

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes



December 08, 2020
2:00 p.m. ET
Via WebEx

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Commissioner, South Region Representative
2. Patrick Pendergast (AL), Designee
3. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
4. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
5. Agnes Denson (FL), Commissioner
6. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
7. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
8. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
9. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
10. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
11. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
12. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
13. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Tyrone Oliver (GA), Commissioner
2. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner
3. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
4. Traci Marchand (NC), Commissioner
5. Rachel Holt (OK), Commissioner
6. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Kaki Sanford (AL)
2. Chanda Leshoure (AL)
3. Demetris Pigford (FL)
4. Tracy Cassell (GA)
5. Victor Roberts (GA)
6. Anna Butler (KY)
7. Kimberly Dickerson (LA)
8. Latoya Oliver (MD)
9. Stephen Horton (NC)
10. Rachel Johnson (NC)
11. Mason Harrington (SC)
12. Tiffany Howard (SC)
13. Jacqueline Moore (TN)
14. Lynn Fielder (WV)
15. Quincy Hughes (TN)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director

2. Emma Goode, Logistics 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 quorum was established.

Agenda

F. Dauway (SC) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. J. Regis (DC) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. F. Dauway (SC) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Executive Committee Updates

- Representative Liedecke provided an update from ICJ Executive Committee meeting in November.
- The Executive Committee reviewed the Commission's feedback from the survey regarding the 2020 virtual ICJ Annual Business Meeting. The overall results were positive, sessions were informative, and the keynote address from Hasan Davis was most favored.
- Each year, the Executive Committee selects a Victims Representative. Two candidates are being considered and the final decision will be made in December.
- The transition to UNITY updates were provided and Representative Liedecke asked that states share in their state updates how things were going in their state regarding UNITY.

Possible Proposed Rule Amendments from South Region

- Representative Liedecke reminded the region that 2021 is a rule amendment year and opened the floor for discussion regarding proposed rule amendments.
- Representative Liedecke reminded the region that that last day to submit a proposal to the Rules Committee for consideration is March 31, 2021. Should anyone have a proposal they wish to discuss at the next region meeting, let him know to include on the agenda for the next meeting.

State Updates/Concerns

- All states reported they continue the work of the Compact and are experiencing an increase in COVID cases. Compact staff continue to work from home either with or without an alternating schedule in the office. In addition, members provided additional relevant updates regarding their states.
- P. Pendergast (AL) reported Alabama continues to work full time in the office.
- J. Miller (AR) reported that runaway cases have been about normal and there has been an increase in new referrals.
- A. Denson (FL) reported Brodean Shepard took a position with another agency and is no longer with the Florida Compact office.

- T. Cassell (GA) reported that during an ICJ airport surveillance, transport personnel were exposed to COVID. The state is now looking to add COVID screening procedures for surveillance.
- Director Underwood responded to the surveillance incident and offered ICJ National Office assistance if needed with regard to policies. Additionally, she reminded states to update their COVID State Specifics on the website.
- A. Welch (KY) updated that the Kentucky Department of Juveniles Justice continues to conduct home evaluations via Zoom or FaceTime. Six juvenile facilities were offline recently due to COVID.
- K. Dickerson (LA) updated that Angela Bridgewater accepted another position; however, she continues as the ICJ Commissioner during the transition to a new Commissioner. All visits/evaluations are being conducted virtually.
- S. Jones (MD) reported appointment of a Maryland senator to their ICJ State Council.
- J. Hawkins (MO) updated that some field staff have been pulled back to work in residential facilities due to illnesses and shortage in staff.
- S. Horton (NC) updated that returns and surveillance requests remain high. Court hearings and visits are being conducted virtually only.
- R. Hendryx (OK) reported Oklahoma has recommended that anyone age 65 or over stay home.
- C. Copeland (TN) reported a new Tennessee Deputy Commissioner will be appointed in January. The shortage for beds in detention facilities continues. J. Moore (TN) will head a new “boots on the ground” unit which will work with absconders and runaways in the state and their return. The program employees will be cross-trained with ICJ, and will be up and running in February.
- D. Liedecke (TX) reported most counties continue conducting visits virtually. Regarding airport surveillance, supervision is being conducted at DFW, noting that the Dallas Love Field is also an option for airport supervision with American and Southwest Airlines.
- N. Dalton (VA) reported concerns regarding juveniles testing negative at intake and later testing positive. Tests are not conducted daily and takes time to receive results. Therefore, this may increase the risk of transport personnel being exposed to COVID.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- Representative Liedecke updated he is looking to appoint an **alternate South Regional Representative**. Director Underwood provided an overview of the expectations for a regional alternate representative. Representative Liedecke requested that any South Region Commissioners or full time Designees interested in the position to contact him direct.
- Director Underwood updated that recently a communication was sent regarding **State Council Reports**. The pandemic has created unique challenges which may have impacted state councils; however, reports should be submitted, even if the state council was not fully formed or did not meet in 2020. This information allows the Commission to review areas for improvement and target assistance for states where needed.

- Director Underwood thanked UNITY Coordinators for reviewing their cases and updating the **UNITY spreadsheet** in preparation for the transition to UNITY. Depending upon the number of cases, states may need to review the spreadsheet again prior to go live and another review by all after go live. States have expressed a need for additional training in the model 3 states and a training is being conducted following today's South Region meeting.
- Director Underwood acknowledged the South Region's response to become involved on committees. All **committees** are established and the South Region is well represented on all.
- Director Underwood updated on personnel changes at the **ICJ National Office**. Leslie Anderson is no longer with the ICJ. Emma Goode has accepted the position of Logistics and Administrative Specialist, leaving the position of Training and Administrative Specialist vacant. The vacant position has been posted and will be filled soon.
- Director Underwood clarified that the **UNITY go live** date is the latter part of February. The specific date has not been announced.

Adjourn

P. Pendergast (AL) made a motion to adjourn and N. Dalton (VA) seconded. Representative Liedecke adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 2:45 p.m. ET.