INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2026
3:00 pm EDT
Holiday Inn By The Bay
Cumberland/Kennebec
Portland, Maine

Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative F. Dauway (SC) called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm EDT.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee, Regional Representative
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner, Alternate Regional Representative
3. Chanda Leshoure (AL), Designee
4. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
5. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
6. Robb Gilstrap (GA), Commissioner
7. Melina Hampton (KY), Designee
8. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner
9. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
10. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
11. Sonya Dixon (MS), Designee
12. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
13. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
14. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
15. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Designee
16. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee

Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Rhonda Turner (FL)
2. Tracy Cassell (GA)
3. Deanna McNulty (LA)
4. Yolanda Latimer-Hampton (LA)
5. Tenia Williams (LA)
6. Marketa Motton (MS)
7. Janet Self (MS)
8. Alan Garrett (NC)
9. Bridget Webb (SC)
10. Mason Herrington (SC)

Guests in Attendance:

1. Linda Nieles, Tennessee ICJ Legal Counsel
2. Amanda Heath, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

Voting Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Steven Lafreniere (AL), Commissioner
2. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
3. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
4. Robert Hendryx (OK), Commissioner
5. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

S. Horton (NC) made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion passed.

Minutes

J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on June 16, 2026, as presented. The motion passed.

Check-In

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) and Alternate Representative J. Hall (FL) led the group through discussion of a scenario involving whether the "sex related offense" indicator should be used in UNITY if the youth was not adjudicated for a sex offense, but sex-related information was included in preliminary documentation. Opinions varied greatly and some member advised that their state policies are very broad. State ICJ offices should consult with their agency's legal counsel for guidance.

Unfinished Business

Review Airline Youth Survey Results and Discuss Next Steps

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) asked members for feedback on the Airline Youth Returns Survey results. There was no discussion about the results.
- She indicated that the Airline Refusal of Youth Boarding Subcommittee would meet to discuss the results and report next steps at the South Region's next meeting.

Continue Discussing ICJ Administrative Policy 01-2011, State Council Enforcement

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) reminded members that the topic was discussed at the last South Region meeting due to concerns about the potential consequences of state councils not meeting.
- Representative F. Dauway stated that the topic would be discussed in a future Executive Committee meeting but wanted to bring it to the South Region for attention.
- Members agreed that there are benefits to having state council meetings and that states should be responsible for convening state council meetings. Some members expressed concerns that they encountered difficulties with obtaining the required appointments.

- Director Underwood stated that state councils can be very productive even though some positions are open. She reminded members of the presentation by Maine's State Council earlier in the day, which included discussion of both challenges with appointments and positive results.

New Business

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) Reauthorization

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) presented information regarding the pending JJDPA Reauthorization Act.
- She shared that the Executive Committee discussed the JJDPA reauthorization bill and voted for the Executive Director and Legal Counsel to send a letter on behalf of the Commission requesting continuation of the current ICJ exemption, which does not impose a maximum detention period for youth.
- J. Hawkins (MO) stated that she will bring the topic to the Rules Committee subcommittee that has convened to discuss returning non-delinquent youths.

Discuss Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) presented updates on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget and cost-containment strategies.
- Representative F. Dauway (SC) reported that the Executive Committee changed the effective date of the cost-of-living adjustment for the National Office staff, which increased the budget for FY28 by less than 1%.

Introduce Revised UNITY Privacy Policy

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) shared that a virtual information session was scheduled to discuss proposed revisions to the UNITY Privacy Policy on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. EDT. More information would be sent out by the National Office.

Review election process and candidate list

- Representative Felicia Dauway (SC) reviewed the election process and candidates list. She opened the floor for discussion. No discussion followed.

Election of Regional Representatives

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) reported that Commissioner Corrie Copeland (TN) was nominated in advance for the position of South Regional Representative.
- She opened the floor for other nominations. No other candidates were nominated.
- N. Dalton (VA) motioned to close the nominations from the floor.
- Representative F. Dauway (SC) announced that Corrie Copeland was elected as the South Regional Representative by acclamation.

Create a South Region scavenger hunt team

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) asked members willing to participate in the South Region scavenger hunt team to meet in the hotel lobby at 5:40 p.m.
- Representative F. Dauway (SC) welcomed the new members to the South Region.

Next Steps

- C. Copeland (TN) stated that the South Region would host the Commission's 20th annual business meeting in 2028.
- Members thanked Representative F. Dauway (SC) for the time she served as the South Regional Representative.
- M. Hampton (KY) requested future discussion of issues with youth not being entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), whether wanted or missing. She indicated that some states report they cannot enter warrants for juveniles and some law enforcement agencies have indicated that juvenile warrants cannot be entered into NCIC. Additionally, some states do not use the term "warrant." Instead, they use terms such as *Juvenile Order for Apprehension; Order to Take Juvenile into Custody; and Custody Order*.
- S. Jones (MD) requested discussion of creating a panel to work with commissioners who do not get along when working on a return.
- C. Copeland stated she will ask Sheriff C. Turner (National Sheriffs Association) to attend a South Region meeting to discuss ideas for law enforcement training.

Adjourn

Representative Dauway (SC) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 4:50 pm EDT.