

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes



February 4, 2021
2:00 p.m. ET
Via WebEx

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Commissioner, South Region Representative
2. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner, 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. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner
9. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
10. Traci Marchand (NC), Commissioner
11. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
12. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
13. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
14. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
15. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

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

Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Natasha Holmes (FL)
2. Tisa Hardaway (GA)
3. Victor Roberts (GA)
4. Yolanda Latimer (LA)
5. Juanita Anderson-Hilton (LA)
6. Abbye Tyler (MD)
7. Latoya Oliver (MD)
8. Stephen Horton (NC)
9. Rachel Johnson (NC)
10. Mason Harrington (SC)
11. Jacqueline Moore (TN)
12. Quincy Hughes (TN)
13. Lynn Fielder (WV)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
3. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist

Call to Order

Representative Liedecke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.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.

R. Hendryx (OK) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. J. Regis (DC) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Executive Committee Updates

- Representative Liedecke welcomed Sherry Jones (MD) in her new role as the Alternate South Region Representative.
- Representative Liedecke briefed that major topics of discussion by the Executive Committee have been: adjustment of the UNITY timeline; ending the suspension of enforcement in accordance with ICJ Rule 2-108; and the viability of a face-to-face 2021 Annual Business Meeting in Billings, Montana.
- Director Underwood added that the hotel contract contains a solid “force majeure” clause which will reduce the likelihood of financial loss; however, a decision should be made soon so that planning can proceed appropriately.
- Representative Liedecke updated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice and Leadership Exchange Series participants held a joint “data walk” meeting in January.

Possible Proposed Rule Amendments

- Representative Liedecke reminded the South Region that that last day to submit a proposal to the Rules Committee is March 31, 2021. He invited members to share thoughts regarding potential proposals, but none were shared. Representative Liedecke noted that the South Region does not have a meeting scheduled before the deadline and advised that any member interested in submitting a proposal should do so as soon as possible, as an additional meeting would need to be scheduled.

UNITY Updates

- Representative Liedecke updated that the UNITY timeline was adjusted to allow states additional time to prepare for the transition and complete trainings.
- Director Underwood updated that Jenny Adkins and Amanee Cabbagestalk are now producing the UNITY training courses posted on ICJ.TalentLMS. The adjusted timeline allows courses to be released in a manner that provides more time for users to process the information before moving to the next course.
- A UNITY User Manual and access to the training site will be made available prior to go-live. Additional resources are being developed based on suggestions from UNITY Coordinators.

State Updates/Concerns

- D. Liedecke (TX) updated that the Texas Compact office moved this week. However, staff continue working from home, with phones forwarded to their cell phones. Some counties are conducting in-person visits, most are not. The Texas legislature is considering an increase of the criminal age of responsibility to 18. At this point, Texas would not be allowed to travel to the annual business meeting (ABM).
- N. Dalton (VA) updated that the Virginia Compact office continues to work from home with office phones transferred to their cell phones. Unless something changes, Virginia would not be allowed to attend a face-to-face annual meeting.
- S. Bond (WV) updated that West Virginia continues to clean up their cases in JIDS in preparation for the transition. Currently, travel is not restricted in West Virginia, so travel in October to a face-to-face ABM would likely be permitted.
- P. Pendergast (AL) updated that Kaki Sanford recently retired unexpectedly. Faatemah Abdur-Rahman has been assigned as interim staff and is receiving JIDS training from Jessica Wald (ND). Daryl Liedecke (TX) is working with her as a mentor. Several state staff have contracted COVID since the holidays. He anticipates Alabama staff could travel to attend the ABM.
- J. Miller (AR) updated that she has traveled by airplane recently without issue. She will check the state's position regarding staff traveling out of state.
- J. Regis (DC) reported there were no new updates. He is unsure about travel restrictions.
- A. Denson (FL) updated that the Florida Compact Office currently has two staff vacancies. Staff members continue to telework with alternating days in the office. Currently, out-of-state travel is restricted.
- A. Welch (KY) shared via chat that Kentucky staff will continue to work from home indefinitely. She does not anticipate being approved to travel in October.
- A. Bridgewater (LA) updated that Louisiana continues to have issues with shortage of staff due to COVID. ICJ staff continue to work hybrid schedules. Juanita Anderson-Hilton (LA), who was in attendance, has been hired as Project Manager for the ICJ Office. Her appointment as the Louisiana ICJ Commissioner is pending. A. Bridgewater (LA) also requested that Kimberly Dickerson be appointed LA Designee. Louisiana does not have any travel restrictions.
- K. Dickerson (LA) reported the JIDS clean-up is in process. She expressed concern about being out of compliance due to the transition to UNITY, especially if the suspension of enforcement ends around the same time as the transition.
- S. Jones (MD) updated that Maryland staff continue to work remotely without a timeframe for returning to the office. COVID vaccine dissemination has begun for staff in residential facilities, as well as, residents over the age of 18.
- M. Baggett (MS) updated that staff continue to work from home. She will check the state's position regarding staff traveling out of state.
- T. Marchand (NC) reported that given the compliance data presented, North Carolina supports the proposal to end the suspension of enforcement. She is uncertain about approval for out-of-state travel for the ABM.
- S. Horton (NC) reported the SC Compact Office continues to work a blended schedule. Courts continue to operate virtually. Rachel Johnson is ahead of schedule on the JIDS clean-up in preparation for UNITY.
- R. Hendryx (OK) reported Oklahoma is okay with the proposal to end the suspension of rule enforcement. However, he expressed concern that the learning

curve for UNITY would cause states to be out of compliance. Once vaccinated, he has no objection to traveling in October.

- F. Dauway (SC) reported South Carolina staff members continue to work from home and go into the office as needed. The JIDS cleanup of cases is in process. Local probation and parole officers continue to conduct home visits without entering the home. Regarding travel, the decision is left to the traveler's discretion.
- C. Copeland (TN) updated they continue to work from home with alternating schedules. Each staff member goes into the office one day a week. Home visits are held outside of the home. Staff conduct visits in full personal protective equipment (PPE). Currently, Tennessee is under travel restrictions.
- N. Dalton (VA), Compliance Committee Chair, advised members that the Compliance Committee is not conducting a performance measurement assessment (PMA) this year, due primarily to the transition to UNITY. This year, the Compliance Committee is planning to revise PMA standards due to UNITY.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Proposal to End Suspension of Enforcement of ICJ Rules

- Representative Liedecke presented the proposal to end the suspension of enforcement which will go before the Executive Committee in February. There were no additional comments to the information shared during the state updates.
- N. Dalton (VA) noted that members may reach out to her if they have additional concerns regarding the PMA.

Adjourn

P. Pendergast (AL) made a motion to adjourn. S. Jones (MD) seconded. Representative Liedecke adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 2:58 p.m. ET.