



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

East Region Meeting *Minutes*

February 10, 2016
10:00 a.m. EST

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Patricia Welcome (VI) East Region Representative
2. Maria Genca (CT) Designee
3. Melanie Grimes (DE) Commissioner
4. Damian Seymour (DE) Designee
5. David Barrett (ME) Commissioner
6. Thomas O'Connor (NH) Designee
7. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) Designee
8. Jason McCrea (PA) Commissioner
9. JoAnn Niksa (RI) Designee
10. Gillie Hopkins (VT) Designee

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Becki Moore (MA) Designee
2. Lorraine Bartlett (NH) Commissioner
3. Kevin Brown (NJ) Commissioner
4. Sheila Poole (NY) Commissioner
5. Kevin McKenna (RI) Commissioner
6. Cindy Walcott (VT) Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Christine Norris (DE)
2. Matthew Charton (NY)
3. Paul Ottati (NY)

Guest in Attendance:

1. Anne Connor (NV) Training Committee and Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee Chair

National Office Staff in Attendance:

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

Call to Order

Representative Welcome (VI) called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. EST.

Roll Call

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

Agenda

G. Hopkins (VT) made a motion to approve the agenda. J. Niksa (RI) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

- **T. O'Connor (NH) made a motion to approve the November 5, 2015 meeting minutes. G. Hopkins (VT) seconded. The motion passed.**

Discussion

East Region Goals – States in Transition

- Chair Welcome reported that the Commission Chair has requested each region submit recommendations for improving the States in Transition Best Practice and opened the floor for suggestions.
- A. Connor (NV) highlighted the current ICJ Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program. She updated on the trainings that states in transition have recently completed adding that the South Region Representative, Mia Pressley, was assigned as a mentor to Tennessee. All states receiving the TTA have expressed their appreciation for the assistance and welcomed the training.
- J. Niksa (RI) commented, and other states agreed, that the East Region states have provided assistance to adjoining states in their region during transitions and emphasized the importance of retaining open communications. G. Hopkins (VT) supported the idea of assigning a regional state mentor to states in transition.
- Representative Welcome welcomed the responses and asked that members email any additional recommendations. Suggestions received will be consolidated and shared with the East Region and the Executive Committee.
- Additionally, to allow members time to consider other nominees prior to August, Representative Welcome announced that she will not seek re-election as the East Region Representative and confirmed she will remain the Virgin Islands Commissioner.

Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee Update

- G. Hopkins (VT) commented to the increased number of human trafficking victims being returned via ICJ and questioned whether or not the Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee is proposing a separate ICJ process for handling these juveniles. The addition or exception to an ICJ rule would involve a process appropriate for human trafficking victims and address the primary issue of detaining said juveniles in secure detention. J. McCrea (PA) shared the support in Pennsylvania by private non-profit agencies of detaining human trafficking victims in secure detention. Often times in the unsecured environment, the juveniles escape and return to the trafficker in addition to persuading other juveniles to join them. P. Ottati (NY) shared the same issue in New York. M. Genca (CT) updated on the coordinated efforts in Connecticut to provide alternatives through placement in an approved unsecured facility via Child Protection Services, which offer appropriate services for victims of human trafficking.
- A. Connor (NV) reported that the Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee is developing a Human Trafficking Matrix that will provide information on what each state is doing in regards to Human Trafficking. East region committee member, Maria Genca (CT), will lead in the collection of updated information from the East Region states to be included in the matrix. The starting point for the matrix is the information collected in 2014 by the Polaris Project. The ICJ matrix will align itself with the Polaris Project's statistical information in the following categories:
 1. Sex Trafficking
 2. Labor Trafficking
 - 3(a) Asset Forfeiture for Human Trafficking
 - 3(b) Investigative Tools for Law Enforcement
 - 4(a) Training on Human Trafficking for Law Enforcement
 - 4(b) Human Trafficking Commission or Task Force

5. Low Burden of Proof for Sex Trafficking of Minors
 6. Posting a Human Trafficking Hotline
 7. Safe Harbor - Protecting Sexually Exploited Minors
 8. Victim Assistance
 9. Access to Civil Damages
 10. Vacating Convictions for Sex Trafficking Victims
- A. Connor (NV) highlighted each category and presented a breakdown by state of the Polaris Project 2014 information. Nevada's status was used as an example of locating and updating the information. Delaware and New Jersey were noted to be in good standing in all areas with a 12 out of 12 score. E. Lee, Jr. (NJ) commented on keys factors to the success in New Jersey as a model state for juvenile detention alternatives and highlighted the importance of collaboration across the state and support from the Executive level of Government.
 - M. Genca (CT) will email the matrix information to each state to update their state's information. The Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee is requesting that all states submit their updated information prior to the next Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee meeting on April 12.

AAICPC ICJ MOU Work Group

- M. Genca (CT) updated that the AAICPC ICJ MOU Work Group meets bi-monthly, serves as a consulting resource and plans to develop a Q&A section to be included the AAICPC ICJ Best Practice Guide. In January, the Work Group discussed a recent dual case and methods to encourage states to use the Best Practice Guideline, which is available on the both the ICJ and AAICPC websites. The next meeting is March 23 at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Rules Committee Update

- J. Niksa (RI) updated that at the last meeting, the Rules Committee discussed the discrepancy in the new rules with the definition of Deferred Adjudication and Rule 4-101(2)(b) regarding eligibility requirements for transfer. Some states are supervising deferred adjudicated juveniles and there is confusion as to what states regard as non-adjudicated, versus deferred adjudication, versus deferred sentence. A sub-committee was formed to review and present a recommendation to the full Rules Committee at the next meeting in March.

Executive Committee Updates

- A. Lippert updated that all committees reported during the January Executive Committee meeting. The Technology, Rules, and Training Committees have been updating all materials impacted by the new rules effective February 1, 2016. Three rule amendment trainings were held in January; numerous JIDS and full rules trainings are scheduled and registration available on the ICJ website. Finance reported the 2016 budget to be in good standing and the 2017 dues invoices will be issued in April. There are no compliance issues before the Compliance Committee. The Executive Committee will conduct a strategic planning session during their face to face meeting in March and Commission Chair Marchand will present the Strategic Plan during the 2016 Annual Business Meeting.

State Updates

- All states updated on their State Councils' meetings, activities, and membership in addition to the completed and scheduled trainings.
- J. McCrea (PA) reported Pennsylvania to be in compliance by the appointment of himself as Commissioner and the 2016 dues payment.
- D. Barrett (ME) reported he will present ICJ during the Maine Prosecutors Annual Conference.
- Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ) updated that the performance measurement standards and a case specific scenario were discussed at the last state council meeting.
- G. Hopkins (VT) reported that Vermont has multiple human trafficking work groups across the state unique to their agency to which she is a member of one. Additionally, she updated on legislation that Vermont will consider in next year's session related to probable cause.
- T. O'Connor (NH) updated he was appointed as Designee to Commissioner Bartlett.

- P. Ottati (NY) updated on age of majority issues in New York when returning runaways and absconders who are being held in county jails due to their age. Additionally, he shared a recent case of a human trafficking victim escaping during a return to Connecticut.

Old Business

- D. Seymour (DE) requested clarity on the standards being included in the 2016 Performance Measurement Plan. A. Lippert clarified that the two standards emailed in December will be only standards assessed in 2016.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

- **M. Grimes (DE) made a motion to adjourn. T. O'Connor (NH) seconded. The motion passed without objection at 11:12 a.m. EST.**