

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026

2:00 p.m. EDT

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Chair R. Curtis (ME) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. A. Roy Curtis (ME), Commissioner, Chair
2. Sarah Abramczyk (AK), Commissioner
3. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner
4. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner
5. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
6. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
7. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
8. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee

Additional State ICJ Personnel, Ex Officio Members, and Partners in Attendance:

1. Jessica Stefenack (VA)
2. Linda Nieves (TN), ICJ Legal Advisor
3. Chris Newlin, Ex Officio Member, National Childrens Advocacy Center (NCAC)
4. Judge Kathleen Quigley, Ex Officio Member, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
5. Juan "John" Sepulveda, Ex Officio Member, National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
6. Amanda Whitlock, Ex Officio Member, National Runaway Safeline (NRS)
7. Samantha Sahl, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
2. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
3. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner, Vice Chair

Guests in Attendance:

1. Sydney Lawson, Kentucky Department for Community Based Services

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Director of Operations, Rules, and Compliance

3. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

T. Casanova (VT) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Minutes

S. Abramczyk (AK) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 9, 2026, as presented. Vermont abstained. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

Develop Shared Understandings of Non-Negotiables and Immediate Priorities

- Chair R. Curtis (ME) stated that members would continue discussing the top five non-negotiables and immediate priorities, which were identified at an earlier meeting.
- Members joined breakout groups to discuss what “Alternatives to Detention” means to them, which partnerships are necessary to implement the priority, and the next steps to implement it.
- Members shared the following ideas about priority 5:
 - What does this priority mean from your perspective?
 - Having better options than detention to reduce negative effects on youth.
 - Identifying other options for placement aside from detention.
 - Vermont is already using alternatives to detention such as staff-secure placements or runaway/homeless youth shelters. Youth are brought into custody as dependency case which opens up same placement options and funding as foster youth (e.g., foster homes, short term stabilization beds).
 - Proper funding mechanisms are a concern.
 - Policy and procedures need to be reviewed and revised to allow for proper risk and needs assessments to reduce use of detention and identify needed supports.
 - States differ regarding detention of status offenders, but youth held pursuant to ICJ may be held if ordered by judge (when otherwise may not be).
 - Shelters and group homes are often used as alternatives.
 - Youth may need access to therapeutic care.
 - Identifying barriers.
 - Understanding use of valid court orders.
 - Focus should be on utilizing the least restrictive option that manages the youth’s physical and psychological safety
 - What partnerships are necessary to implement this priority?
 - Administration for Children and Families to identify possible funding sources, such as Title IV-E funding for foster care beds for ICJ non-delinquent youth
 - NCJFCJ could be a co-partner or help facilitate
 - Child advocacy centers
 - Law Enforcement
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - State Council Members
 - Attorneys

- Legislative representatives to advocate for funding
- Hospitals
- Regional navigators for youth who are recovered, considered high-risk, or suspected of human trafficking
- Community-based youth services to hold youth in non-restrictive environments
- [Office of Inspector General](#) – data on states’ responses to runaways
- What are the next steps to implement this priority?
 - JJDPA sponsors to review ICJ exemption
 - Round-tables with stakeholders
 - Re-examine language and practices around youth who are deemed a “danger to self/others” and ensure proper treatment is offered that is NOT detention
 - Analyze ICJ Rules to determine potential amendments, especially ensuring appropriate screening and that youth are medically cleared
 - Model legislation may assist with supporting with new initiatives and funding

New Business

Impact Feasibility Tool

- Chair R. Curtis (ME) asked members to view a video in preparation for the next Work Group meeting. He stated that he will send an email out to members with the link to the video following the meeting.

Next Steps

- Chair R. Curtis (ME) reminded members to register for the [2026 Annual Business Meeting](#) in Portland, Maine. The in-person Work Group meeting will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. EDT.
- The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for June 23, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

Adjourn

Chair R. Curtis (ME) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:31 p.m. EDT.