

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES
Midwest Regional Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2025
3:30 p.m. EDT
Hilton Cleveland Downtown
Center Street Room C
Cleveland, Ohio



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative J. Rader (NE) called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

Jenny Adkins (National Office) called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Jacey Rader (NE), Commissioner, Midwest Regional Representative
2. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner, Alternate Regional Representative
3. Chris Biehn (IN), Commissioner
4. Tomiko Frierson (IL), Commissioner
5. Kellianne Torres (IA), Designee
6. Fareeda Washington (KS), Designee
7. Michael Tymkew (MI), Commissioner
8. Tracy Hudrlik (MN), Commissioner
9. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
10. Sasaun Lane (OH), Commissioner
11. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner

Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Laura Hausladen (IN)
2. Nataly Sevilla (IN)
3. April Simmons (IN)
4. Liz Wilson (KS)
5. Abbie Christian (NE)
6. Jennifer McFadden (WI)

Ex Officio and Guest in Attendance:

1. Chris Kinsler (National Association of Attorneys General), ex officio member
2. Bruce Graham (OH)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Curtis Hamstra (IA), Commissioner
2. Megan Milner (KS), Commissioner
3. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. Jenny Adkins (National Office), Operations and Policy Specialist

Agenda

K. Torres (IA) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Minutes

C. Gerber (WI) made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from the meeting on April 28, 2025. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

New Business

Discuss Rule Amendment Proposals

- Representative J. Rader (NE) opened the floor for discussion on the rule amendment proposals.

Provide feedback on the concept of extending rules cycle to 3 years

- Representative J. Rader (NE) directed region members to the Rules Committee memo provided in advance of the meeting regarding moving to a 3-year rules cycle.
- Region members discussed the following:
 - The current 2-year rulemaking cycle governs the Information Technology Committee's timeline for analyzing UNITY and ICJ Forms impacts and for implementing the changes after the rule amendments are passed.
 - Law enforcement officers have commented on the frequency of the changes to ICJ Rules.
 - Extended timeframes could affect each step in the process, allowing for more time to review proposals and implement approved amendments.
- Members asked whether emergency rules could still be considered if the cycle were extended.
- Representative J. Rader (NE) indicated that emergency rules can be considered pursuant to ICJ Rule 2-103: Adoption of Rules and Amendments, regardless of whether the rules cycle is extended to three years.

Review election process and candidate list

- Representative J. Rader (NE) reminded members that voting for officer positions would occur during the General Session on Wednesday and that officer candidate information was circulated to the Commission in July and included in the Docket Book. She added that there was one candidate for each position and that Commissioners, or their voting designees, could make nominations from the floor.

Reports

Racial Diversity Equity and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee

- C. Frieberg (SD) shared a report on the human trafficking poll results and directed members to the memo that was provided in advance of the meeting. He indicated that the RDEI Committee is working to increase ICJ Offices' reporting of human trafficking concerns, perhaps by requiring the use of the "human trafficking field" in UNITY.
- A. Christian (NE) added that the Enhancements Subcommittee of Information Technology Committee previously discussed making the "human trafficking" field in UNITY mandatory. The main point of contention was whether users should be "required" to enter data that is not specifically required by the ICJ Rules. She said feedback from others in the region could be helpful.

- Feedback from region members is summarized below.
 - The ICJ Rules are intended to promote safe returns. Though there is no specific requirement related to human trafficking, requiring use of the field would promote the safety of youth by triggering ICJ Offices to ask questions that would lead to additional screening and communication of critical information related to safety.
 - Addressing global concerns about law enforcement officers (LEOs) communicating limited information regarding the circumstances from which the youth was picked-up is essential for improving responses to human trafficking.
 - Focusing on communications with LEOs could result in information being more readily available. Though officers may have information relevant to trafficking, there is no clear path for how they should convey such information to ICJ Offices.
 - Clarifying the purpose of collecting and entering information about human trafficking is essential for getting state ICJ Offices to do. More emphasis should be placed on how asking questions related to trafficking promotes the safety of youths.
 - Courts, detention centers, and other stakeholders are concerned about holding non-delinquent youths in detention, particularly in cases where the youth might otherwise be released to a guardian within 24 hours. It is important to have plans in place to minimize detention and delays. Clear communications and planning between states about next steps is essential.

State Updates

- A. Christian (NE) reported that Nebraska recently passed juvenile justice legislation that will affect ICJ transfer cases by requiring closure reports when a youth is discharged from probation.
- F. Washington (KS) shared that Liz Wilson has been with the Kansas ICJ Office for 20 years.

Next Steps

- Representative J. Rader (NE) asked members to send her issues that need to be added to new business at future meetings.

Adjourn

Representative Rader (NE) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 4:07 p.m. EDT.