



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes

April 12, 2016

2:30 p.m. EDT

Members in Attendance:

1. Anne Connor (NV) Chair
2. Maria Genca (CT) Designee
3. Agnes Denson (FL) Commissioner
4. Alicia Ehlers (ID) Designee
5. Jeff Cowger (KS) Commissioner
6. Lea Quam (ND) Commissioner
7. Jessica Eldredge (UT) Designee
8. Damian Seymour (DE) Ex officio
9. Holly Kassube (IL) Ex officio
10. Kelly Palmateer (NY) Ex officio
11. Melonie Taylor-Gore (MS) Ex officio
12. Gloria Soja (OR) Ex officio
13. Dawn Bailey (WA) Ex officio

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Barbara Murray (AK) Commissioner
2. Karen King-Jones (KY) Commissioner
3. Traci Marchand (NC) Commissioner
4. Mia Pressley (SC) Commissioner
5. Cathlyn Samuel (TN) Commissioner
6. Patricia Welcome (VI) Commissioner
7. Paul Ottati (NY) Ex officio
8. Gillie Hopkins (VT) Ex officio
9. Chris Newlin (NCAC) Ex officio
10. Judge Darlene Byrne (NCJFCJ) Ex officio

Guests in Attendance:

1. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ)

ICJ Staff in Attendance:

1. Ashley Lippert, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Administrative and Logistics Coordinator
3. Shawn Robinson, Training and Administrative Coordinator
4. Jenny Adkins, Project Manager

Call to Order

A. Connor (NV) called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. EDT.

Roll Call

A. Lippert called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

J. Eldredge (UT) made a motion to approve the agenda. L. Quam (ND) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

J. Cowger (KS) made a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 meeting minutes. A. Ehlers (ID) seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion

Human Trafficking Matrix

- Chair Connor acknowledged Maria Genca (East), Jeff Cowger (Midwest), Cathlyn Samuel (South), and Alicia Ehlers (West) for their work in gathering information for the ICJ Human Trafficking Matrix. For states that did not submit updated information, Chair Connor suggested inserting a notation in the matrix that the data represents 2014 statistics and may have changed. A. Ehlers (ID) questioned and Chair Connor affirmed that the matrix could be updated after being posted.
- Chair Connor shared that some states questioned the intent of the matrix and the potential for promulgating new rules. Chair Connor assured the intent of the matrix is only to provide a collective resource of information.
- Chair Connor and the national office will assemble the updated information collected from each region and prepare a matrix for review and approval at the next meeting.

Resources and State Updates

VOCA

- Chair Connor reported that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal funding cap was lifted resulting in a mass influx of grant applications. VOCA is an excellent resource to assist states financially with the implementation and/or improvement of programs/services for victims of human trafficking.
- Chair Connor updated on her participation in the Nevada VOCA grant review and emphasized the criticalness of research and supported evidence when applying for a grant.
- A. Ehlers (ID) questioned whether the funding could be used for shelters and treatment. Chair Connor provided an example of a Nevada faith based facility and shared that the faith based portion must be optional to be eligible for VOCA funding.
- Chair Connor will forward information on the VOCA funding to the Committee.

North Dakota

- L. Quam (ND) shared that North Dakota received a grant that is being used to develop a Victims of Human Trafficking assistance program. Within the program, the state has licensed foster homes that assist Human Trafficking victims. Two state Navigators are identified who participate in the Human Trafficking task forces and serve as the initial contact when Human Trafficking is suspected or identified. The Navigators become the case managers and initiate the Human Trafficking Response Teams for an immediate response. In addition, the Navigators stay connected with the victims through the entire

process and become an advocate for ensuring protocol is followed and the victims' needs are met.

New Jersey

- Edwin Lee, Jr (NJ) reported the issue to be at the forefront in New Jersey. Funding is budgeted by the legislature and provided through the Attorney General's Office and the Division of Criminal Justice. A new Assembly Bill going up for vote would establish a 24 hour hotline. Mr. Lee announced a Central Jersey Regional Human Trafficking Conference on May 20, 2016 and will forward the information to the national office to share with the Committee.

Illinois

- H. Kassube (IL) updated that a human trafficking victim survivor spoke during the IL Judicial Conferences in February and April.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

- Chair Connor reported presenting ICJ at the NCJFCJ Conference in March commenting to the interest that continues on the human trafficking issue.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

The next meeting is May 10, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. EDT.

Chair Connor adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:07 p.m. EDT.