

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Midwest Region Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2024

11:00 a.m. ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative C. Frieberg (SD) called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Chuck Frieberg (SD), Commissioner, Midwest Region Representative
2. Sasaun Lane (OH), Commissioner, Midwest Region Alternate Representative
3. Tomiko Frierson (IL), Commissioner
4. Mary Kay Hudson (IN), Commissioner
5. Curtis Hamstra (IA), Commissioner
6. Megan Milner (KS), Commissioner
7. Michael Tymkew (MI), Commissioner
8. Tracy Hudrlik (MN), Commissioner
9. Jacey Rader (NE), Commissioner
10. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Kellianne Torres (IA), Designee
2. Fareeda Washington (KS), Designee
3. Holly Kassube (IL)
4. Angel Jones (IL)
5. Molly Dearing (IL)
6. Nataly Sevilla (IN)
7. Nita Wright (IN)
8. Cara Bockes (IA)
9. Liz Wilson (KS)
10. Rebecca Hillestead (MN)
11. Amanda Kohlbeck (MN)
12. Abbie Christian (NE)
13. Kathy Christenson (SD)
14. Cheryl Frost (SD)
15. Jennifer McFadden (WI)

Voting Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
2. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
3. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policies Specialist

4. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Agenda

J. Wald (ND) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. T. Frierson (IL) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

T. Frierson (IL) made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023, meeting minutes. M. K. Hudson (IN) seconded. The motion passed.

Check-ins

Representative Frieberg (SD) initiated a check-in activity. Many of the Midwest Region states were recently impacted by severe winter weather storms.

Reports

Hot topics

- Representative Frieberg (SD) reported the following hot topics from the most recent issue of the *ICJ Updates* newsletter.
 - All ICJ State Council Reports for 2023 are due January 31, 2024. Reports may be submitted [online](#) on the Commission's website.
 - Four Rule Amendment training sessions will be presented in March.
 - Session A: Rule, Form, and UNITY Changes pertaining to the Transfer of Supervision and Travel Permit Cases:
 - March 6, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - March 13, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - Session B: Rule, Form, and UNITY Changes pertaining to Returns and Failed Supervision Cases:
 - March 20, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - March 27, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - ICJ personnel and field officers are encouraged to participate each session (A & B) at least once.
 - The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) will present the *ICJ Wednesday Workshop* on January 31, 2024, 1:00 p.m. ET. A [link for joining the session](#) is available on the Commission's website.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - Representative Frieberg (SD) shared he did not attend the last Executive Committee meeting and asked Director Underwood to provide an update.
 - Director Underwood reported the Executive Committee met in [November](#) and [December](#) 2023 and updated on the actions listed below.
 - The 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Survey results were reviewed. Overall, the feedback was positive and there were good suggestions for next year's training.
 - Nataki Brown was elected as the Victims Representative and will serve on the ICJ Executive Committee for a fourth year.
 - Priorities for the year and overall Strategic Plan Priorities were reviewed. Director Underwood updated on the four Strategic Plan Priorities and provided information regarding actions taken to advance each priority.
 - **Priority 1: Improve data systems for better outcomes.**
 - The Technology Committee is working on UNITY updates necessary to implement pending rule amendments.

Priority 2: Promote racial justice and leadership development.

- In February and March, seventeen (17) Commission leaders will participate in the Implementation Leadership Academy provided by the Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation (ACJI).

Priority 3: Address gaps in the rules and resources.

- The National Office is preparing training and updating all ICJ resources to ensure consistency with pending amendments to the ICJ Rules. A new infographic was developed to highlight the impact of the amendments, rather than the amended language.

Priority 4: Leverage relationships to promote awareness and improve outcomes.

- In November, Jenny Adkins (National Office) and Raymundo Gallardo (UT) provided training during the 2023 Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantee Training in Seattle, Washington. Jenny Adkins also participated in a one-day training provided by the National Runaway Safeline. Also in November, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) presented an informational session as part of the *Wednesday Workshop* series.
- In December, New Hampshire's ICJ Office hosted a follow-up *Wednesday Workshop* focused on how ICJ Offices can collaborate with NCMEC to improve responses to runaways.
- In January, the *Wednesday Workshop* will feature a presentation by the National Runaway Safeline (NRS).

▪ Compliance Committee

- Compliance Committee Chair J. Rader (NE) reported the Compliance Committee met early in January and began planning for 2024. Findings and responses to the UNITY data assessment were reviewed and a summary of assessment will be prepared and shared later in the year.
- Live polling will be conducting in all regions meetings in April to gather feedback regarding the proactive monitoring program. The Compliance Committee requested feedback as they look to determine the next steps.

▪ Racial Diversity Equity and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee

- RDEI Committee member, J. Wald (ND), reported the RDEI Committee met in December. The first meeting included an orientation and developing action items for 2024.
- The RDEI Committee is developing training on the amendment to Rule 4-104: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision, which was adopted by the Commission in September 2023. The proposal was submitted by the RDEI Committee via Commissioners S. Jones (MD) and M. Casey (DE) related to home evaluations.

▪ Training Committee

- Training Committee member, J. Wald (ND), reported the Training Committee met in [December](#) and January. The committee reviewed the 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) survey.
- Planning for the 2024 ABM is underway. The committee discussed offering multiple training sessions simultaneously and extending the meeting an extra day. However, due to time and cost constraints, the options are not feasible.
- The committee discussed topics for the monthly *Wednesday Workshops*. Recent workshops featuring allied organizations have been well-received.
- Director Underwood and Judge Robert Hofmann (NCJFCJ President-elect) will co-present a workshop at the 2024 Juvenile Justice Conference hosted by the National Council of

Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) on March 19, 2024, in Cleveland, Ohio. Ohio Commissioner Sasaun Lane will attend and assist with the ICJ booth exhibit.

- States are required to report training to the Commission, but very few reports have been received in the last two years. Therefore, the number of trainings reported in the *ICJ Annual Report* has declined. The committee determined it is important to accurately capture this data and recommended modifications to the online form to make reporting easier. The Training Committee agreed to update the online [Training and Technical Assistance Report Form](#) and reevaluate next year.
- Rules Committee
 - Rules Committee member, S. Lane (OH), reported the Rules Committee met once. During the [December 20, 2023](#) meeting, Rules 6-103, 4-104, and 7-106 were discussed.
 - The Rules Committee 2-year calendar was approved through April 2025, and the Rules Committee discussed the possibility of creating an appeals process for denied home evaluations, but no conclusion was reached.
- Technology Committee
 - Technology Committee Chair K. Torres (IA) reported that the Technology Committee met in [November](#) and [December](#) 2023, and [January](#) 2024.
 - The Technology Committee has two subcommittees: the Rule Enhancement Subcommittee and the Tableau/UNITY Maintenance Subcommittee.
 - The ICJ Form VIII, Home Evaluation, was amended to align with the updated ICJ Rule 4-104. Also, the new ICJ Form IX, Failed Supervision, was approved as recommended by the Rule Enhancement Subcommittee.
 - The Tableau/UNITY Maintenance Subcommittee will first review current UNITY reports via Tableau and expand from there.
 - UNITY updates are in development to ensure consistency with amended rules. The changes will be effective April 1, 2024. Technology Committee members will test the updates soon.
 - The Technology Committee has been tasked to review annual reported data related to returns and to make a recommendation related to reporting airport surveillance.
- Finance Committee
 - Since no one from the Midwest Region serves on the Finance Committee, Director Underwood provided the Finance Committee report. The Finance Committee met [December 13, 2023](#). The 2024 work plan was established. The Commission's accounts and budget were reviewed. The [Travel Reimbursement Policy 06-2009](#) was modified to increase the rate for airport parking.
 - Director Underwood noted the Finance Committee meets quarterly and encouraged Midwest members to join the committee next year.

Unfinished Business

Define concerns that led to the "point of contact" proposal (Rule 4-102) and forward it to the Rules Committee.

- Representative Frieberg (SD) recalled the proposed amendment to Rule 4-102 presented during the 2023 ABM by the Midwest Region was referred back to the Rules Committee. No vote was taken on the proposed amendment.
- Representative Frieberg (SD) noted some opposed the proposal because of concerns about the use of the phrase "point of contact." The proposal was intended to ensure the juvenile/family have contacts in the receiving state to assist families with finding helpful the right resources while awaiting the approval for the transfer of supervision, but not to required that supervision be initiated prior to approval of the transfer.

- Representative Frieberg (SD) opened the floor for input to concerns that led to the “point of contact” proposal to share with the Rule Committee.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) stated that the Minnesota State Council recommended pursuing the proposed amendment because it would be in the best interest of the child. They believe it would be advantageous to have a local point of contact with knowledge of local while awaiting the completion of the application process.
- J. Rader (NE) summarized that comments made during the ABM reflect philosophical differences. Some states are eager to have contact established as soon as possible due to concerns for juvenile and community safety, while others prefer to wait until it has been determined that the transfer will be accepted. These states often express concerns about heavy workloads. J. Wald (ND) commented that some interpret the proposal as early supervision rather than services.
- T. Frierson (IL) suggested assigning a “point of contact” should be optional, not required. She noted assigning cases is a lengthy process and believes assigning a point of contact would be similar. The delay could cause states to be out of compliance due to a time frame. H. Kassube (IL) commented that a random point of contact would be confusing for the youth and family. Also, sending states might step back once a point of contact is made.
- F. Washington (KS) reported the Kansas State Council is also interested in pursuing the rule proposal. Once the youth arrive, the clock starts ticking for services.
- M. K. Hudson (IN) asked how cases are being handled now. J. Rader (NE) responded that Nebraska shares a list of providers organized by type. K. Torres (IA) added that Iowa provides a similar list.
- M. K. Hudson (IN) suggested proposing that states must advise local authorities that they must provide referrals upon request.
- The Midwest Region discussed forming a subcommittee to review and provide a recommendation. M. Tymkew (MI) suggested the topic should be discussed in a full Midwest Region meeting, rather than a subcommittee. Representative C. Frieberg (SD) agreed to schedule a meeting dedicated to discussion of this topic.

New Business

Provide feedback on the Proactive Monitoring Program

- J. Adkins, National Office, explained the poll included four questions (two multiple choice questions and two open response questions).
- J. Adkins, National Office, administered the poll and thanked the Midwest Region for their feedback.

Next Steps

- A special meeting to define concerns that led to the “point of contact” proposal will be scheduled.
- The next regular scheduled meeting is April 9, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m. ET.

Adjourn

J. Rader (NE) made a motion to adjourn. T. Frierson (IL) seconded. Representative Frieberg (SD) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 12:05 p.m. ET.