



INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes

January 18, 2018

2:00 p.m. ET

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Mia Pressley (SC) Chair
2. Peter Sprengelmeyer (OR) Vice Chair
3. Anne Connor (ID)
4. Sherry Jones (MD)
5. Cathlyn Smith (TN)
6. Jedd Pelander (WA)

Non-Voting Committee Members in Attendance:

1. Mike Casey (DE)
2. Holly Kassube (IL)
3. Maxine Baggett (MS)
4. Candice Alfonso (NJ)
5. Raymundo Gallardo (UT)
6. Chris Newlin, NCAC, Ex Officio

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Maria Genca (CT) Commissioner
2. Tracy Bradley-Walden (FL)
3. Jessica Wald (ND)
4. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ)
5. Richetta Johnson (VA)
6. Trissie Casanova (VT) Ex officio

Guests in Attendance:

None

ICJ Staff in Attendance:

1. Marylee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Administrative and Training Specialist

Call to Order

Chair Pressley called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

M. Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

A. Conner (ID) made a motion to approve the agenda. S. Jones (MD) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the August 8, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. S. Jones (MD) seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion

Committee Goal

- Chair Pressley presented information regarding the history of ICJ’s Human Trafficking Work Group and Subcommittee. She noted that the group had previously developed the “Human Trafficking Matrix”, shared resources, and developed training “Going Home: Collaboration is Key to Ensuring the Safe Return of Human Trafficking Victims” that was presented at the APPA Training Institute. The FY 2018 ICJ Executive Committee approved the Ad Hoc Committee for the following purposes:
 - Educating about the roles of state authorities and federal authorities
 - Coordination with federal authorities
 - Promoting use of human trafficking screen tools
 - Promoting involvement of ICJ offices at Statewide Task Forces

Chair Pressley stated that the Goal for this Ad Hoc Committee is to develop best practices for ICJ responses to juvenile victims of human trafficking.

Action Steps

- Chair Pressley raised the following question as a preliminary issue to be addressed: When a juvenile is identified as a victim of human trafficking, should the juvenile be housed in least restrictive environment (to limit potential trauma to an identified victim) or detained as a “danger to self”?
- H. Kassube (IL) shared that the State of Illinois is struggling with that issue regarding when to place human trafficking victims in a less restrictive environment.
- C. Alfonso (NJ) noted that some youth are being detained because they are runaways but provided with resources during detention. NJ tries to honor the request of the home state, but many decisions are made on a case-to-case basis. They are piloting a new model response. A. Conner (ID) asked whether NJ could share written protocol, policies, or goals. She noted that Minnesota is ahead of the curve in having a well developed “safe harbor” protocol and services. She noted that in Nevada, most youth are being detained because appropriate services are not widely available. Services offered to juvenile awaiting return include: immediate trauma informed care, medical care, mental health care. NJ is utilizing nationally popular screening tool and team model for response.
- S. Jones (MD) reported that, in MD, human trafficking screening is conducted with all youth coming into the system. A multi-disciplinary team was recently formed, which meets within 24 hours from identification of a victim. S. Jones (MD) recently became a member of a subcommittee. If there is an outstanding warrant, detention is encouraged. If not, the juvenile is more likely to be placed in safe harbor. Many traffickers are

familiar with shelter locations, which increases risk to victims (victims may be re-victimized if placed in shelter).

- Chris Newlin, National Children’s Advocacy Center, noted that child abuse (sexual abuse or other) is often an underlying issue, whether or not parents are involved in the trafficking. Some youth view abusive home situations as worse than trafficking, especially given that they may think of themselves as being “willing participants” in sex acts, etc.
- Chair Pressley noted that another critical issue is the lack of appropriate services and other resources, especially in rural areas. Youth may be identified as a human trafficking victim, but no services provided. She noted that detention can even be hard in some areas, and suggested that shelters are probably even less available.
- C. Smith (TN) noted that TN recently allocated funds for detention of runaways. A. Conner (ID) noted that, even in urban areas, services available are NOT available or extensive enough. Sometimes services are only offered for two months, which does not seem sufficient. S. Jones (MD) noted that very limited services are available. Task Forces are working on identifying services and gaps, looking to partner with non-profit organizations to address. Task Force led by Children’s Advocacy Center M. Pressley noted that some states (including SC) are NOT utilizing a team approach, which is very ineffective.
- Chair Pressley noted that many states are seeing an increase in human trafficking with expanding opioid epidemic.
- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 mandates that all state child welfare agencies have plan in place to address human trafficking. Committee members were unsure when mandates apply and requested further information. Some states have task forces that don’t seem to be very effective. S. Jones noted that she had been invited to present to her state’s task force, where she was surprised that many members were not familiar with ICJ. NJ included knowledge of ICJ in core competencies document produced by the state task force.
- Chris Newlin suggested that state ICJ offices might benefit from reaching out to state chapter of Child Advocacy Centers. Chris will put together some ideas for how to work effectively with CACs, assist with proactive outreach.
- Chair Pressley presented a list of proposed action steps for consideration: Survey ICJ Members regarding current practices and frequently used resources
- National Office will develop a survey using Survey Monkey and, present draft at next meeting.

Update ICJ Human Trafficking Matrix.

- Director Underwood noted that the necessary research could possibly be completed by law students working through the UNCH Pro Bono Project.
A. **Connor (ID) made a motion to submit the project to UNC Pro Bono Project. MD second. Motion carried..**

- Develop “Best Practice” Document
MD and WA in favor. This will be discussed further after survey results are collected.

Develop resources and conduct proactive outreach to Children’s Advocacy Centers
Chair said that she wanted to add this.

Old Business

None

New Business

Meeting Dates

- Chair Pressley proposed the following dates for the meetings in 2018 through the 2018 Annual Business Meeting and the Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee agreed:
March 15 – 2 pm ET
May 10 – 10 am ET
July 19 – 2 pm ET
- The next meet will be March 15, 2018.

Adjourn

- **Chair Pressley adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:01p.m. EST.**