

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youth Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2025, 3:00 pm EDT

*Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel, Center Street Room D
Cleveland, Ohio*



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Chair C. Bickford (NH) called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm 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

Other Work Group Members of the Work Group in Attendance:

1. Jenny McFadden (WI)
2. 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

Ex Officio Members and Allied Partners in Attendance:

1. Gilbert Soto, Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC), Ex Officio Member
2. Carla Fults, AAICPC
3. Christopher Kinsler, National Association for Attorneys General (NAAG), Ex Officio Member
4. Chris Newlin, National Children's Advocacy Center, Ex Officio Member

5. Judge Kathleen Quigley, National Council for Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) , Ex Officio Member
6. Amanda Whitlock, National Runaway Safeline, Ex Officio Member
7. Sheriff Travis Patten, National Sheriffs Association, Ex Officio Member
8. Nataki Brown, Victims Representative, Ex Officio Member
9. Dr. Samantha Sahl, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
10. Kimberly Parks-Bourn, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)
11. Martha Dolan (RI), ICPC

Other State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Kellianne Torre (IA), Designee
2. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
3. William Dolan (RI), Designee
4. Linda Niehles (TN), Legal Counsel
5. Cindy Wang (GA), Legal Counsel
6. Liz Wilson (KS), ICJ Specialist
7. Chanda Leshoure (AL), Designee

National Office Staff and Legal Counsel 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
5. Joe Johnson, Systems Project manager
6. Thomas Travis, Legal Counsel

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 June 13, 2025, as presented. The motion passed.

Orientation for New Partners

- Chair C. Bickford (NH) presented an introduction to the Interstate Commission for Juveniles and shared the purpose and charge of the Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Youths.
- Chair C. Bickford (NH) shared the key findings from the *Top Concerns for Returning Non-Delinquent Runaways Survey Report* (2024).
- Chair C. Bickford (NH) reported that the Work Group was initially convened in January 2025 and had focused primarily on exploring challenges related to sharing information

about the circumstances in which the youth was found. The group developed the following “ideal statement” to guide its remaining efforts.

- “We cultivate a system of care rooted in collaboration, trust, shared voice, and a shared purpose, where law enforcement, child welfare, and stakeholder ambassadors unite to champion safe return and wellbeing of non-delinquent runaway youth. Together, we nurture an inclusive environment where appropriate information flows openly, every voice is heard, and no young person falls through the cracks.”
- Chair C. Bickford (NH) also shared desired cultural norms developed by the Work Group.

National Resources and Requirements

- R. Curtis (ME) presented information regarding the functions of state compact offices.
- A. Whitlock shared information about the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) and pending federal legislation to renew funding for related services. NRS’s mission is to keep America’s runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth safe and off the streets.

{Meeting recessed at 3:52 pm and reconvened at 4:04 pm}

- Dr. S. Sahl and K. Parks-Bourn presented information about the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Their mission is to find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent future victimization. They also shared information regarding federal requirements for reporting children missing from care of social services agencies, child sex trafficking, and related NCMEC resources.

Group Discussion and Reflection

- Participants separated into groups for scenario-based discussions. Several key themes were noted, including the potential for increasing the use of children’s advocacy centers for interviewing non-delinquent runaways, particularly when abuse, neglect, and/or human trafficking is suspected.

Next Steps

- The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for October 9, 2025, at 2:00 PM EDT.

Adjourn

Chair C. Bickford (NH) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 5:20 pm EDT.