

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2025

2:00 pm EST

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Chair R. Curtis (ME) called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm EST.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. A. Roy Curtis (ME), Commissioner, Chair
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner
3. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
4. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
5. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
6. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner

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

1. Sarah Abramczyk (AK)
2. Liz Wilson (KS)
3. Jessica Stefenack (VA)
4. Megan Riker-Rheinschild, ICJ Victims Representative
5. Linda Nieves (TN), ICJ Legal Advisor
6. Chris Newlin, Ex Officio Member, National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC)
7. Sheriff Travis Patten, National Sheriff's Association (NSA)
8. Juan "John" Sepulveda, Ex Officio Member, National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
9. Jill Ward, Maine Law, Youth Justice Clinic, Professor
10. Jenna Cox, Maine Law, Youth Justice Fellow

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner
2. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
3. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
4. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
5. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee

Guests in Attendance:

1. Glenn Tapia, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation (ACJI)

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

S. Horton (NC) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Minutes

C. Bickford (NH) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 30, 2025, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Chair Report

- Chair R. Curtis (ME) welcomed new members from Maine Law School, Jill Ward and Jenna Cox, who will assist with legal research and provide additional insights.

Unfinished Business

Appreciative Inquiry 5D Process for Issues 1 & 3 – *Glenn Tapia*

- Glenn Tapia (ACJI) shared that the second stage in the appreciative inquiry process is to “discover.”
- G. Tapia (ACJI) encouraged members to reflect on past successful collaborations, especially in the context of interstate supervision and youth welfare, and to identify conditions that facilitated these successes.
- Following breakout group discussions, J. Wald (ND) reported that Group 3 focused on the importance of communication, gathering accurate information, and working collaboratively with other agencies. The group emphasized the need to respect each other's roles while offering assistance without undue criticism.
- M. Riker-Rheinschild (Victims Representative) reported that Group 2 highlighted the importance of creative legal representation, open communication between states, and a multidisciplinary approach to achieving successful outcomes.
- C. Newlin (NCAC) reported that Group 1 themes of thriving collaboration and identified four key factors: establishing relationships with partners before collaboration, timely collaboration, open communication, and balancing organizational needs with the best interests of the child.
- G. Tapia (ACJI) emphasized the importance of working towards the best interest of the child rather than just representing individual agencies and shared the following compilation of comments.

What has worked before?

- Robust and substantive communication with context, background, and not just goals.
- Staying away from “We have always done it this way” and diverging from status quo.
- Keeping interest of child in mind always – front and center.
- Urgency and not haste – slow down process to get more substantive communication.
- Acting outside the bounds of the traditional “justice system roles”
- Immediate engagement (urgency) in high stakes cases and priority setting for high stakes situations.
- Intentional negotiation with partner/stakeholder agencies in complex situations.
- Build relationships prior to (and outside) day to day collaboration and problem-solving settings.
- Timeliness in communication and responses.
- Open, blunt, honest, candid and robust sharing of perspectives. We need more DIALOGUE and not just one-way communication.
- Work for the best outcome for the child, not for the team “mascot” (the agency itself).

What do we triple down on?

- Don’t stay in our own lane and respect other people’s lanes abundantly.
- Stand next to other people and REALLY understand their needs, challenges, and objectives from THEIR POV not MY POV.
- Approach others lane with respect and curiosity and not command or control of their job or tasks.
- Collaborative decision making where EVERYONE gets a voice and input into the decision – including the person on supervision.
- Offering others some creative alternatives to traditional decision making – give room for creative decisions and not traditional ones.
- Approach learning with HUMILITY – avoid the perception of “expertise” (the expert mindset trap)
- Listen to advocates! They really matter and are really engaged in the outcome for the youth.
- Attitude: How can we make this work versus “not my responsibility” – broaden our sense of responsibility to the right thing and not your traditional tasks.
- Let the innovative, creative and effective practice govern the policy – not just the other way around.

- G. Tapia (ACJI) stated that at the next meeting the group will discuss the third stage in the process, “dream.”

Next Steps

- The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Adjourn

S. Horton (NC) made a motion to adjourn the Work Group on Non-Delinquent Youths meeting. Chair R. Curtis (ME) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:18 p.m. EST.