

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2025

10:30 am EDT

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Chair C. Bickford (NH) called the meeting to order at 10:32 am EDT.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner, Chair
2. Anne Connor (ID), Commissioner
3. Chris Biehn (IN), Commissioner
4. Melina Hampton (KY), Designee
5. A. Roy Curtis (ME), Commissioner
6. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
7. Raymundo Gallardo (UT), Designee
8. Trissie Casanova (VT), Commissioner

Additional State ICJ Personnel and Ex Officio Members in Attendance:

1. Nita Wright (IN)
2. Jenny McFadden (WI)
3. Juan "John" Sepulveda, Ex Officio Member representing National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (GA), Designee
2. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner

Guests in Attendance:

1. Glenn Tapia, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
3. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policies Specialist
4. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 23, 2025, as presented. The motion passed.

Report from the Chair

- Chair C. Bickford (NH) reported the subcommittee formed to develop training to be provided at the 2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) met and was progressing well.

Unfinished Business

Debrief the Adaptive Problem-Solving Framework – *Glenn Tapia*

- G. Tapia presented a framework for addressing issues #2 and #3, focused on the final step of adaptive problem-solving using appreciative inquiry.
- He outlined five steps to guide the process, aiming to stay focused on the big picture while obtaining concrete solutions. The five steps include:
 - Step #1: Define- As we move toward cultivating a system rooted in shared purpose and trust, what does ‘thriving collaboration’ mean to us when law enforcement, child welfare, and community stakeholders unite for youth well-being? What do we want more of?
 - Step #2: Discover- Discuss a time – no matter how small – when collaboration across agencies led to a meaningful difference for a young person. What conditions made that possible? Who was involved? What beliefs, behaviors, or systems helped us succeed?
 - Step #3: Dream- Imagine it’s three years from now, and our system of care has become the national model for safe reunification and cross-agency trust. What’s happening between partners? How are we showing up for each other and for youth? What norms, mindsets, and feedback loops are visibly thriving?
 - Step #4: Design- What practices, agreements, and shared behaviors would help us bring our vision to life- especially ones that lift others up (co-elevation), share responsibility (co-helping), and create space for historically unheard voices?
 - Step #5: Destiny- What is one small action each of us can commit to this quarter that moves us closer to our ideal situation- and how will we support each other in staying accountable with grace and humility?
- Work Group members discussed how to apply this framework to their work with stakeholders, considering different approaches to introduce mindset-related concepts.

Reflection on Issues #2 and #3

- Members discussed challenges in collaborative communication with child welfare and law enforcement agencies, particularly regarding the sharing of information and reciprocity.
- T. Casanova (VT) emphasized the need for legal bridges to facilitate the exchange of information.
- Chair C. Bickford (NH) emphasized the importance of state-specific implementation, given the varying systems and stakeholders.
- G. Tapia suggested developing a framework that allows states autonomy while maintaining guardrails, and the group agreed that engaging law enforcement locally would be crucial for success.

New Business

Annual Business Meeting Training on Returns

- Director Underwood stated that the National Office increased efforts to build relationships with important organizations over the last few years. She provided updates on ex officio members who were invited to the ABM, including representatives from law enforcement and child welfare. She asked if the group would support inviting the Executive Committee to the in-person Work Group meeting at the ABM.
- Chair C. Bickford (NH) stated that she supported of extending an invitation to the Executive Committee.
- R. Gallardo (UT) reported the training session on returns at the ABM will be titled “Homeward Bound: Strategies for Compassionate and Compliant Returns,” and will include a panel discussion and scenario-based table discussions. He asked members to let him know if they would like to be on the panel. The next subcommittee meeting was scheduled for June 26, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. EDT.

JJDPA Reauthorization

- Director Underwood noted that bill to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) was recently introduced in Congress. If adopted, it would take effect in 2028 and could significantly impact returns of non-delinquent runaways.

Next Steps

- The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for August 25, 2025, at 3:00 PM EDT in Cleveland, Ohio.

Adjourn

Chair C. Bickford (NH) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 11:38 am EDT.