

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

11:30 a.m. ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair S. Jones (MD) called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

J. Adkins, National Office, called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner, Chair
2. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Brooke Montelongo (CO), Commissioner
4. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
5. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
6. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

1. Latosha Mallory (AL)
2. Teecara Richardson (FL)
3. Rhonda Turner (FL)
4. April Simmons (IN)
5. Kimberly Heywood (UT)

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
2. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
3. Ashley Hodges (KY)
4. Abbye Tyler (MD)

Guest(s) in Attendance:

1. Sherri Springate (KY)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist Specialist
3. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Agenda

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

Minutes

- C. Frieberg (SD) made a motion to approve the January 16, 2024, meeting minutes. B. Montelongo (CO) seconded. The motion passed.
- The Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee observed a moment of silence for Executive Director Underwood and shared words of encouragement.

New Business

Review Training Materials for *Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families Best Practice* Wednesday Workshop on May 1, 2024

- Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair Jones (MD) presented the materials for the upcoming Wednesday Workshop on May 1, 2024, on Home Evaluations.
- A. Cabbagestalk, National Office, presented the slide deck for the session, which included the following:
 - The Commission's commitment to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and purpose of the RDEI committee.
 - The new Best Practice, published on June 22, 2023, is available on the Commission's website.
 - A definition of home evaluation, as well as an explanation of the Rule 4-104 amendment.
 - What should be considered when conducting home evaluations.
 - Cross-cultural strategies regarding openness, humility, and sensitivity.
 - Items to consider when reviewing home evaluations.
 - Unconventional family compositions.
 - Environmental factors.
 - The definition of substantial compliance.
 - Supportive documentation, such as an explanation of behavior, efforts to address non-compliance, and discussions about the recommendation.
 - Additional resources: best practice and LMS courses.
- T. Hunt (CT) praised the presentation and content. She suggested adding more information to ensure that the session addresses how our own biases or misperceptions should not get in the way of a fair evaluation.
- A. Cabbagestalk, National Office, suggested reordering the slides so that "unconventional family compositions" comes before "items to consider when reviewing home evaluations." T. Hunt (CT) and RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) agreed.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) said that discussing past trauma is important as it affects family structure, which plays a major role in the whole process.
- RDEI Committee Vice Chair Casey (DE) agreed that the presentation be well done and praised the efforts of Ms. Cabbagestalk.
- S. Springate (KY) commented that the entire presentation is positive and uplifting.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) acknowledged that the language in Rule 4-104 was changed from the negative to the positive, and that the presentation style matches that positivity.
- K. Heywood (UT) mentioned that in last week's Rule Amendment training, someone asked about a receiving state judge not allowing acceptance of supervision if a legal guardian is not present in the receiving state. J. Wald (ND) clarified that according to the ICJ Rules, a judge in the receiving state has no decision power regarding incoming transfer cases. The juvenile has already been adjudicated and dispositioned by the sending state court; the court in the receiving state is not involved with the decision to accept supervision.
- RDEI Committee Vice Chair Casey (DE) agreed and said that unless a court order states otherwise, the court in the receiving state has no say in acceptance or denial of incoming supervision cases.
- J. Wald (ND) said that she gets many questions about incoming cases that are difficult to supervise or provide services for. She tells North Dakota field staff to consider how they would treat a youth from their own state.

- RDEI Committee Vice Chair Casey (DE) commented that the *Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families* addresses that the parents are involved in the processes to enroll the youth in school or find medical services. The legal guardians should address any barriers.
- A. Cabbagestalk, National Office, thanked the work group who helped prepare the content for the presentation. She will email the presenters to reschedule the practice session.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) expressed her appreciation to all who worked on the new ICJ Best Practice document and the training.

Next Steps

- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) provided an update on the meeting with Marcia Goode, Senior Advisor, Office of the Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice, and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). During the meeting information was shared regarding the ICJ case demographics and disparities; the purpose of the RDEI Committee; and the Commission’s efforts to overcome barriers for all youth to ensure equitable outcomes. Representatives from OJJDP and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will attend a future RDEI Committee meeting to discuss options for educating the Commission on tribal issues relating to interstate cases.
- A. Cabbagestalk, National Office, shared that Marcia Goode (OJJDP) would like to present a session titled “Working with Tribal Nations 101” for a Wednesday Workshop to provide basic education to the Commission. Then, she would like to conduct a more intense session with the RDEI Committee to talk about disparities regarding case acceptance. A victim’s representative with the FBI who works with Indian youth would help facilitate the session. She also has connections with tribal juvenile justice agencies and offered to facilitate introductions to get conversations started.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) also suggested an ICJ Annual Business Meeting (ABM) panel discussion on building relationships with tribal nations. The panel would be composed of these parties could possibly include a native American youth.
- T. Hunt (CT) shared that she recently met with state staff who deal with tribal nations. The conversation caused her to wonder about the relationships between the courts and the tribal liaison, specifically how decisions are made with the liaison and their role is to assist families.
- There is no RDEI Committee meeting in April due to the Executive Committee Spring Meeting. The next RDEI Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2024, @ 2:00 p.m. ET.

Adjourn

RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 12:15 p.m. ET.