

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025

2:00 pm EST

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Chair R. Curtis (ME) called the meeting to order at 2:01 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. Christine Norris (DE), Designee
3. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
4. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
5. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
6. Trissie Casanova (VT), Designee

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

1. Sarah Abramczyk (AK)
2. Jessica Stefenack (VA)
3. Linda Nieles (TN), ICJ Legal Advisor
4. Kathleen Quigley, Ex Officio Member, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
5. Chris Newlin, Ex Officio Member, National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC)
6. Amanda Whitlock, Ex Officio Member, National Runaway Safeline (NRS)
7. Samantha Sahl, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
8. Jill Ward, Maine Law, Youth Justice Clinic, Professor
9. Jenna Cox, Maine Law, Youth Justice Fellow

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner
3. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
4. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
5. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner

Guests in Attendance:

1. Glenn Tapia, Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation (ACJI)
2. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner, Rules Committee Chair
3. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner, Rules Committee Vice Chair

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
3. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

Judge K. Quigley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Minutes

Judge K. Quigley made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 13, 2025, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

DREAM stage of Appreciative Inquiry (AI5D Process) – *Glenn Tapia*

- Glenn Tapia (ACJI) shared that the third stage in the appreciative inquiry process is to “dream.”
- G. Tapia introduced the appreciative inquiry process, explaining its focus on effectively addressing complex, adaptive challenges and the goal of moving toward an ideal state.
- He outlined the task of creating lists: what to do more of, what to do less of, and what new actions to start, while also identifying outdated processes to eliminate.
- G. Tapia then led a discussion on improving youth supervision systems, emphasizing the need for robust two-way communication, prioritizing youth safety and well-being, and fostering cross-agency partnerships.
- The Work Group discussed the importance of creative problem-solving, collaborative decision-making, and trauma-informed interactions, while also highlighting the necessity of moving beyond traditional rules and solutions.
- Work Group members were tasked with envisioning a national model for safe reunification and cross-agency partnerships in three years, focusing on new processes, tools, and agreements, as well as identifying old habits that need to be discontinued.
- The Work Group was divided into four breakout groups for further discussion.
- One group proposed using multidisciplinary teams to address complex cases, such as those involving prolonged detention, and suggested broadening the definition of runaways to include underlying issues like trafficking. The group also highlighted the importance of considering both the child's and family's perspectives in decision-making.
- Another group emphasized the importance of gathering information about a child's circumstances before Form III hearings and potentially adding a new matrix on the Commission's website. They also focused on the need for a standardized process while allowing for state-level flexibility and suggested multidisciplinary team involvement in complex cases, particularly those wherein the youth detained for 7–14-days or longer.
- The third group suggested increasing use of tools to screen for abuse and human trafficking to promote the safety the child and recommended involving the youth throughout decision making processes. They emphasized the importance of collaboration with other agencies and maintaining relationships even when not actively working on cases. They suggested succession planning to prevent disruptions in key positions.

- The meeting concluded with discussion of creating structured tools and plans to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Next Steps

- The next Work Group meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Adjourn

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