

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Midwest Region Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2021
11:00 a.m. ET
Via WebEx



Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Charles Frieberg (SD), Representative
2. Tomiko Frierson (IL), Commissioner
3. Mary Kay Hudson (IN), Commissioner
4. Kellianne Torres (IA), Designee
5. Jeff Cowger (KS), Commissioner
6. Roy Yaple (MI), Commissioner
7. Tracy Hudrlik (MN), Commissioner
8. Jacey Rader (NE), Commissioner
9. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
10. Nate Lawson (OH), Commissioner
11. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner

Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:

1. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Holly Kassube (IL)
2. April Simmons (IN)
3. Nita Wright (IN)
4. Matt Billinger (KS)
5. Rebecca Hillestead (MN)
6. Abbie Christian (NE)
7. Kathy Christenson (SD)
8. Cheryl Frost (SD)
9. Joy Swantz (WI)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
3. Joe Johnson, Project Manager

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll. A quorum was established with all states' voting representatives in attendance.

Agenda

M. K. Hudson (IN) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. T. Hudrlik (MN) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

M. K. Hudson (IN) made a motion to approve the December 3, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. N. Lawson (OH) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Executive Committee Update

- Representative Frieberg highlighted the following from the Executive Committee's January 21, 2021 meeting.
 - The Rules Committee Chair reported the systematic review of the rules continues, in addition to review of proposed rule amendment submissions. March 31, 2021 is the deadline for submission of proposals to the Rules Committee.
 - The Technology Committee Chair provided UNITY updates and presented a recommendation to adjust the UNITY go-live timeline by 60-90 days. The Executive Committee discussed and adopted the recommendation.
 - The Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice Co-Chair reported the December meeting was a start-up meeting. In January, the ad hoc committee attended the Leadership Exchange Series "data walk" session. The joint session was an excellent opportunity to garner ideas for the work of the ad hoc committee in the months ahead.
 - J. Rader (NE), Commission Chair, added that the UNITY timeline adjustment was not an easy decision. However, after hearing the requests for additional time, it is evident extending the timeframe to test all scenarios and to conduct in-state training in a training environment prior to go-live is prudent for a smoother transition for the Commission. The Executive Committee is also seeking input from states regarding out-of-state travel restrictions to make a determination of whether this year's annual business meeting will be held in Montana, as initially planned, or will be virtual.

Possible Proposed Rule Amendments

- Representative Frieberg opened the floor for possible proposed rule amendments from the Midwest Region. There were none.

State Updates/Concerns

- Representative Frieberg asked states to share information about whether they expect travel restriction to prohibit them from attending the Annual Business Meeting in October.
- T. Frierson (IL) updated that currently Illinois does not allow employees to travel out of state.
- M. K. Hudson (IN) reported Indiana continues to prepare for the transition from JIDS to UNITY and agrees that the timeline adjustment will be helpful. She identified two concerns regarding the out-of-state travel. First, states may not approve out-of-state travel. Second, individual travelers may be unwilling to travel due to potential risks.
- K. Torres (IA) updated that currently Iowa is limiting out-of-state travel.
- J. Cowger (KS) commented that for Kansas, the ICJ Annual Business Meeting is not a cost to the state, so travel permission has not been an issue. Commissioner Cowger is planning to retire in July 2021.

- R. Yapple (MI) updated that the first semi-annual state council meeting will be held March 10. He anticipates there will be no issue with out-of-state travel for Michigan.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) reported Minnesota continues to audit the JIDS files in preparation for the transition to UNITY. She identified two potential issues regarding out-of-state travel. First, states may not approve out-of-state travel. Second, state budget restrictions may impact states sending additional personnel. She will check with her state and reported findings regarding travel.
- A. Christian (NE) reported Nebraska continues with their review of the JIDS data in preparation for UNITY. Currently, no travel is being approved; however, it is difficult to predict if that would change by the fall.
- J. Wald (ND) reported travel is approved on a case-by-case basis. She will check with her state for any additional travel information and update Representative Frieberg when she receives a response.
- N. Lawson (OH) commented that it is hard to predict restrictions for the coming months ahead; currently, Ohio staff have not returned to their offices.
- C. Frieberg (SD) reported South Dakota continues to prepare for the transition to UNITY. At this time, there are no travel restrictions. He will attend the ABM whether it is live or virtual.
- Director Underwood thanked those that have submitted their annual State Council Reports and completed Code of Conduct forms, noting a few have yet to be received.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Proposal to End Emergency Suspension of Enforcement

- Representative Frieberg presented reference the compliance data emailed to the members prior to the meeting and opened the floor for discussion of the proposal to end emergency suspension of enforcement.
- J. Wald (ND) made an inquiry with field staff and her question is: "When the rule is lifted, will it be required to go inside the home for home visits and in person checks on absconders?" T. Hudrlik (MN) commented that the suspension was the suspension of enforcement, not the suspension of the rules themselves. How to conduct home visits and other tasks is left to the states, and would remain within the states' discretion whether or not the suspension of enforcement is ended.
- M. K. Hudson (IN) supports lifting the suspension. She noted there will continue to be pockets of challenges, which can be addressed through the National Office and Compliance Committee who would maintain discretion.
- R. Yapple (MI) commented that while there are some positive trends, the conditions under which the emergency suspension was implemented remain. Furthermore, the national emergency has not been lifted. Michigan does not support ending the suspension of enforcement at this time.
- C. Frieberg (SD) commented that states have been working well together to administer the ICJ Rules and predicted that states will continue to do so whenever the suspension is lifted states.
- T. Frierson (IL) supported lifting the suspension. She noted any cases of non-compliance would be handled individually.

Adjourn

- **T. Hudrlik (MN) made a motion to adjourn. J. Rader (NE) seconded. Representative Frieberg adjourned the meeting by acclamation 11: 32 a.m. ET.**