

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

East Region



July 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes
11:00 a.m. ET
Via WebEx

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Becki Moore (MA), East Region Representative
2. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
3. Mike Casey (DE), Commissioner
4. Roy Curtis (ME), Designee
5. Caitlyn Bickford (NH), Commissioner
6. Francesco Bianco (NY), Designee
7. Wendy Lautsbaugh (PA), Commissioner
8. Patricia Casanova (VT), Designee

Commissioners/Designees not in Attendance:

1. Galan Williamson (ME), Commissioner
2. Jennifer LeBaron (NJ), Commissioner
3. Edwin Lee, Jr. (NJ), Designee
4. Sheila Poole (NY), Commissioner
5. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner
6. JoAnn Niksa (RI), Designee
7. Eavey Monique-James (USVI), Commissioner

Non-voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Barbara Joyal (VT), Commissioner
2. Nordia Napier (CT)
3. Donna Reed (MA)
4. Shyra Bland (NJ)
5. Kelly Palmateer (NY)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
3. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
4. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
5. Joe Johnson, Project Manager

Call to Order

Representative Moore called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and quorum was established.

Agenda

T. Casanova (VT) made a motion to approve the agenda. F. Bianco (NY) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

T. Hunt (CT) made a motion to approve the June 3, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. C. Bickford (NH) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

- Director Underwood provided updates regarding recent Executive Committee meetings and actions.
 - The Executive Committee adopted the following ICJ Results Statement: “All ICJ youth and families are safe, supported, and treated equitably.”
 - Former Kansas Commissioner Jeff Cowger recently retired. Hope Cooper has been appointed as Designee and is expected to be appointed Commissioner soon.
 - Stephen Horton was appointed Commissioner for North Carolina. He replaced Traci Marchand, who moved to a new position within her state.
 - Christine Norris was appointed Designee for Delaware Commissioner Francis Casey, and may vote when he is not in attendance.
 - Plans are underway for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The agenda is approved and registration opens next week. This year all Compact staff included in the ICJ Directory will receive an email from M&IW with their unique registration link. Guests outside of the Compact that wish to attend will use a guest registration link.
 - Nominations for the 2021 Leadership Award are open until August 6.
 - The Compliance Committee updated the Performance Measurement Assessment Standards, removing information regarding JIDS and inserting references to UNITY.
 - The Information Technology Committee formed an Enhancements Requests Subcommittee to review and prioritize the many requests for enhancements and made recommendations to the full Technology Committee. The UNITY Reporting and Data Visualization Team is meeting to provide guidance for the new features that will be rolled out soon.
 - The Rules Committee will post the final proposals for rule amendments on August 4. The public hearing will be held September 9.
 - The recalculation of dues has been postponed for one year. The recalculation will occur in August 2022, with new rates effective in FY 2023.
 - The Executive Committee approved several cost savings measures to be implemented by FY2023.
 - The National Office space will be reduced by 70%.
 - The Rules Committee will hold extended meetings virtually.
 - The ABM Docket Book, ICJ Annual Report, and the Bench Book will be issued electronically to save printing and shipping costs.
 - All virtual meetings will use the Zoom platform.

Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee

- Representative Moore and T. Hunt (CT), Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs, reported that committee members will present the work of the ad hoc committee during a training session during the 2021 ABM.
- Revisions to the ICJ Mission, Vision, and Values Statements recommended by the ad hoc committee will be presented to the full Commission for vote during the ABM, with a recommendation for adoption by the Executive Committee.
- The ad hoc committee recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee for Racial Justice be extended for another year.
- The ad hoc committee developed a ICJ Nominations and Elections Process, which was approved by the Executive Committee and goes into effect in August.
- A representative from the ad hoc committee is presenting both the ICJ Nominations and Elections Process document and the recommended revisions to the ICJ Mission, Vision, and Values statements at each of the region meetings.

ICJ Nominations and Elections Process

- Tasha Hunt (CT), Ad Hoc Committee for Juvenile Justice Co-Chair, shared that the ad hoc committee has been meeting monthly to develop ways for the Commission to advance racial justice. The ad hoc committee focused on the nominations and elections process in order to broaden the diversity in leadership positions and to bring clarity to the process.
- The Executive Committee recently approved the ICJ Nominations and Elections Process recommended by the ad hoc committee, which was distributed prior to the meeting. The Executive Committee asked that a member of the Ad Hoc Committee present the document to each of the regions to ensure everyone's understanding.
- Tasha Hunt (CT) explained that the process allows anyone interested in a leadership position to make their intentions and qualifications known ahead of time. Each year, the nomination period will open 60 days prior to the ABM. This ensures voting members have advance knowledge of the candidates and their qualifications. The process would mitigate the awkwardness of campaigning on-site the week of the ABM. She reviewed the process, which will govern:
 - Commission Officer annual elections,
 - Region Representatives bi-annual elections, and
 - Committee Chairpersons annual interest.
- During the ABM region meetings, members may review the candidates. However, no vote is required for nominations during the region meetings. The process does not remove the option to nominate from the floor and speak prior to the vote during the General Session.
- Director Underwood added that a live link will be provided on the Commission's website soon for nominations.

ICJ Mission, Vision, and Values Statement

- Representative Moore presented the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation for modifications to the ICJ Mission, Visions, and Values Statements.

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.
- The ad hoc committee's intention is to update the statements to reflect a commitment to racial justice, without deviating from the current statements. The proposed language draws attention for the need for equity and the Commission's commitment to racial justice. The Executive Committee agreed that the full Commission adopted the current statements, therefore the full Commission should vote to amend. The Executive Committee supported the recommendation and requested that a member of the ad hoc committee present the recommendation in each region meeting for a better understand and to address questions prior to voting in October.

Strategies Round Table

There were none submitted for this meeting; however, the item will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

UNITY

- Director Underwood reported that numerous bug fixes have been rolled out and the new ICJ Help Center for UNITY is now available on the Commission's website.
- The UNITY model-specific meetings were well received, as the attendees enjoyed the practitioner-led sessions. After the ABM, the UNITY Coordinators' meetings will transition to a new format for practitioners to exchange information,
- A post-UNITY Survey developed by the Training and Technology Committees will be issued next week. All responses are anonymous.

State Updates / Concerns

- States provided a round-robin of updates in the areas of: COVID-related changes; telecommuting; state council meetings; and in-state UNITY trainings.
- In addition, the following state-specific items were reported:
 - New York reported the Court system is open; however, hearings continue to be held virtually.
 - Pennsylvania reported that the ICJ FY 22 Dues was approved for payment.
 - Vermont updated that locked facilities have been closed. They are thankful to New Hampshire for allowing Vermont to use their facilities. The issue has created tension and staff turnover. Some programs have been closed due to staffing shortage.
 - Connecticut updated that Dave Chapman is out of the office and asked that requests, questions, and concerns be directed to Nordia Napier.
 - Delaware updated that rehabilitation services have resumed.
 - Massachusetts reported that Stephania Cueva has left the units
 - New Hampshire reported the future of their detention center is questionable. A juvenile justice consultant has been hired to work with stakeholders to determine the best clinical model for a secure setting.
 - New Jersey updated overall satisfaction with UNITY. They shared the primary issues are users forgetting passwords and locking themselves out, and the inability to delete events created in error.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjourn

Representative Moore adjourned the by acclamation at 12:02 p.m. ET.