

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

2:00 p.m. EST

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair M. Casey (DE) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner, Chair
2. Brooke Montelongo (CO), Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
4. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner
5. Maureen Clifton (WY), Commissioner

Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. April Simmons (IN)
2. Bridget Webb (SC)

Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:

1. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
2. Becki Moore (MA), Commissioner

Guests:

1. Maribeth Clifton, University of Nebraska Medical Center
2. Richelle Clifton, University of Washington School of Medicine
3. Erin Perry, Intern at Vermont Department for Children and Families

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Development Manager
3. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

F. Dauway (SC) made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion passed.

B. Montelongo (CO) made a motion to approve the January 20, 2026, meeting minutes, as presented. The motion passed.

Reports

Update from ICJ Conversations in Film Subcommittee

- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) shared that the February ICJ Conversations in Film screening would be held on Friday, February 27, 2026, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. EST.
 - February's feature would be *Hyphen-Nation*, a resource from the New York Times that features stories of people who share their experience of race in America.
- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) shared that the March ICJ Conversations in Film screening would be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. EST.
 - March's feature would be *Nameless*, a documentary that addresses child sex trafficking in Washington, DC, and at-large.

Updates from Home Evaluation Resource Review Subcommittee

- F. Dauway (SC) shared that the subcommittee discussed reasons for the increase in home evaluation denials in 2025.
- The subcommittee members requested and received UNITY-derived data from the National Office to analyze the reasons behind this increase, including regional data, parole versus probation cases, age groups, and denial reasons.
- F. Dauway (SC) shared that the subcommittee also reviewed the [Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families](#).

Unfinished Business

Gather input for human trafficking best practice resource

- Chair M. Casey (DE) asked members for their input on creating a new human trafficking resource, specifically what would be captured in the resource. He recommended starting with how to identify human trafficking. Members agreed.
- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) recommended reviewing the [Key Concepts in Human Trafficking](#) resource and [Best Practice: Responding to Human Trafficking Victims in ICJ](#) to determine what human trafficking information needs to be addressed in a new resource.
- E. Perry (VT) recommended that the resource be a basic, quick-reference tool for field staff to view and understand easily.
- Members agreed to dedicate 30 minutes at their next meeting to review existing resources and identify gaps.

Discuss February *Wednesday Workshop* Preparation

- Chair M. Casey (DE) shared that on February 25, 2026, the RDEI Committee will present a *Wednesday Workshop* at 1:00 p.m. EST to discuss the ICJ and human trafficking. [Advance registration is required](#).
- A. Cabbagestalk (National Office) gave members a preview of the presentation.

New Business

***'Understanding the Impact of Racial Microaggressions in the Media on Black Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health'* Research Presentation by Maribeth Clifton and Richelle Clifton**

- Maribeth Clifton (NE) introduced herself as an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center within the Occupational Therapy Program.
- Richelle Clifton (WA) introduced herself as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and she is also an Investigator at the Seattle Children's Research Institute.
- M. Clifton and R. Clifton presented on *Understanding the Impact of Racial Microaggressions in the Media on Black Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health*.
- They discussed how social, structural, and media-related factors influence mental health outcomes for marginalized youth and presented strategies for cultural humility and implicit bias awareness.
- M. Clifton (NE) and R. Clifton (WA) requested that members complete a [evaluation](#) on their presentation.

Next Steps

- The next Racial, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Adjourn

Chair M. Casey (DE) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:20 p.m. EST.