

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

July 9, 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. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner, Vice Chair
7. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
8. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
9. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee

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

1. Christopher Keys (AK)
2. Jessica Stefenack (VA)
3. Linda Nieves (TN), ICJ Legal Advisor
4. Judge Kathleen Quigley, Ex Officio Member, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
5. Megan Riker-Rheinschild, Ex Officio Member, ICJ Victims Representative
6. Samantha Sahl, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
7. Amanda Whitlock, Ex Officio Member, National Runaway Safeline (NRS)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
2. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

J. Wald (ND) made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Minutes

S. Abramczyk (AK) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on June 11, 2026, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Review Draft Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

- Director Underwood presented a draft report regarding the Work Group's efforts, titled: *Safe Returns, Stronger Systems: Improving ICJ Returns for Runaway Youth*, which summarized discussions and outlined a strategic plan built on six strategic goals:
 1. Improve critical information collection and sharing
 2. Improve youth safety and well-being during return processes
 3. Improve responses when abuse or neglect is disclosed or suspected
 4. Improve 24-hour access to ICJ information and decision-making tools
 5. Strengthen cross-system collaboration
 6. Reduce reliance on detention for non-delinquent runaways
- Members broke into two groups to discuss goals 1, 2, and 3. They were asked to answer the following questions:
 - Does this strategic plan accurately capture our work?
 - Is there anything we missed?
 - Is there anything we should eliminate or consolidate?
- Members made the following observations and suggestions.
 - Clarifying Goal 2, Objective A, to focus on screening for abuse, neglect, and trafficking.
 - Increased efforts must be made to engage representatives from child protection and law enforcement agencies to ensure the strategies are actionable and feasible.
 - Hospitals could serve as efficient points for comprehensive assessments, including mental health and suicide screening, while noting the importance of proper training for law enforcement.
 - It might not be feasible to require child welfare agencies to accept ICJ case referrals because acceptance criteria are generally established by state laws or policies.
 - Since the Compact represents the states' agreement about how to handle interstate returns, the ICJ Rules can include requirements for various state agencies.
- Work Group members agreed on the need to increase state child welfare agency involvement in cases but left open to the question of how to implement specific requirements.
- Members broke into two groups to discuss the same questions in relation to goals 4, 5, and 6.
- Members made the following observations and suggestions.
 - The Commission's *After-Hours Contact Information Matrix* does not include information from all states. Participation should be required.

- Expanding Goal 5 to include an objective related to using state councils on interstate juvenile supervision to facilitation collaboration in challenging cases.
 - Goal 6 would be challenging to implement due to limited alternatives to detention in many states. Some objectives may be beyond the scope of the Commission’s purpose.
- **C. Bickford (NH) made a motion to recommend to the Executive Committee that the Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youths be continued for Fiscal Year 2027. The motion passed unanimously.**

Next Steps

- Director Underwood asked members to provide any written feedback on the report and strategic plan to her and Chair R. Curtis (ME) by July 17, 2026.
- The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for August 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. EDT in Portland, Maine.

Adjourn

Chair R. Curtis (ME) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:34 p.m. EDT.