

## INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

*Training, Education, and Public Relations Committee Meeting Minutes*

April 2, 2026

2:00 p.m. EDT

Via Zoom



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### Preliminary Business

#### Call to Order

Chair R. Gallardo (UT) called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. EDT.

#### Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll, and a quorum was established.

#### Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Raymundo Gallardo (UT), Designee, Chair
2. Chanda Leshoure (AL), Designee
3. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
4. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
5. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee

#### Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Erin Breitigan (DE)
2. Tracy Cassell (GA)
3. Melina Hampton (KY)
4. Deanna McNulty (LA)

#### Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Chris Biehn (IN), Commissioner
2. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner

#### National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Director of Operations, Rules, and Compliance
3. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Development Manager
4. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

J. Regis (DC) made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Chair R. Gallardo (UT) approved the minutes of the meeting on February 19, 2026, as presented, by unanimous consent.

### Check-Ins

- Chair R. Gallardo (UT) asked members to share potential questions for the Maine State Council panel at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Suggestions included:
  - Who are the valuable people/roles that should be present in a state council?
  - How does their contribution to the State Council assist their state's ICJ Office?
  - What programming or initiatives, regarding the prevention and/or intervention of youth court involvement, has come about in Maine as result of the Manie State Council.
  - If you had a magic wand, what would you change about the Compact or ICJ Rules?

### Unfinished Business

- No unfinished business was discussed.

### New Business

#### **Chair Report: NCJFCJ Conference Training Session Update**

- Chair R. Gallardo (UT) shared that Director Underwood, Judge Kathleen Quigley, and he presented at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The presentation was titled "*Returning Missing Youth Safely: A Judicial Guide to Safe Returns Under the Interstate Compact for Juveniles.*" He shared that the training was very well received.
- S. Horton (NC) asked about NCJFCJ's relationship with ICJ and opportunities for continued collaboration.
- Director Underwood confirmed that NCJFCJ is an active ex officio member of the Commission, including as a member of the Work Group on Returns. The Commission participated in their conferences several times in the last nine years, including two presentations in the last three years.

#### **Updates from Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Subcommittee**

- Chair R. Gallardo (UT) reported that the ABM subcommittee discussed potential keynote speakers for an upcoming event, including a youth speaker named Ayia Aribi from Maine, who has lived experience with homelessness and has established her own care team.
- The subcommittee also explored a potential adult keynote speaker with foster care experience who emphasized the importance of supportive environments.
- The ABM Subcommittee decided to present a scenario-based training session on transfers of supervision (TOS), home evaluations, and mandatory relocation reports during the ABM's training day on Tuesday.
- J. Wald (ND) emphasized the importance of thorough home evaluations when transferring youth across states to ensure successful placements.
- Chair R. Gallardo (UT) discussed plans to invite the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to present on Wednesday morning during ABM, alongside other ex officio members.
- Chair R. Gallardo (UT) shared that the subcommittee also proposed hosting a virtual meeting before the ABM to help first-time attendees understand the process and available resources, including the YAP app and mentoring programs.

### ***Wednesday Workshop Planning and Preparation***

- Chair R. Gallardo (UT) discussed plans for upcoming Wednesday Workshop trainings in May and June. He shared that suggested topics were “ICJ in Action: Home Evaluations” and “ICJ in Action: Quarterly Progress Reports.”
- The group decided to hold a Wednesday Workshop in May on home evaluations, with J. Wald (ND) agreeing to lead the presentation.
- Committee members also discussed potentially covering quarterly progress reports in a June Wednesday workshop. No one volunteered to lead the presentation.
- J. Wald (ND) emphasized the importance of detailed home evaluations and the authority of ICJ offices to request additional information from field staff.
- The Committee agreed to remind states, especially Model 3 states, to enter data into the system properly during training.

### **Next Steps**

- The next Training Committee meeting was scheduled for May 7, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

### **Adjourn**

**Training Committee Chair Gallardo (UT) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 2:53 p.m. EDT.**