

# INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

## Midwest Region Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021  
10:00 a.m. ET  
Via WebEx



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### Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

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

### Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:

1. Mary Kay Hudson (IN), Commissioner
2. Jeff Cowger (KS), Commissioner
3. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner

### Compact Staff in Attendance:

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

### National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
3. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
4. Joe Johnson, Project Manager

### Call to Order

Representative Frieberg called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

### Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

## Agenda

- Representative Frieberg noted that R. Yaple (MI) made a request to include a question under new business.
- **T. Hudrlik (MN) made a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition. J. Rader (NE) seconded. The motion carried.**

## Minutes

**R. Yaple (MI) made a motion to approve the February 4, 2021 meeting minutes as corrected. J. Wald (ND) seconded. The motion carried.**

## Discussion

### *UNITY Updates*

- Representative Frieberg requested that the National Office provide an update.
- Director Underwood updated that UNITY has been up and running a little over a week. Overall, the transition is going well with over 3,000 cases migrated. She noted the importance of users notifying the support center when detecting issues, and acknowledged that minor edits should be expected over the next 3-12 months. The first focus is to ensure UNITY is operating as it was designed. Later, requests for enhancements for the next version (2.0) will be reviewed by the Technology Committee, in accordance to the [Information System Modifications Policy 02-2020](#).
- Director Underwood applauded the training presentation by Holly Kassube (IL) on ICJ Returns in UNITY conducted at the last UNITY Coordinators meeting and Roy Yaple (MI) and Jessica Wald (ND) for their training participation in the UNITY Coordinators' meetings. The presentation was recorded and is now available via ICJ.TalentLMS. The Midwest Region has particularly been instrumental in the UNITY development and rollout project in several capacities, and all efforts are appreciated.
- Representative Frieberg commented that the South Dakota staff found the daily Question & Answer Sessions very helpful.
- J. Wald (ND) asked if she must submit tickets on behalf local users after she reviews. Joe Johnson affirmed that to be the case.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) added she looks forward to seeing the data that can be extracted from UNITY into reports. N. Lawson (OH) commented that the data from system and the capabilities are vastly improved from JIDS. He too looks forward to the data visualization portion.

### *2021 Proposed Rules Amendments Comments*

- Representative Frieberg opened the floor for discussion of the 2021 proposed rule amendments.
- T. Hudrlik (MN), Rules Committee Chair, commented that most proposals were not major changes. Nonetheless, she encouraged everyone to review to ensure the Rules Committee has not missed something. The comment period closes June 4, 2021.

## Old Business

There was no old business.

## **New Business**

- R. Yapple (MI) updated that Michigan is working on a comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CWIS), a federal tracking system. He has been asked by his state about the possibility of linking UNITY to CWIS. While he believes the ICJ system is and should remain separate, he welcomes additional input.
- Joe Johnson commented that UNITY has the technological architecture for an Application Protocol Interface (API). However, options for such interfaces were not pursued because of complex regulatory and security issues.
- Director Underwood recalls past discussions and ICJ could not pursue a full integration with child welfare systems because of the differences in the rules and the qualifiers for each of the entities.

## **Adjourn**

**N. Lawson (OH) made a motion to adjourn. K. Torres (IA) seconded. Representative Frieberg adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 10:26 a.m. ET.**