

# INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

## West Region Meeting Minutes



July 20, 2021  
3:00 p.m. ET  
Via WebEx

---

### **Voting Members in Attendance:**

1. Michael Farmer (CA), West Region Representative
2. Shannon Dilley (AK), Commissioner
3. Howard Wykes (AZ), Designee
4. Summer Foxworth (CO), Commissioner
5. Kristin Davidson (HI), Commissioner
6. Anne Connor (ID), Designee
7. Dale Dodd (NM), Commissioner
8. David Laity (NV), Commissioner
9. Nina Belli (OR), Designee
10. Raymundo Gallardo (UT), Designee
11. Jedd Pelander (WA), Commissioner
12. Maureen Clifton (WY), Commissioner

### **Voting Members not in Attendance:**

1. Jeff Hood (AZ), Commissioner
2. Cathy Gordon (MT), Commissioner
3. Neira Siaperas (UT), Commissioner

### **Compact Staff in Attendance:**

1. Nichel Saceda-Hurt (AK)
2. Shirleen Cadiz (HI)
3. Gladys Olivares (NV)
4. Kelsey Hewitt (OR)
5. Dawn Bailey (WA)
6. Brandon Schimelpfenig (WY)

### **Guests in Attendance:**

1. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), Member of Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice
2. Tanis Birmingham (NV)

### **National Office Staff in Attendance:**

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

### **Call to Order**

Representative Farmer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. ET.

### **Roll Call**

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

### **Agenda**

**A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.  
N. Belli (OR) seconded. The motion carried.**

### **Minutes**

- **A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. M. Clifton (WY) seconded. The motion carried.**
- **A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. D. Dodd (NM) seconded. The motion carried.**

### **Discussion**

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

- Representative Farmer reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice recommended revisions to the Mission, Vision, and Values Statements at the Executive Committee July 15 meeting.
- The Executive Committee determined that the full Commission should vote regarding the amendments, since the full Commission approved the current statements. Additionally, the Executive Committee requested that a member of the ad hoc committee present their recommendations at region meetings to ensure questions are addressed prior to the ABM.
- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice, explained that the ad hoc committee members believe the updated statements align to the work of the ad hoc committee and the work of the Commission and its initiatives. He presented the recommendations proposed in each of the statements Mission, Vision, and Values.

#### **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.
- M. Clifton (WY) agreed the revisions are important and supported the changes.
  - D. Laity (NV) commented that Nevada also supported the proposals.
  - D. Bailey (WA) commented that the Compact office staff primarily process paperwork and questioned what the change would look like for a Compact office. E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) replied that whenever a juvenile travels into a state, Compact staff and local authorities have opportunities in their conversations ensure that all juveniles are treated fairly and equality.
  - J. Pelander (WA) asked who is included in "...all parties in the Compact." E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) affirmed that the language was to include everyone, ICJ Compact personnel, field staff, and others.

### ICJ Nominations and Elections Process

- Representative Farmer reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice recommended an ICJ Nominations and Elections Process at the last Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee approved the process and asked that a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice present the new process to each region.
- E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) advised that the ad hoc committee began by reviewing the Commission's previous elections process and determined that a more transparent process should be developed. The new process allows anyone interested in a leadership position to make their intentions and qualifications known prior to the ABM, at which the elections are held. This ensures voting members have knowledge of the candidates and their qualifications. The new process can also mitigate the awkwardness of campaigning on-site the week of the ABM. The new process governs:
  - Commission officer elections;
  - Region Representatives elections; and
  - Interest in a committee chairperson appointment.
- E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) summarized the process:
  - A commissioner or full-time designee may nominate themselves or another commissioner or full-time designee.
  - Nominees submit a statement of interest and resume.
  - The submissions are gathered at the ICJ National Office and shared with the all members.
  - Regions are no longer be required to nominate candidates during their region meetings the ABM. Nominations can still be made from the floor during the ABM General Session.
  - The nominations process is the same for both officers and regional representatives.
  - The process provides an opportunity for Commission members to indicate their interest in serving as a committee chair in the upcoming year. The list of interested persons will be provided to the newly-elected Commission Chair, who is responsible for appointing all committee chairs.
- There were no questions and Mr. Lee thanked the West Region for the opportunity.

## 2021 ICJ Annual Business Meeting

- Director Underwood shared the 2021 Annual Business Meeting Agenda. This year, all ICJ Compact staff and ICJ ex officios will receive a personalized email with their unique link to register. The email will be forthcoming the first week of August.
- D. Dodd (NM) inquired if the Commission would approve the ICJ Nominations and Elections Process presented by Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) during the 2021 ABM General Session. Director Underwood responded that the document was adopted by the Executive Committee during their July 15 meeting. The ICJ National Office will out information about how to make nominations.
- Director Underwood reminded members that the 2021 Leadership Award nomination period is open until August 6. Nominations may be made via the [online form](#).

## UNITY Go-Live

- Representative Farmer updated that, since the last West Region meeting, UNITY has gone live. He opened the floor for states to share their experiences with the new data system, UNITY.
- S. Foxworth (CO) shared she likes the functionality. Some things did not work correctly and a couple of cases were caught in limbo. However, she expressed her belief once all the bugs will soon be resolved. Other members shared similar experiences.
- D. Bailey (WA) stated that the number of notifications received for assigned tasks can be overwhelming. A. Connor (ID) suggested that the number of notifications should be reduced and the meaning and value increased.
- D. Dodd (NM) shared he likes the user administrative functions. A deterrent has been the inability to print more than one document at a time. A. Connor (ID) updated that the functional change came in near the end of development.
- A. Connor (ID) offered to share with anyone interested the language posted in the Idaho Newscast about uploading documents in UNITY.
- A. Connor (ID) reported that a UNITY Spotlight is being discussed to highlight features in the system like the JIDS Spotlight from the past. She finds that members sharing UNITY issues with her helps to in her work as Technology Committee chair.
- A. Connor (ID) reported that two groups are meeting to continue UNITY-related work. A UNITY Reporting and Data Visualization Work Team led by Rachel Johnson (NC) is developing UNITY Data Reports. A UNITY Enhancement Requests Sub-Committee led by Kellianne Torres (IA), Technology Committee Vice Chair, is meeting to review all requests for UNITY enhancements.

## Changes to Operations Post COVID

- Representative Farmer updated that a previously discussed issue of calling witnesses from other states to provide testimony has been discussed by the Executive Committee. Legal Counsel Richard Masters has been authorized to prepare a Legal White Paper on the issue. The White Paper is expected to be made available soon.

## Holding Non-Delinquent Minors in Secure Detention

- Representative Farmer requested that members think about the topic: Holding Non-Delinquent Minors in Secure Detention for discussion at the next meeting.

## State Updates/Concerns

- States provided a round-robin of updates in the areas of: mask mandates, spikes in COVID cases, and telecommuting. In addition, the following state-specific items were reported:
  - Nevada reported Diane Grass has joined the Compact office staff.
  - New Mexico reported that a fully-populated State Council has been formed.
  - Oregon reported air travel may be impacted for returning juveniles due to the wild fires.
  - Utah reported Kimberly Heywood has been hired as a program coordinator and will serve as ICJ back up. Utah hopes to resume providing airport surveillance upon request in August.
  - Washington reported they continue to handle parole cases on a case-by-case basis. On July 25, there will be changes in Washington regarding holding juveniles in secure detention. They are unsure of the impact on runaways, as running away is not considered a crime and law enforcement may be reluctant to pick up runaways. Requisitions may be required in more cases. Representative Farmer added he would mention in the next Executive Committee. D. Dodd (NM) commented that the ICJ Rules supersede the state law. Director Underwood volunteered set up a meeting with Legal Counsel Rick Masters and herself to discuss the issue further off-line.
  - Representative Farmer (CA) updated that the closure date for the California Division of Juvenile Justice, which houses ICJ, has been set for June 2023. Plans are underway for the transition of ICJ to a new department the beginning of 2022. Representative Farmer will be involved in the transition on a temporary training basis. There is a good chance he will leave ICJ prior to the ICJ 2022 Annual Business Meeting. He encouraged members of the West Region to express their interest in the position of Alternate West Region Representative for discussion at the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Adjourn**

**A. Connor (ID) made a motion to adjourn. M. Clifton (WY) seconded. Representative Farmer adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 4:08 p.m. ET.**