

# INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

## South Region Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2021  
10:00 a.m. ET  
Via Zoom



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### **Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:**

1. Daryl Liedেকে (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. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
7. Anna Butler (KY), Designee
8. Juanita Anderson-Hilton (LA), Commissioner
9. Kimberly Dickerson (LA), Designee
10. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
11. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
12. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
13. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
14. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
15. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
16. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee

### **Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:**

1. Agnes Denson (FL), Commissioner
2. Tyrone Oliver (GA), Commissioner
3. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
4. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
5. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
6. Rachel Holt (OK), Commissioner
7. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

### **Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:**

1. Chanda Leshoure (AL)
2. Terrance Clayton (FL)
3. Tracy Howard (FL)
4. Demarco Johnson (FL)
5. Kurnesha Ross (FL)
6. Ryan Smith (FL)
7. Tracy Cassell (GA)
8. Yolanda Latimer (LA)
9. Kimberly Dickerson (LA)
10. Abbye Tyler (MD)
11. Latoya Oliver (MD)
12. Rachel Johnson (NC)
13. Mason Harrington (SC)
14. Bridget Webb (SC)
15. Jacqueline Moore (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. Jenny Adkins, Policy and Operations Specialist
5. Joe Johnson, Project Manager

**Call to Order**

Representative Liedecke (TX) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

**Roll Call**

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

**Agenda**

**S. Horton (NC) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. F. Dauway (SC) seconded. The motion carried.**

**Minutes**

**J. Regis (DC) made a motion to approve the October 5, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. R. Hendryx (OK) seconded. The motion carried.**

**Discussion****Executive Committee Update**

- Representative Liedecke (TX) provided an update from the November 18, 2021, Executive Committee meeting. The primary discussion revolved around the 2021 ABM Survey Results. Overall feedback was positive with comments that the sessions were informative and the virtual reception was fun. The Executive Committee is considering options to continue virtual interaction when the meeting returns to live for those who cannot attend.
- Director Underwood updated that a hybrid virtual option is cost prohibited; however, a live streaming option is being considered.
- Legal Advisory Opinion #04-2021: "Can a holding state judge refuse to take action on a requisition if there is no active missing person record for the juvenile in NCIC?" was approved and is available on the Commission's website.
- The Executive Committee is planning a 2-day Executive Committee Meeting in March in Lexington KY.

**State Updates/Concerns**

- Tracy Howard (FL) updated the Florida Compact Office has three new staff members who are in attendance today: Demarco Johnson, Kurnesha Ross, and Ryan Smith.
- Tracy Cassell (GA) updated that Geretta Benjamin will be leaving Georgia Compact office staff at the end of the year. However, they are gaining new staff that will take over extraditions and returns, which were formerly done by Tracy Cassell.

- Kimberly Dickerson (LA) updated that Louisiana continues to experience challenges with staff retention which may result in delays.
- M. Baggett (MS) chatted she is preparing for their next ICJ State Council Meeting.
- J. Hawkins (MO) updated Missouri is also experiencing supervision challenges due to state staff retention; however, the Governor approved salary increases and they are moving forward with hiring new staff.
- S. Horton (NC) updated that North Carolina has raised the minimum age of majority to 10 years of age. Rachel Johnson (NC) will present training regarding UNITY Tableau Reporting in early January to their Court Services Management Team.
- R. Hendryx (OK) chatted their ICJ State Council will meet December 16.
- C. Copeland (TN) echoed that Tennessee too has experienced staff shortages and she looks forward to an increase in state staff in the new year.
- D. Liedecke (TX) updated parole officers are working in person; however, covering a wider area. The Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) Airport surveillance continues to be stalled and he continues to seek a solution. One consideration being discussed is contracting probation officers (JPOs) during the week days.
- L. Fielder (WV) updated their ICJ State Council will meet tomorrow.
- P. Pendergast (AL) updated that due to the lack of airport surveillance at the DFW Airport, Alabama returned a juvenile via ground transportation to Louisiana. While the cost savings for Alabama was minimal, the change provided a transportation savings to the other states involved. The next ICJ State Council Meeting is being scheduled for January.
- P. Pendergast (AL) shared a current situation whereby an Alabama Probation Office is refusing to conduct a home evaluation and requested input. Director Underwood suggested sharing information in the Bench Book and a related Legal White Paper with the Court. J. Hawkins (MO) shared that Missouri Statute also includes language that all vested parties in the state have an obligation to cooperate with the Interstate Compact. Director Underwood volunteered to follow-up after the meeting.
- J. Miller (AR) updated state staff are working full time in the office and Compact work appears to be returning to normal.

## Old Business

### *Communication with Juveniles and Families*

- Representative Liedecke (TX) opened the floor for discussion of the approved ICJ Advisory Opinion #03-2021 (*Does the prohibition against communication between ICJ member states as provided in ICJ Rule 2-104 forbid all communication between a supervised juvenile and prior case workers in the sending state once supervision is accepted?*), which was issued to answer the South Region's question.
- J. Hawkins (MO) commented that she believes the ICJ Rules are clear on the matter of communications between locals adding that Advisory Opinions are written for Compact office staff, rather than locals. She suggested developing a Best Practice/Tool with field staff in mind that provides a consistent national message regarding their role and expectations when performing Compact duties. For example, when a local is required to complete a home evaluation, there would be an ICJ Best Practice/Tool that explains what is expected. The new Best Practice/Tool could include information about such issues as:

- supervision;
- communications;
- juvenile relationships;
- compliance responsibilities;
- clarification of a transfer of supervision is not a transfer of jurisdiction; and
- explain the role to be supportive to another state not undermining.
- J. Hawkins (MO) suggested that the South Region draft and recommend a Best Practice/Tool and to the Training Committee.
- N. Dalton (VA) agreed with the recommendation and suggested taking it a step further by requesting that the Advisory Opinion #03-2021 be withdrawn and replaced with the new Best Practice/Tool. Director Underwood commented that historically Legal Advisory Opinions are not withdrawn upon request, but modified when laws or rules change or archived when they are no longer relevant.
- Representative Liedecke (TX) opened the floor for volunteers to work in a small group to draft the Best Practice/Tool suggested and present to the South Region for consideration. Jacqueline Moore (TN) and Julie Hawkins (MO) volunteered. Representative Liedecke (TX) encouraged others to share their view and to contact him if they were interested in participating in the work group.
- Director Underwood updated that the West Region also discussed juvenile communications. California shared how there are times when a state social service worker would need to contact the juvenile direct on other matters not related to supervision. All Advisory Opinions (which includes #03-2021) are under review for modifications due to the rule amendments going into effective March 1, 2022. R. Masters, Legal Counsel, is also reviewing the advisory opinion to better clarify the opinion to avoid misinterpretations.

## **New Business**

### *Rule Amendment Training*

- Representative Liedecke (TX) updated that two live Rule Amendment Trainings will be offered in February. Individuals must register in advance to attend.
- S. Horton (NC), Rules Committee Chair, updated that the dates are February 9 and 23 @ 2:00 p.m. ET. The live sessions will be recorded and uploaded to ICJ.TalentLMS (the Commission's online learning management system). Presenters are the current Rules Committee Chair Stephen Horton and the Rules Committee Past Chair, Tracy Hudrlik (MN).

### *Committee Reports*

- Representative Liedecke (TX) updated that going forward in meetings, South Region members serving on a particular committee are requested to provide relative updates to the South Region on the work of their respective committees.

### *UNITY Update*

- Director Underwood provided an update on UNITY.
  - Zendesk Help Center. The Help Center is where individuals submit help requests. It also serves as the best resource center for all things UNITY. It has been viewed more than 1,300 times since June 2021.
  - Enhancements. The Enhancements Subcommittee has completed their initial review of all the enhancement requests. Quotes have been

requested from the vendor. The Subcommittee plans to present recommendations to the Technology Committee in January or February.

- Reporting. The Reporting and Data Visualization Work Team has designed reports now available in Tableau. Director Underwood shared two images to demonstrate reports and the ease of accessing data. States now have unprecedented access to data, which allows them to quickly identify cases that need immediate attention.

## **Adjourn**

**J. Hawkins (MO) made a motion to adjourn. A. Welch (KY) seconded. Representative Liedecke adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 11:08 a.m. ET.**