

# **INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES**

## **Midwest Region Meeting Minutes**

July 27, 2021

11:00 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

### **Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:**

1. Mary Kay Hudson (IN), Commissioner
2. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
3. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner

### **Compact Staff in Attendance:**

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

### **Guest in Attendance:**

1. Tasha Hunt (CT)

### **National Office Staff in Attendance:**

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative 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

**N. Lawson (OH) made a motion to approve the agenda. J. Rader (NE) seconded. The motion carried.**

## Minutes

**N. Lawson (OH) made a motion to approve the May 27, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. K. Torres (IA) seconded. The motion carried.**

## Discussion

### ICJ Nominations and Elections Process

- Tasha Hunt (CT), Ad Hoc Committee for Juvenile Justice Co-Chair, shared that the ad hoc committee has been meeting monthly to look at ways for the Commission to advance racial justice. The ad hoc committee focused on nominations and elections process in order to broaden the diversity in leadership positions and to bring clarity to the process.
- The Executive Committee recently approved the ICJ Nominations and Elections Process recommended by the ad hoc committee, which was distributed prior to the meeting. The Executive Committee asked that a member of the Ad Hoc Committee to present the document to each of the regions to ensure everyone's understanding.
- Tasha Hunt (CT) explained that the process allows anyone interested in a leadership position to make their intentions and qualifications known ahead of time. Each year, the nomination period will open 60 days prior to the annual business meeting. This ensures voting members have advance knowledge of the candidates and their qualifications. The process would mitigate the awkwardness of campaigning on-site the week of the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). She reviewed the process, which will govern
  1. Commission Officer annual elections
  2. Region Representatives bi-annual elections
  3. Committee Chairpersons annual interest
- During the ABM region meetings, members may review the candidates. However, no vote is required for nominations during the region meetings. The process does not remove the option to nominate from the floor and speak prior to the vote during the General Session.
- Several of the Midwest Region members expressed their appreciation and support of the formalized process.
- Director Underwood reported that the nominations process would open the following week, and be announced along with other ABM-related information via special edition of the *ICJ Updates (e-newsletter)*.

### ICJ Mission, Vision, and Values Statement

- Tasha Hunt (CT) presented the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation for modifications to the ICJ Mission, Visions, and Values Statements.

## **Mission**

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles, the governing body of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, through means of joint and cooperative action among the compacting states, preserves child welfare and promotes public safety interests of citizens, including victims of juvenile offenders. **With a focus on racial justice**, by

the Commission provides enhanced accountability, enforcement, visibility, and communication in the return of juveniles who have left their state of residence without permission and in the cooperative supervision of delinquent juveniles who travel or relocate across state lines.

## Vision

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles will promote public safety, victims' rights, and juvenile accountability that is balanced with safeguarding those juveniles in a fair and equitable way.

## Values

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles values:

1. We **honor the Compact's spirit** of communication, collaboration and mutual respect among all parties in the Compact.
  2. We **hold ourselves accountable** to our compact agreements.
  3. We expect and support **continuous knowledge and skill development**.
  4. We **seek sustainability of ICJ** via leadership development and national visibility.
  5. We **value racial diversity** and seek **equitable outcomes and experience for all juveniles served by the Compact and all parties in the Compact**.
  6. We ensure that **everything we do supports the outcomes** stated in our mission.
- The ad hoc committee's intention is to update the statements to reflect a commitment to racial justice, without deviating from the current statements. The proposed language draws attention for the need for equity and the Commission's commitment to racial justice. The Executive Committee agreed that the full Commission originated the statements and the full Commission should vote to amend. The Executive Committee supported the recommendation and requested that a member of the ad hoc committee present the recommendation in each region meeting for a better understand and to address questions prior to voting in October.
  - Several states acknowledged their support. J. Rader (NE) acknowledged support and appreciation for the ad hoc committee.

## Executive Committee Update

- Director Underwood provided an update from last Executive Committee Meeting.
- Recent Commission/Designees changes include:
  - Kansas - Former Commissioner Jeff Cowger retired. Hope Cooper has been appointed Designee for Kansas. Her appointment as the ICJ Commissioner is anticipated soon.
  - North Carolina - Traci Marchand was promoted within her state and her long-standing service as the ICJ Commissioner has ended. Stephen Horton, DCA, has been appointed as the new ICJ Commissioner.
  - Delaware - Christine Norris, DCA, has been appointed as Designee to Commissioner Francis "Mike" Casey and may vote in his absence.
- The Technology Committee established a UNITY Enhancements Requests Sub-Committee to review the numerous requests and to make recommendations to the Technology Committee. Midwest Region members Kellianne Torres (IA) and

Abbie Christian (NE) are a part of the sub-committee. Additionally, the UNITY Data Visualization Reporting Team are working to develop reporting features which will be rolled out in September. Additionally, there will be training sessions on UNITY Reporting during the Annual Business Meeting in October.

- The Compliance Committee updated applicable Performance Measurement Assessment (PMA) Standards as a result of the transition from JIDS to UNITY.
- The Rules Committee will release the final version of all the proposed rule amendments on August 4. The public hearing will be held on September 9.
- The Executive Committee postponed the recalculation of dues for one year. The Executive Committee authorized the use of reserve funds for operational costs as needed. Additionally, cost reductions approved for FY 23 included reducing office space of the national office; conducting all Rules Committee meetings virtually; using electronic versions of the docket book, bench book, and annual report; and moving from the WebEx to Zoom software for all meetings.
- The Executive Committee, Compliance Committee, and regions have discussed when to end the suspension of enforcement of ICJ Rules. The matter will be discussed again at the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- R. Yapple (MI) suggested summarizing both JIDS and UNITY performance during the pandemic period for comparison.

#### 2021 Annual Business Meeting

- Director Underwood reported that the 2021 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Agenda is approved and posted. The ABM is October 4-7. This year, the ABM will be presented in a virtual format again. Sessions will be conducted in ½ days over four days to avoid virtual fatigue. She highlighted each of the sessions and noted that Hasan Davis will again provide the Keynote address.
- Agenda changes this year include:
  - Region meetings will be held on the same day; however, two regions will meet in the morning and two regions will meet in the afternoon with a training session between.
  - All ICJ Staff listed in the Compact Directory will receive a direct email for registration with a unique registration link. A guest link will be provided that can be forwarded to others, such as State Council Members.
- The 2021 Leadership Award nomination period opens August 6. R. Yapple (MI) commented that a lot of people have done a fantastic job leading with the onset of UNITY. He asked if past winners could win again and if he could nominate more than one. Director Underwood replied yes to both.

#### State Updated and Concerns

There were none.

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Adjourn**

**J. Rader (NE) made a motion to adjourn. J. Wald (ND) seconded.  
Representative Frieberg adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 11:42 a.m.  
ET.**