



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes

November 14, 2018

2 p.m. ET

Teleconference

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Peter Sprengelmeyer (OR) Chair
2. Trissie Casanova (VT) Vice Chair
3. Anne Connor (ID) Designee
4. Jeff Cowger (KS) Commissioner
5. Sherry Jones (MD) Commissioner
6. Sheila Poole (NY) Commissioner
7. Cathlyn Smith (TN) Commissioner
8. Jedd Pelander (WA) Commissioner

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Agnes Denson (FL) Commissioner
2. Tomiko Frierson (IL) Commissioner
3. Nate Lawson (OH) Commissioner

Non-Voting Committee Members in Attendance:

1. Daniel Horacek (AZ)
2. Mike Casey (DE)
3. Tracy Bradley (FL)
4. Nita Wright (IN)
5. Gladys Olivares (NV)
6. JoAnn Niksa (RI)

ICJ Staff in Attendance:

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

Call to Order

Chair Sprengelmeyer called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

Executive Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the agenda. (WA) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the July 19, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. C. Smith (TN) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Survey Follow-up

- Chair Sprengelmeyer (OR) suggested Executive Director Underwood provide a summary on the Human Trafficking Survey Report.
- Executive Director Underwood provided the committee with a summary on the history of the survey and its findings. Approximately 35% of the states have developed policies and procedures related to human trafficking in place. Approximately 34% of states are not participating in any human trafficking related taskforces. There are 24% of states participating in state level taskforces and another 20% participating in local level taskforces. Only nine (9) states responded having adopted statewide screening processes. The survey results showed that common practice in the holding state is for a juvenile to be held in juvenile detention facilities or a location determined by the Judge. Six (6) states reported that juveniles involved in human trafficking were housed in shelters and another six (6) states reported these juveniles to be held in staff secured facilities. Information was also gathered on the types of services made available by the holding state to include medical services, mental health and victim's services and forensic exams. In most states, juveniles subject to the ICJ are being treated like other trafficking victims within the state. Fifty percent (50%) of states reported the use of the Human Trafficking Matrix.
- Chair Sprengelmeyer (OR) opened the floor for discussion on the direction and goals of the committee for the year.
- A. Connor (ID) highlighted the progress of FL and NJ in addressing the human trafficking issues by the utilization of multidisciplinary teams and screening tools to determine the best individualized placement for juveniles that have experienced human trafficking. Their processes could be utilized to assist other states in creating similar procedures.
- Executive Director Underwood reported that there were six (6) states that provided examples of their internal policies and procedures for human trafficking cases during the survey that are available for committee review.
- J. Niksa (RI) suggested involving representation from the court system and local judges to discuss the procedure of the courts for human trafficking cases. The courts could possibly assist states in moving their human trafficking efforts further and bringing more attention to the issues surrounding utilization of secured detention facilities for juveniles involved in human trafficking.
- The committee proposed that the goal should be to create a framework for best practices. The committee plans to utilize the six (6) states that submitted their

internal policies and procedures as examples during the survey, the assistance of FL and NJ, various trafficking hotlines and websites, state social workers, state and local law enforcement, medical facilities, US Attorneys, the FBI and the state judicial systems to gather information for this framework. The information obtained from these resources will be utilized for organizing principles to inform and train ICJ offices and courts on how to best handle juvenile trafficking cases, the creation of screening tools, information for ICJ offices on how to involve federal entities and possibly the creation of an ICJ Human Trafficking Toolkit for references and resources available regarding these cases.

- Chair Sprengelmeyer (OR) said he will reach out to FL and NJ for further information on their processes and policies.
- T. Casanova (VT) advised she will reach out to her US Attorney's Office and other Federal contacts for information on their processes regarding human trafficking cases involving juveniles.

Old Business

Updates to Matrix

- Chair Sprengelmeyer (OR) reported that there is currently a Human Trafficking Matrix, which includes each state, that is listed on the ICJ website. It was last updated approximately two (2) years ago and needs a current update completed. Representative from each region were appointed to gather the updates.
- A. Connor (ID) is the representative for the West Region.
- H. Kassube (IL) is the representative for the Midwest Region.
- C. Smith (TN) volunteered to be the representative for the South Region.
- Edwin Lee, Jr (NJ) is the East Region representative.
- Chair Sprengelmeyer (OR) suggested creating a template on how to conduct the calls and processes for updating the Matrix.

New Business

Rules Proposals

- A. Connor (ID) advised that the ID State Council is proposing the addition of the federal definition of human trafficking to the ICJ Rules. They have also proposed to create a Rule that would take the existing language in ICJ Rule 6-105: "*Return of Juveniles When Abuse or Neglect is Reported*" and replace the words "abuse and neglect" with "human trafficking".
- T. Casanova (VT) suggested language be included that clarifies a juvenile can not consent or enter upon a contractual basis. She will provide information from the Office in Trafficking of Persons of the US Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to A. Connor (ID) to discuss with the ID State Council.
- Executive Director Underwood clarified that the age base criteria language can be located in the third line of the federal definition of sex trafficking.

Vice-Chair

- Chair Sprengelmeyer (OR) introduced T. Casanova (VT) as the Vice-Chair of the Human Trafficking Committee.

Adjourn

- Chair Sprengelmeyer adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 3:05 p.m. ET