to add Managing Gang Affiliation to the agenda for discussion.

State Updates/Concerns

- Connecticut
 - T. Hunt (CT) reported that the state is currently working with the Council of State Governments (CSG) to review recent and upcoming legislative reforms regarding status offenders, auto theft, care and custody of individual who are transitioning from the juvenile system to the adult system, as well as several others to determine how those reforms are serving the ICJ.
- Delaware
 - M. Grimes (DE) reported that her state is still transitioning into their position in the new Office of Liaison Services. This transition has allowed for staff to meet with other commissions and judges on a more frequent basis. They were unable to hold a State Council meeting recently due to lack of quorum, and are currently looking at ways to restructure the dates and times of the meetings to garner more participation.
- Maine
 - R. Curtis (ME) reported that the state is scheduled to hold their State Council Advisory meeting on November 15, 2019. They have focused on garnering better attendance by collaborating with the Juvenile Justice Advisory Panel in their state and will also be discussing new membership to replace positions caused by attrition. Maine is also conducting an assessment of their Community Based Juvenile Justice System by holding town hall meetings throughout the state to obtain stakeholder feedback on best practices for non-delinquent runaways outside of detention facility placement.
- Massachusetts
 - B. Moore (MA) reported that she will be conducting a presentation on the ICJ to state juvenile court judges and court personnel next Wednesday.

- New Hampshire
 - C. Bickford (NH) reported that she is currently conducting training to the district offices on the ICJ Rules that are set to take effect in March 2020. She has also conducted trainings with the Parole Board on ICJ and ICPC rules and guidelines to assist them in how to proceed with specific cases. She has also been working with the State Police and the New Hampshire NCIC Supervisor to address issues and concerns with the current entry process of juveniles in their state. They are collaborating together to determine the most effective way to enter ICJ juveniles into NCIC for both the probation and parole departments. She is currently preparing for a future training for judges and court personnel on ICJ rules and procedures.
- New Jersey
 - E. Lee, Jr (NJ) reported that Commissioner Kevin Brown will be retiring effective November 1, 2019. He is currently working with the Acting Executive Director to train her on ICJ related issues and training resources. The School/Justice Partnership is working with courts and the juvenile justice system to develop a training to address issues with child informed care which has proven to be a root cause of numerous runaway youth cases in the state. They are developing a training for 2020 to address complicit bias. They are also collaborating with the School/Justice Partnership, law enforcement, Governor's State Advisory Group and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee to begin training within law enforcement academies on the differences between the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system to promote prevention and intervention. This will start next year with a pilot program in one county and, if successful, will be implemented statewide. Staff will attend training on racial and ethnical disparities in Arizona this November to develop new strategies on addressing the impact this has on ICJ youth. This will be shared with the region as information becomes available. New Jersey's release authority still currently resides with the Parole Division however, legislation is expected to pass moving this into the Juvenile Justice Commission. There is a State Council meeting scheduled for December 2019.
 - C. Alfonso (NJ) reported that a requested had been received from the Juvenile Justice Commission(JJC) to provide training on the use of Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) and the ICJ to address issues that arise in cases involving the transfer of individuals that have pending matters in other states that are adult charges however, chronologically they are considered a juvenile. The office continues to provide training to field staff and is collaborating with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) on training to assist them with a better understanding of ICJs role. She will be participating in a free webinar training offered by NCJFCJ titled "The Disturbing Connection Between Foster Care and Child Sex Trafficking" on November 7, 2019. She will be providing the webinar registration information to the national office for further distribution to Commission members.

- 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. There will be certified specialized juvenile detention facilities for these youth. He also reported Sheila Poole was officially appointed the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, having served in as the “Acting Commissioner” for an extended period of time. They are currently working with the Governor’s office to fill upcoming vacancies on their State Council.
- Pennsylvania
 - W. Lautsbaugh (PA) reported that there had been an influx of supervisory position turnovers over the past five (5) months. These vacancies are slowly being filled at this time and have not impacted the daily operations of the ICJ. She provided a suggestion for states to increase attendance at their State Council meetings. When she sends out the meeting agenda, she does so six (6) months in advance and includes five (5) dates and times that members must poll on within a week. When the results are in, she immediately sends out an invite to the members with the date and time so that it can be placed on their calendars well in advance.
- Vermont – T. Casanova (VT) reported that she is currently providing training and orientation materials to new personnel who will be assisting with the scheduling of the State Council meetings. She is also currently experiencing issues with incorrect interpretations from judges and court officials regarding ICJ rules and will be conducting training to assist in avoiding further mis-interpretations.

Old Business

No Old Business to report.

New Business

- Representative B. Moore (MA) discussed the ICJ Transition/Succession Plan template and asked all region members to complete their succession plans by February 2020. Representative B. Moore (MA) will be reaching out in the next few weeks individually to determine where states are at in the process and answer any questions, concerns and provide examples of how the succession plan should be completed.
- Representative B. Moore (MA) encouraged members that had interest in serving as the East Region Alternate Representative to contact her directly.

Adjourn

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