

# INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

## South Region Meeting Minutes



July 22, 2021  
10:00 a.m. ET  
Via WebEx

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### **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. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
11. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
12. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
13. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
14. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
15. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee

### **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
5. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

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

1. Latosha Mallory (AL)
2. Demetrius Pigford (FL)
3. Terrance Clayton (FL)
4. Tracy Howard (FL)
5. Tracy Cassell (GA)
6. Kimberly Dickerson (LA)
7. Abbye Tyler (MD)
8. Latoya Oliver (MD)
9. Mason Harrington (SC)
10. Tiffany Howard (SC)
11. Bridget Webb (SC)
12. Quincy Hughes (TN)

### **Guest in Attendance:**

1. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ)

### **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 called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

### **Roll Call**

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

### **Agenda**

- C. Copeland (TN) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.  
A. Welch (KY) seconded. The motion carried.**

### **Minutes**

**J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the May 6, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. J. Regis (DC) seconded. The motion carried.**

### **Discussion**

#### ICJ Proposed Rule Amendments

- Representative Liedecke acknowledged that the proposed rules comment period has closed. The proposals will be presented for vote during at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). He opened the floor for discussion of proposals.
- There were no comments. Representative Liedecke encouraged members to review all the proposals prior to the 2021 ABM

#### ICJ Election Process

- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice, presented the new ICJ Election Process document recently approved by the Executive Committee. The document was recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed that the current ICJ election process was confusing each year during the region meeting and a written, formal process would provide guidance. The formal process also provides the opportunity for anyone interested in an ICJ leadership position to make their intentions and qualifications known ahead of the time to vote. This ensures voting members have advance knowledge of the candidates and their qualifications. The formalized process would mitigate the awkwardness of campaigning on-site the week of the ABM. The process governs:
  - Commission officer elections;
  - region representative elections; and
  - interest in a committee chairperson position.
- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) summarized the process outlined in the document:
  - A commissioner or full-time designee may nominate themselves or another commissioner or full-time designee.
  - Nominees will submit a statement of interest and qualifications.

- The submissions are gathered by the ICJ National Office and shared with all members.
- Regions are no longer required to nominate candidates during their region meeting at the ABM. However, nominations can still be made from the floor during the General Session.
- The nomination process is the same for both officers and regional representatives, with the exception that regions elect their regional representatives.
- The process also provides an opportunity for Commission members to indicate their interest in serving as a committee chair for the upcoming year. The list of interested persons would be provided to the newly-elected Commission Chair, who is responsible for appointing all committee chairs.
- J. Miller (AR) asked what happens if there are no submissions prior to the ABM. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) replied that candidates may be nominated from the floor. All nominees will be afforded five minutes to address the Commission prior to the vote.
- Representative Liedecke added that information will be forthcoming from the National Office in August on the process and how to submit nominations.

#### Proposed revisions to the ICJ Mission, Vision, and Values Statements

- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice recommended revisions to the ICJ Mission, Vision, and Values Statements. At the Executive Committee's July 15 meeting, the Executive Committee determined that the full Commission should vote on the proposed amendments, since the full Commission adopted the current statements. Additionally, the Executive Committee requested that a member of the Ad Hoc Committee present their recommendations to each region.
- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) presented the recommendations, as follows:

#### **Mission**

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles, the governing body of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, through means of joint and cooperative action among the compacting states, preserves child welfare and promotes public safety interests of citizens, including victims of juvenile offenders. **With a focus on racial justice**, by **the Commission** provides ~~ing~~ enhanced accountability, enforcement, visibility, and communication in the return of juveniles who have left their state of residence without permission and in the cooperative supervision of delinquent juveniles who travel or relocate across state lines.

#### **Vision**

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles will promote public safety, victims' rights, and juvenile accountability that is balanced with safeguarding those juveniles **in a fair and equitable way**.

#### **Values**

The Interstate Commission for Juveniles values:

1. We **honor the Compact's spirit** of communication, collaboration and mutual respect among all parties in the Compact.

2. We **hold ourselves accountable** to our compact agreements.
  3. We expect and support **continuous knowledge and skill development**.
  4. We **seek sustainability of ICJ** via leadership development and national visibility.
  5. We **value racial diversity** and seek **equitable outcomes and experience for all juveniles served by the Compact and all parties in the Compact**.
  6. We ensure that **everything we do supports the outcomes** stated in our mission.
- He explained that the Ad Hoc Committee members believe the updated revisions align with the work of the Commission and its initiatives.
  - S. Horton (NC) commented that he appreciates the work by the Ad Hoc Committee and asked whether focusing on one specific group contradicts the goal to be inclusive. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) replied that it was not a focus on a particular group, but an understanding that all juveniles are treated fairly and equitably. He stated that is important to specifically acknowledge that racial justice issues exist, and to provide opportunities for conversations to ensure equity for all.
  - Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) thanked the South Region for the opportunity and indicated that he looks forward to seeing everyone at the ICJ 2021 ABM.

#### 2021 ICJ Annual Business Meeting

- Director Underwood updated that all Commissioners/Designees/DCAs and Compact staff received a “save the date” email.
- This year, all ICJ Compact staff and ICJ Ex Officios will receive an email from M&IW (meeting consultants) during the first week of August, with a unique link to register for the meeting. Additionally, a guest link will be available to share with anyone outside the ICJ, such as State Council members. She also reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
- Two “Technology Open House” practice sessions will be hosted by M&IW for anyone interested in becoming familiar with the platforms, flow of the meeting, and to check their equipment before attending the session live.

#### State Updates/Concerns

- States provided a round-robin of updates in the areas of: mask mandates, spikes in COVID cases, UNITY progress, and telecommuting. In addition, the following state-specific items were reported:
  - West Virginia shared that the UNITY Model 2 session presented by Maryland was very helpful.
  - Alabama announced new Alabama DCA, Latosha Mallory.
  - Arkansas commented that cases involving runaways have increased.
  - District of Columbia shared they have a new agency director.
  - Florida reported they have two Compact staff vacancies.
  - Georgia also acknowledged that the UNITY Model 2 session was helpful. An additional staff member has joined the Georgia Compact staff and contact information will be shared soon.
  - Louisiana advised they are experiencing a significant level of field staff turnover. Angela Bridgewater continues to serve as ICJ Commissioner, as they continue to await the Governor’s official appointment of Juanita Anderson-Hilton as the ICJ Commissioner.

- Maryland shared information regarding a human trafficking case with a positive outcome. A juvenile was safely returned to her mother as a result of expeditious collaborations between New York and Maryland.
- North Carolina reported that transfers were down and runaway cases were up. He acknowledged Rachel Johnson for North Carolina's success with UNITY and thanked Daryl Liedecke, who is currently his ICJ Mentor.
- South Carolina welcomed and introduced new staff person, Bridget Webb.

### **Old Business**

- Director Underwood noted that the ICJ FY 22 dues are due for most states by July 31 and suggested contacting the ICJ National Office with any questions.
- Director Underwood advised that the 2021 ICJ Leadership Award nomination period is open. She encouraged members to nominate a Commissioner, Designee, Compact Administrator, Deputy Compact Administrator, or Compact Coordinator, who has exhibited outstanding leadership skills and dedication to the Interstate Commission for Juveniles throughout the year.

### **New Business**

- A. Welch (KY) requested input from the region members on how their states interpret Rule 2-104: Communication Requirements Between States. She shared an issue with a sending state outside of the South Region that continues to communicate with the juvenile directly after the receiving state has accepted supervision. Kentucky ceases all direct communications with a juvenile and the family once the supervision case is transferred. The sending state did not stop their direct communications with the juvenile in Kentucky and stated they interpret the rule not to apply to families, only state agencies.
- Representative Liedecke (TX) advised that Texas does not encourage supervision from afar. S. Jones (MD) updated that Maryland refrains from direct communication, as it causes conflict and confusion.
- C. Copeland (TN) agrees the such communications cause confusion and undermines the receiving state's direction.
- K. Dickerson (LA) reported that Louisiana does not oppose "communications" from the sending state. Oftentimes the local from the sending state can work with the youth for cooperation to abide by their terms of supervision. Louisiana said that there is a distinction between occasional communication and ongoing supervision. LA interprets the rule to apply only to communication between receiving state and sending state locals.
- J. Miller (AR) agreed the difference is supervising and communication. There are times when a sending state supervisor is asked to communicate with the juvenile.
- R. Hendryx (OK) updated that Oklahoma workers call their juveniles living out of state for a wellness check once a month.
- Director Underwood noted that Rule 4-102 (2) is also relevant in terms of how long the sending states' responsibility continues.
- F. Dauway (SC) agrees when the sending state continues to reach out to the youth and their families it complicates matters, and suggested that the rules could be clarified.
- Representative Liedecke (TX) requested input for the best course of action: rule proposal, white paper, etc. S. Jones (MD) suggested that an advisory opinion would provide guidance and allow more time to think about what should change.

- **S. Jones (MD) made a motion to request a legal advisory opinion for clarification of Rule 2-104. F. Dauway (SC) seconded. The motion passed.**

#### **Adjourn**

- Representative Liedecke announced the next meeting of the year is October 5 during the Annual Business Meeting.
- **A. Welch (KY) made a motion to adjourn. L. Fielder (WV) seconded. Representative Liedecke adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 11:30 a.m. ET.**