

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025

2:00 p.m. EDT

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair M. Casey (DE) called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

Kirsten Wade, National Office, 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. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
4. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner

Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Rhonda Turner (FL)
2. April Simmons (IN)
3. Deanna McNulty (LA)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Eavey-Monique James (USVI), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
3. Joe Johnson, Systems Project Manager
4. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Guest in Attendance:

1. Felicia Dauway (SC), Commissioner

B. Montelongo (CO) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

C. Frieberg (SD) made a motion to approve the May 13, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Reports

Update on the meeting with the Office of Tribal Justice – *Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO)*

- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) reported that she and A. Cabbagestalk (National Office) met with Chris Cheney from the Office of Tribal Justice. They learned about the office’s functions and how it serves 574 federally recognized tribes across 35 states.

- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) also reported that she and A. Cabbagestalk (National Office) were connected with David Rogers, a tribal probation services expert, who explained the varied supervision systems for tribal youth. The discussion revealed potential opportunities for the Commission to collaborate with tribes on cooperative supervision for youth offenders. D. Rogers shared that he has access to a Tribal Leaders directory, which can help establish connections with specific tribes for future collaborations.

Update on Movie Club Subcommittee – *A. Simmons (IN)*

- A. Simmons (IN) reported that Training Committee members attended the Movie Club Subcommittee on March 30, 2025.
- A. Simmons (IN) announced that the next Movie Club Subcommittee meeting will be on July 11, focusing on juvenile justice and trauma in South Dakota.

Update on Land Acknowledgment Subcommittee- *Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO)*

- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) presented a land acknowledgment statement for the upcoming Annual Business Meeting (ABM), which was well-received by the committee.
- Training Committee members discussed the potential inclusion of information on the specific tribes that historically inhabited the Cleveland area, although Ohio currently has no federally recognized tribes.

Unfinished Business

Discuss UNITY Enhancement Request

- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) reported that the UNITY enhancement request to make the human trafficking field in UNITY mandatory would not be reviewed until late 2026, giving them time to refine their approach. She reported that the Human Trafficking Subcommittee was reviewing previous requests and meeting with the Technology Committee and East Region leaders to ensure the submission is appropriate and effective.

New Business

Discuss Reframing, Rebranding, and Reimagining the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

- Chair M. Casey (DE) stated that the discussion of reframing, rebranding, and reimagining the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee will be tabled indefinitely.
- Chair M. Casey (DE) emphasized the committee's accomplishments and the high level of engagement from its members, despite external pressures.
- C. Frieberg (SD) stated that he supported Chair Casey (DE) statements and highlighted the committee's evolution from an ad hoc committee to a standing committee with representation on the Executive Committee, which demonstrates its valuable contributions.
- T. Hunt (CT) shared her satisfaction with the committee's direction, focusing on the work rather than rebranding.

Next Steps

- Chair M. Casey (DE) and Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) discussed potential goals for fiscal year 2026, including tribal nations work, human trafficking, UNITY enhancement, and collaboration with the Training Committee on topics like implicit bias training.

Adjourn

Chair M. Casey (DE) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 2:45 p.m. EDT.