

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Training, Education, and Public Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024

2:00 p.m. ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Training Committee Chair C. Copeland (TN) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner, Chair
2. Robert Heide (AK), Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Brooke Montelongo (CO), Commissioner
4. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner
5. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
6. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
7. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

1. Chanda Leshoure (AL)
2. Latosha Mallory (AL)
3. Holly Kassube (IL)
4. Nataly Sevilla (IN)
5. Latoya Oliver (MD)
6. William Dolan (RI)
7. Daryl Liedecke (TX)
8. Susan Frankel, Ex Officio, National Runaway Safeline (NRS)

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
2. Cecily Rexach (CT)
3. Tracy Cassell (GA)
4. Shirleen Cadiz (HI)

Guests in Attendance:

None

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
3. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
4. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Agenda

J. Hall (FL) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. F. Dauway (SC) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

J. Hall (FL) made a motion to approve the January 4, 2024 meeting minutes. F. Dauway (SC) seconded. N. Dalton (VA) abstained. The motion passed.

Check-ins

Training Committee Vice Chair R. Heide (AK) led a check-in activity whereby attendees shared an in-state training project they recently conducted or participated in.

Unfinished Business

2024 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Training Topics, Session Format, and Networking Breakfast

- Training Committee Vice Chair R. Heide (AK) shared a draft ABM training agenda based on survey results from the 2024 ABM and previous committee discussions. The proposed agenda included a youth speaker, a youth panel, workshop on hot-topics and session regarding issues related to returning non-delinquent runaways. Depending on the length of sessions, a fourth session could be offered.
- B. Montelongo (CO) suggested a speaker regarding human trafficking and suggested a resource in Colorado who could assist.
- R. Heide (AK) said that Alaska has pending legislation regarding screenings for sex and human trafficking and added that it may be interesting to survey other states to determine their processes.
- J. Wald (ND) noted a recent ABM included a human trafficking panel, which featured state ICJ personnel and a presentation by the U.S. Marshal Service. She suggested the topic could be expanded to address how states can work together to ensure that proper investigations and screenings are occurring in holding states.
- S. Frankel (NRS) offered to make connections with the National Network for Youth, which has a human trafficking certification program, as well as National Human Trafficking Hotline, and the Polaris Project.
- R. Heide (AK) agreed that the connections to national resources and hotlines would be helpful. He asked about UNITY designations related to human trafficking.
- J. Wald (ND) indicated that UNITY return cases contain a specific field to indicate a youth's human trafficking status, but the field is not currently required.
- R. Heide (AK) suggested the Commission consider adopting a screening process and require related data to be entered in UNITY.
- Regarding the session format, he suggested presenting three longer training sessions, instead of four shorter sessions.
- Training Committee Chair C. Copeland (TN) supports the idea of presenting 3 longer sessions. She would also like to see a youth panel talk about their lived experience as victims of human trafficking.
- R. Heide (AK) said that a youth panel would make a positive and lasting impact on the Commission.

- S. Frankel (NRS) said that if youth are included, the discussion should focus on how systems can be changed, and noted focusing on their personal experiences can retraumatize victims.
- Chair C. Copeland (TN) asked if the committee wished to pursue human trafficking as a topic.
- A. Cabbagestalk (N.O.) noted the group appeared to be suggesting both a youth speaker and a youth panel. She asked whether the keynote speaker to be a professional or a youth.
- F. Dauway (SC) said that she prefers a professional keynote speaker. Youth speakers don't always have the same level of experience engaging a crowd for a significant length of time. While they are powerful, they are typically best for shorter presentations.
- A. Cabbagestalk (N.O.) shared information about Mike O'Key, a potential speaker who is a 25-year-old Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University. He has lived experience and studies educational experiences of incarcerated youth as they re-enter schools and communities.
- M. Underwood (N.O.) reported she saw Mr. O'Key speak at a Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) conference. She said he has a good speaking presence, as well as direct experience with the ICJ. She suggested collaborating with NRS to learn how to work with youth with lived expertise and experience.
- S. Frankel (NRS) said that NRS can share best practices for including youth in public speaking events, such as mentoring and coaching.
- R. Heide (AK) suggested that the group decide today about the number of sessions and the topics for ABM trainings.
- H. Kassube (IL) supported offering three sessions and added that it is difficult to provide comprehensive training regarding human trafficking because of significant variances in state responses. She endorsed the table-based scenario discussion format for a session on returns.
- The discussion was concluded.

New Business

Discuss Wednesday Workshop Calendar and Topics

- Chair C. Copeland (TN) reviewed the list of topics for the *Wednesday Workshop* series and asked the group for ideas for the session scheduled for Wednesday, February 28. She asked if there is any organization that ICJ offices would like to hear from that would benefit their work.
- F. Dauway (SC) suggested a crime victims' organization or representative.
- M. Underwood (N.O.) suggested using a gameshow format for an interactive learning session, which had been mentioned during the check-in activity.
- Chair C. Copeland (TN) explained that the Tennessee ICJ/ICPC offices hosted an in-person "Jeopardy" style format to engage learners.
- R. Heide (AK) suggested utilizing Zoom break-outs.
- C. Leshoure (AL) said that she would be willing to work on a virtual format.
- A. Cabbagestalk (N.O.) suggested switching the May Absconders topic to February so that the committee would have time to develop options for an interactive, game-based session.
- Chair C. Copeland (TN) agreed and said that requisitions could be a topic.

- J. Wald (ND) and H. Kassube (IL) previously volunteered and will lead the Wednesday Workshop training session on Absconders on February 28, 2024.

What are your state's procedures when dealing with immigrant runaways? Do you have a connection with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)?

- Chair C. Copeland (TN) asked committee members to share experiences with immigrant runaways and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). She explained ORR has recently been involved with Tennessee ICJ cases and thanked Daryl Liedecke (TX) for assisting with securing a connection at ORR.
- N. Dalton (VA) said that Virginia has seen an uptick in ORR-related cases, including teens who are pregnant and cases where abuse was alleged. She reported that little-to-no assistance has been offered by the ORR, causing substantial problems. In one case in particular, ICJ guidelines were not followed as they should have been.
- B. Montelongo (CO) indicated Colorado has not seen any immigrant runaways since she has been working in the Colorado ICJO.
- D. Liedecke (TX) said that he hasn't had as many cases as he expected, being located close to the border. He suspects the ICJO is not being contacted when counties run into these cases. When a youth agrees to return voluntarily and signs a Form III, Texas returns them to their parents. When the youth already have documentation, the county-based process is to call immigration or parole them out. He explained that if the youth is under 18, they go to ORR; if the youth is over 18, they go to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- J. Hall (FL) said that Florida sees many undocumented youths, but if they sign the Form III, they return the youth to the home/demanding state.
- Chair C. Copeland (TN) said that some courts want proof that the person in the home/demanding state is the legal guardian. If they cannot obtain such proof, the court may bring the youth into the custody of the holding state's social services agency.

Update from Director Underwood on NCJFCJ presentation

- Executive Director M. Underwood (N.O.) reported she is preparing a presentation for National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in March. Judge Robert Hofmann, who will be sworn in as the NCJFCJ president, will co-present with Julie Hawkins (MO) and MaryLee Underwood. Sasaun Lane (OH) will be on-site to co-host an ICJ booth. She encouraged members to consider attending, especially those in nearby states.
- She noted the *ICJ Bench Book* will be highlighted at this event. She reported recently receiving feedback that some ICJ personal are intimidated by the use of legal jargon in the *ICJ Bench Book*. She reminded members that the target audience for the *ICJ Bench Book* is judges and attorneys, who were trained in law school to read similar resources. ICJ offices are encouraged to share the *ICJ Bench Book* as a resource, but should not take on the responsibility of interpreting the law for the courts. She advised that judges are responsible for interpreting laws and determining how they apply in particular cases. Each state should have procedures in place to ensure the ICJ office can access the agency's legal advisor when necessary.

Next Steps

- For new business suggestions in future meetings, please contact Chair Copeland, Vice Chair Heide, or Amanee Cabbagestalk.

- The next Training Committee meeting is Thursday, March 7 at 2:00 pm ET.

Adjourn

Training Committee Chair Copeland (TN) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:19 p.m. ET.