

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2026

2:00 p.m. EDT

Holiday Inn By the Bay

Oxford Room

Portland, Maine



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. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Christopher "CJ" Keys (AK), Designee
4. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner
5. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner
6. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
7. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
8. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner

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

1. Linda Nieves (TN), ICJ Legal Advisor
2. Judge Kathleen Quigley, Ex Officio Member, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
3. Samantha Sahl, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
4. Amanda Whitlock, Ex Officio Member, National Runaway Safeline (NRS)
5. Jill Ward, Maine Law, Youth Justice Fellow

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
2. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
3. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee

Guests in Attendance:

1. Antonio DeJesus, Commissioner (CA)
2. Felicia Dauway, Designee (SC)
3. Mike Barthel, Commissioner (MN)
4. Raymundo Gallardo, Designee (UT)
5. Antwanita Brooks, Compact Office Staff (IN)

6. Gilbert Soto, Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC)
7. Judge Amanda Heath, President, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
8. Delores Johnson, American Probation and Parole Association (APPA)

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

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

Minutes

C. Bickford (NH) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on July 9, 2026, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business

Presentation of Drafted Recommendations

- Chair R. Curtis (ME) presented draft goals and objectives that were developed by the Work Group:
 - Goal 1: Improve critical information collection and sharing.
 - Objective 1A: Increase collection and sharing of critical information needed for safe, timely, and informed return decisions.
 - Goal 2: Improve youth safety and well-being during return processes.
 - Objective 2A: Increase percentage of youth screened for abuse, trafficking, and other safety concerns.
 - Objective 2B: Increase use of safety plans to ensure youths are returned to safe environments.
 - Objective 2C: Increase state child welfare agency (CWA) engagement in ICJ return cases.
 - Objective 2D: Increase number of ICJ cases in which NCMEC resources are used to improve youth safety.
 - Goal 3: Improve 24-hour access to ICJ information and decision-making tools.
 - Objective 3A: Increase number of states maintaining after-hours information.
 - Objective 3C: Increase tools for first responders making decisions after hours.
 - Goal 4: Strengthen cross-system collaboration.
 - Objective 4A: Increase use of multidisciplinary teams (MDT) for complex cases.
 - Objective 4B: Increase collaboration between ICJ Offices and CACs.

- Objective 4C: Increase national research, training and technical assistance focused on CWA response in ICJ runaway cases.
- Objective 4D: Increase partnerships with national organizations for law enforcement and runaway and homeless youth agencies.
- Objective 4E: Improve guidance related to ICJ and ICPC dual-jurisdiction cases.
- Goal 5: Reduce reliance on detention for non-delinquent runaways.
 - Objective 5A: Increase understanding of detention-related requirements and alternatives.
 - Objective 5B: Increase access to safe alternatives to detention.

Small-Groups: Impact and Feasibility Mapping of Objectives

- Director Underwood explained that work group members would collaborate in small groups to use impact and feasibility mapping to help determine which initiatives to as top recommendations.
- Members moved into small groups to discuss the impact and feasibility mapping of objectives.
- Each small group provided scores to staff for processing.

Prioritize and Finalize Work Group Recommendations

- Director Underwood asked members what they thought about the impact and feasibility process.
- Members reflected on the usefulness of the tool, noting that many objectives ranked higher on impact than feasibility.
- Members noted that the activity raised awareness of how feasibility varied greatly from state to state, making it much harder to assess on a national basis.
- Director Underwood stated that the next step is to plotting the scores into an impact feasibility map to determine which goals and objectives to focus on.

Next Steps

- Chair R. Curtis (ME) shared that an email will be sent out to schedule the next meeting that will be set in late September or early October.

Adjourn

Chair R. Curtis (ME) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:50 p.m. EDT.