

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes

March 01, 2022
11:00 a.m. ET
Via Zoom



Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Commissioner, South Region Representative
2. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee, Alternate Region Representative
3. Patrick Pendergast (AL), Designee
4. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
5. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
6. Agnes Denson (FL), Commissioner
7. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
8. Anna Butler (KY), Designee
9. Juanita Anderson-Hilton (LA), Commissioner
10. Kimberly Dickerson (LA), Designee
11. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
12. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
13. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
14. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
15. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
16. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
17. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
18. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner
19. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Tyrone Oliver (GA), Commissioner
2. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
3. Rachel Holt (OK), Commissioner

Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Chanda Leshoure (AL)
2. Latosha Mallory (AL)
3. Tracy Howard (FL)
4. Terrance Clayton (FL)
5. Demarco Johnson (FL)
6. Kurnesha Ross (FL)
7. Ryan Smith (FL)
8. Tracy Cassell (GA)
9. Victor Roberts (GA)
10. Yolanda Latimer (LA)
11. Abbye Tyler (MD)
12. Latoya Oliver (MD)

13. Rachel Johnson (NC)
14. Mason Harrington (SC)
15. Bridget Webb (SC)
16. Quincy Hughes (TN)

Guest in Attendance:

1. None

National Office Staff in Attendance:

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

Call to Order

Representative Liedecke (TX) called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

P. Pendergast (AL) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A. Butler (KY) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. J. Hawkins (MO) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion**Committee Updates**Compliance Committee

- J. Hawkins (MO) updated that the Compliance Committee has reviewed the Performance Measurement Assessment (PMA) standards. Data for many standards is now available for states to review in real time via the UNITY Tableau Reports. Therefore, those standards have been removed from the list as it is not necessary to include them in an annual PMA. It is important to clarify that removal of the standards is not a removal from the ICJ Rules. The Compliance Committee's actions this year are focused on a proactive approach to compliance rather than a punitive approach.
- Director Underwood updated that two (2) 2021 ICJ State Council Reports are outstanding and all Fiscal Year 2022 Dues have been received.

Finance Committee

- S. Jones (MD), ICJ Treasurer, updated that the Finance Committee reviewed the FY 22 Budget and reported it to be on target and in good standing. The UNITY budget line item for enhancements will be adjusted in the FY 23 Budget. She added that modifications to a robust data system impacts a higher level of internal

workflow changes than the forms management system. Therefore, modifications to UNITY will be more expensive than modifications were to JIDS.

- The Finance Committee discussed three possible 2022 Annual Business Meeting formats and their estimated costs:
 1. In-person, live stream option with a modified agenda - \$150,000.
 2. In person, hybrid option with a modified agenda - \$185,000.
 3. Virtual option - \$55,000
- In addition, Commission Vice Chair Belli (OR) has been working with Vermont regarding COVID protocols and proposed recommendations, such as COVID self-tests. The Finance Committee also discussed possible modifications to the Travel Reimbursement Policy to address increased travel costs.

Rules Committee

- S. Horton (NC), Rules Committee Chair, updated that the Rules Committee met February 2. Modifications to the “ICJ Rules Proposal Guide” were discussed and tabled to the next meeting.
- A sub-committee met and presented recommendations regarding the term “relocate” throughout the rules. The discussion was tabled to the next meeting.
- The ICJ Rule Amendments training sessions were completed on February 9 and 23. The recording is now available on the ICJ.TalentLMS.

Technology Committee

- R. Johnson (NC) updated that the Technology Committee met February 8 and the next meeting is scheduled for March 8. The Technology Committee provided suggestions to the Data Visualization and Reporting Sub-Committee regarding reports and proactive monitoring in UNITY. A timeline is being developed to include both UNITY Reports and UNITY Enhancements updates.
- The Technology Committee approved a quote for the revisions to Form II: Requisition for Escapee or Absconder and Requisition for Accused Delinquent in the amount of \$13,580.
- In addition to the ICJ TalentLMS online courses, the UNITY helpdesk and monthly UNITY Workshops continue. A new resource will be available soon which will spotlight features in UNITY.

Training Committee

- D. Liedecke (TX) updated that the Training Committee has been discussing potential 2022 ABM training session topics.
- Training on the new Transportation Identification Form has been completed and the recording is now available on ICJ.TalentLMS.
- The Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Policy was reviewed for updates and the review will continue at the next meeting.
- The new ICJ in Action team continues to meet to develop the new series of On Demand Training courses.

Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice

- S. Jones (MD) updated that the Ad Hoc Committee met February 15. The three established goals were discussed, along with activities related to accomplishing the goals.

- Goal #1 Develop and provide training and/or “Best Practice Guide” to address racial inequities, implicit bias, and the impact ICJ staff can have.
 - Plans are underway for a training session during the 2022 ABM and best practice resource.
- Goal #2 Examine data regarding race and runaways, including those subjected to human trafficking (White vs. BIPOC youth), and make recommendations regarding how to address disparities.
 - Participate in a Data Walk with the Leadership Exchange Series group on March 29.
- Goal #3 Recommend racial equity tool(s) for Commission use to the Executive Committee (in rule making, committee processes, leadership, and other processes)
 - Review related resources and determine a resource to spotlight each month via the “ICJ Updates.”

Executive Committee

- Representative Liedecke (TX) updated that the Executive Committee will conduct its Spring Extended Meeting March 22-24 virtually. Topics to be discussed include the 2022 Annual Business Meeting; a review of the current ICJ Strategic Plan; and plans for the next strategic initiatives.
- The Executive Committee approved the revised Legal Advisory Opinion #03-2021 by Rick Masters, Legal Counsel. This revision was in part due to the concerns raised by the South Region which resulted in forming a South Region Work Group regarding communications.
- Director Underwood updated that all ICJ resources (including on demand courses) were reviewed for updates due to the new rule amendments effective March 1, 2022. The full list of all ICJ resources impacted is available on the website: [ICJ Resources Update Overview](#).

State Updates / Concerns

- States provided a round-robin update of their current work schedules. In addition, the following state-specific items were reported:

Florida

- A. Denson (FL) updated that Natasha Holmes transferred to another department; however, Natasha continues to assist until the vacancy is filled. An increase in pay was approved for some state positions as an incentive to offset statewide staffing shortages. Due to COVID, some court cases are being scheduled up to six months out.
- Florida is preparing for “spring break” by providing an ICJ Travel Permits training to 270 juvenile probation/parole officers. A few states have questioned the request for additional information on juveniles traveling to Florida. Due to Florida’s strict sex offender registration laws, additional information may be requested to determine whether or not the juvenile would need to register when traveling to Florida. Should the information not be received timely to make a determination, there will be an email request for the juvenile to report to the local law enforcement office upon their arrival. These procedures are directives from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, not the Compact office.

Georgia

- T. Cassell (GA) updated the Compact office now has two vacancies and is in the process of filling those positions.

Louisiana

- K. Dickerson (LA) updated the state continues to experience critical staff shortages in both secure care facilities and probation officer positions. To combat the shortages, secure care facilities' wages have increased \$4 per hour and the state is fast tracking to expedite the process.

Maryland

- S. Jones (MD) updated that Maryland is also experiencing staff shortages across the state and fast tracking to expedite processes. The Maryland ICJ office received a request from a local agency that provides services for trafficking victims to provide ICJ language. The language was provided and will be included in future Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with other agencies.
- Maryland completed an information session with locals regarding the ICJ processes which will also be included in the Department of Social Services' training.

Mississippi

- M. Baggett (MS) updated there are vacancies in the state and supervisors are assisting with coverage for the Compact's work.

Missouri

- J. Hawkins (MO) echoed the shortage of state workers and updated that the Missouri Governor has approved a salary increase in positions as an incentive to work within Missouri state agencies.

North Carolina

- S. Horton (NC) echoed North Carolina too is experiencing statewide staff shortages.

Tennessee

- C. Copeland (TN) updated that her supervisor, Jacqueline Moore, retired after 40 years of state service.

Texas

- D. Liedecke (TX) updated on the progress of contracting with an organization to provide supervision at Dallas Fort Worth Airport. An intrastate refresher training on the ICJ Rules was completed and more face-to-face supervision interaction is anticipated as things being to re-open.

Virginia

- N. Dalton (VA) updated there has been an increase in returns and supervision cases.

Alabama

- P. Pendergast (AL) thanked members for their input in the last meeting regarding a home study and updated that the home study went well. The ICJ State Council meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting which went well.
- He acknowledged the collaboration with Tracy Cassell (GA) and Oklahoma on a recent return; whereby, Latosha Mallory (AL) traveled to the Atlanta Airport to conduct airport surveillance.
- The Alabama Compact office worked with the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) a few years ago to develop a runaway protocol which has proved beneficial; however, not all counties and agencies adhere to directions from the Compact office or the AOC and require additional communication and information. Lastly, Chanda Leshoure and Latosha Mallory's supervisor was promoted and will be moving away from ICJ involvement.

Arkansas

- J. Miller (AR) updated that runaways continue to increase. She commented about challenges shared she and Representative Liedecke have experienced with runaways crossing the Arkansas and Texas state lines in Texarkana.

Old Business

Region Work Group on Field Staff and Communications

- S. Horton (NC) reported on the work of the South Region Work Group regarding field communications. He shared a document drafted by the group entitled: "Communications Guidelines for Local authorities with Juvenile/Family Members." The document is an accumulation of input from several folks in the South Region.
- The South Region discussed and agreed with the intent of the document and agreed to forward to the Executive Committee for a determination on the next steps.
- **J. Hawkins (MO) made a motion to recommend the draft communications guidelines for local authorities with Juveniles/Family members document to the Executive Committee to make the determination of how to move forward. J. Miller (AR) seconded. The motion passed.**

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

P. Pendergast (AL) made a motion to adjourn. S. Jones (MD) seconded. Representative Liedecke adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 12:08 p.m. ET.