

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Midwest Region Meeting Minutes

April 9, 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. Kellianne Torres (IA), Designee
4. Fareeda Washington (KS), Designee
5. Michael Tymkew (MI), Commissioner
6. Jacey Rader (NE), Commissioner
7. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Holly Kassube (IL)
2. Molly Dearing (IL)
3. Nataly Sevilla (IN)
4. April Simmons (IN)
5. Nita Wright (IN)
6. Liz Wilson (KS)
7. Rebecca Hillestead (MN)
8. Abbie Christian (NE)
9. Kathy Christenson (SD)
10. Cheryl Frost (SD)
11. Jennifer McFadden (WI)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Tomiko Frierson (IL), Commissioner
2. Curtis Hamstra (IA), Commissioner
3. Megan Milner (KS), Commissioner
4. Tracy Hudrlik (MN), Commissioner
5. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
6. 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. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
5. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Agenda

J. Rader (NE) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. K. Torres (IA) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

K. Torres (IA) made a motion to approve the January 23, 2024, and the March 18, 2024, meeting minutes, with one correction. J. Rader (NE) seconded. The motion passed.

Check-ins

Representative Frieberg (SD) opened the meeting by asking members if they wished to share any of their experiences related to the April 8, 2024, Solar Eclipse.

Reports

Hot Topics from the “ICJ Updates”

- Representative Frieberg (SD) reported the following from the most recent issues of the “ICJ Updates.”
 - Rule Amendments, updated forms, and UNITY updates effective April 1, 2024, are now live. A complete [list of updated resources](#) is available with live links on the Commission’s website. The Rule Amendments Training Sessions A & B were both well attended and considered successful. Training session A and B recordings are now available on the LMS. He reminded members to distribute the most up-to-date forms to the field.
 - The Wednesday Workshop ICJ & NCMEC Collaboration Training Session and the Absconder Reports Training Session were recorded and are now posted on the LMS. The following sessions are scheduled next month:
 - [May 1](#): Racial DEI Best Practice on Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families
 - [May 29](#): Office of Refugee Resettlement Information Session
 - The [Training Report Form](#) has been improved. Multiple in-state ICJ trainings may be entered on one online form.
 - The [ICJ Expungement Policy](#) has been updated in Section IV: Procedures. The policy provides guidelines and procedures for expunging juvenile records from the Commission’s electronic information system.
 - The [ICJ Travel Reimbursement Policy](#) has been updated in Section IV, paragraph C. The policy ensures the prudent and reasonable use of Commission funds in the conduct of official business.
 - A “save the date” was announced for the [2024 Annual Business Meeting](#). The meeting will be held August 25-27, 2024, in Mobile, Alabama, at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - Representative Frieberg (SD) reported the Executive Committee met [January 24](#), [February 22](#), and March 28, 2024.
 - Director Underwood updated that Mary Kay Hudson (IN) resigned as Indiana’s ICJ Commissioner.
 - The FY 25 ICJ Dues were emailed last week. Should states require hard copies, please contact [Jenny Adkins](#).

- Last month, Director Underwood co-presented on the topic of ICJ Returns with Judge Robert Hofmann (NCJFCJ Ex Officio) and Commission Vice Chair Julie Hawkins (MO) during the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Juvenile Justice Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Ohio Commissioner, Sasaun Lane, also attended the conference staffed the ICJ exhibit booth.
 - A meeting is planned in April with Optimum Technologies, to discuss the future of UNITY and the contract renewal.
 - Several ICJ leaders recently completed the Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation (ACJI) Implementation Leadership Academy to learn more about “implementation science.”
 - A new survey will be forthcoming for the purpose of gathering information on returns. The results will be shared with the Executive Committee to establish priorities for a potential Returns Work Group. In the survey, members will be asked to share issues they are incurring related to returns and their frequency. Responses are encouraged from all Compact staff with a minimum of one per state.
- Compliance Committee
 - Compliance Committee Chair J. Rader (NE) reported the Compliance Committee met March 11 and April 3.
 - With the 2022 UNITY Data Assessment recommendations complete, the Compliance Committee is looking to develop a UNITY dashboard. The National Office will discuss development with Optimum Technologies during their meeting later this week. The goal of the proposed UNITY dashboard is to provide an overview of each individual state compared to the nation. It will serve to assist states with their internal processes related to compliance. In time, the usage of a dashboard will change the landscape on how the Commission conducts audits in the future.
 - Technology Committee
 - Technology Committee Chair K. Torres (IA) reported that the Technology Committee met [February 13](#), and [March 12](#), 2024. The next meeting is April 9, 2024.
 - The Technology Committee has two subcommittees: the Rule Enhancement Subcommittee and the Tableau/UNITY Maintenance Subcommittee.
 - The Rule Enhancement Subcommittee has been busy reviewing UNITY changes due to the rule amendments.
 - The Tableau/UNITY Maintenance Subcommittee has been working on UNITY Reports. A couple new reports are anticipated to premier in June. UNITY maintenance emails are in play and will continue throughout the year as needed.
 - The Technology Committee was tasked to review annual reported data related to returns and airport surveillance. Recommendations for both areas will be made to the Executive Committee.
 - Next up, the UNITY Enhancement Subcommittee will transition into the BA Subcommittee to review UNITY enhancements.
 - Racial Diversity Equity and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee
 - Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee member, J. Wald (ND), reported that the RDEI Committee met March 19, 2024.
 - The committee has been preparing for the Wednesday Workshop on [May 1](#): Racial DEI Best Practice on Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families. The training is based on the [ICJ Best Practice](#).
 - The next meeting is May 21, 2024.
 - Training Committee
 - Training, Education, and Public Relations Committee member, J. Wald (ND), reported that the Training Committee met [February 1](#), [March 7](#), and April 4, 2024.

- The Training Committee discussed adding an additional Wednesday Workshop to the calendar each month due to the high demand of training topics from other committees. The frequency will be reevaluated and may go back to one per month. The following sessions are scheduled next month:
 - [May 1](#): Racial DEI Best Practice on Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families
 - [May 29](#): Office of Refugee Resettlement Information Session
- As noted in the “ICJ Updates,” the [Training Report Form](#) has been improved to be more user friendly with the option to upload multiple in-state trainings in one submission.
- The first quarter training tallies were reported to the Training Committee in April as follows:
 - [TalentLMS](#)
 - 1,154 logins from 379 users
 - 2,128 course completions
 - [Wednesday Workshops and Live Trainings](#)
 - Total Attendees: 888 people
 - January: National Runaway Safeline
 - February: Absconder Reports
 - March: NCJFCJ Conference Workshop
 - 4 Rule Amendment Training Sessions (Every Wednesday in March)
 - [Online Training Reports](#)
 - 33 reports submitted
 - 14 states
 - 34 trainings conducted
 - 516 people trained
- The Training Committee drafted and approved a 2024 Annual Business Meeting agenda. The draft will be recommended to the Executive Committee later this month.
- During the last Training Committee meeting, the 2024 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) host state, Alabama, introduced the [Perdido Queen](#) dining cruise as an optional activity. The dock is walking distance from the hotel. The cost per person is \$69 and is to be paid for directly by the attendee 30 days in advance. Prior to obtaining additional information, they have asked that each region conduct a live poll to gauge interest.
- Joe Johnson, National Office Staff, administered the live poll and reported the results to be 75 percent (13 persons) interested in participating in the cruise.
- [Finance Committee](#)
 - Director Underwood reported the Finance Committee met February 15, 2024. An update from the Commission’s Vanguard representative was provided, who explained the investment strategy for the Commission and its success to date with a recommendation to continue the investment strategy.
 - The next meeting of the Finance Committee is May 9, 2024.

Unfinished Business

Update on the Midwest Region’s Request for UNITY Data

- Representative Frieberg (SD) recalled in the special meeting of the Midwest Region in March, the region requested specific data in UNITY before discussing next steps related to concerns about juveniles living in the receiving state prior to the transfer of supervision.
- Representative Frieberg (SD) suggested that once the requested data is available, a small group from the Midwest Region will review the information and share in the July 23, 2024, meeting. He will personally reach out to a few members to review the data and provide the report in July.
- There were no objections to the suggested plan of action.

New Business

- There was no new business.

Next Steps

- The next meeting is July 23, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m. ET.

Adjourn

Representative Frieberg (SD) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 11:37 a.m. ET.