

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2025

11:00 a.m. EDT

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair M. Casey (DE) called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. EDT.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Francis “Mike” Casey (DE), Commissioner, Chair
2. Brooke Montelongo (CO), Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
4. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Designee
5. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner

Additional State ICJ Personnel in Attendance:

1. Rhonda Turner (FL)
2. April Simmons (IN)
3. Deanna McNulty (LA)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Eavey-Monique James (USVI), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
3. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist
4. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Guest in Attendance:

1. Felicia Dauway (SC), Commissioner

C. Frieberg (SD) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

B. Montelongo (CO) made a motion to approve the April 15, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Reports

Chair Report

- Chair M. Casey (DE) reported that Christina Kracher from the Department of Justice’s Office of Tribal Justice presented a *Wednesday Workshop* on Tribal Nations 101. The workshop provided an overview of the office's work with tribal nations, emphasizing the importance of

understanding tribal sovereignty and Indian law. He stated that A. Cabbagestalk (National Office) has a follow-up meeting with Ms. Kracher to discuss collaborating on a quick reference guide.

Report from Human Trafficking Subcommittee

- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) reported that 50 states responded to the Regional Human Trafficking Poll. She presented the poll results. Key finding included:
 - 58.8% of states responded that their state does have a standard response when a youth with human trafficking concerns is identified or suspected.
 - 47.1% of states responded that their state consistently utilizes a screening tool for human trafficking concerns.
 - 31.4% of states answered that their state does not have a designated contact for reporting or gathering information when human trafficking is suspected or confirmed.
 - States were asked what barriers their ICJ office has when selecting the human trafficking section of the UNITY case file, the main barrier identified was the lack of triggers in UNITY for inputting data.
- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) reported that the East Region voted to submit a UNITY Enhancement Request to make the field that captures data regarding human trafficking mandatory in the UNITY data system. The Human Trafficking Subcommittee recommended the RDEI Committee also submit a UNITY Enhancement Request.
- The image below was provided as a visual reference for the relevant fields in UNITY.

The screenshot displays the 'Pertinent Return Information' section of the UNITY system. It is divided into two main sections: 'Abuse/Neglect Alleged' and 'Human Trafficking'. Each section contains a dropdown menu for status (e.g., 'Yes', 'Confirmed'), a 'Details' field, and a 'Reported To' dropdown. Below these are fields for agency names and contact information.

Section	Status	Details	Reported To	Agency Name	Contact Name	Contact Phone
Abuse/Neglect Alleged	Yes		Reported To Child Welfare Agency	Child Welfare Agency Name	Child Welfare Agency Contact Name	Child Welfare Agency Contact Phone Number
Human Trafficking	Confirmed		Reported To Law Enforcement	Human Trafficking Child Welfare Agency Name	Human Trafficking Child Welfare Agency Contact Name	Human Trafficking Child Welfare Agency Contact Phone ...

- T. Hunt (CT) suggested the committee consider whether the "Other Pertinent Return Info" section captures all of the other information needed related to human trafficking and abuse.
- C. Frieberg (SD) recommended gathering more data and information before making a decision.
- **B. Montelongo (CO) made a motion to submit a UNITY enhancement request to make "other pertinent return information" section in UNITY mandatory. The motion was withdrawn.**
- Vice Chair B. Montelongo (CO) agreed to revisit the discussion with the Human Trafficking Subcommittee. The issue will be discussed again at the committee's next meeting.

Report from Movie Club Subcommittee

- D. Liedecke (TX) reported that the Movie Club Subcommittee met on April 25, 2025, to watch *PBS Cutline: Spotlight on Juvenile Justice*, in which T. Hunt was interviewed.
- T. Hunt (CT) discussed the evolution of juvenile justice legislation in Connecticut, highlighting the shift from punitive measures to more effective approaches. She addressed the establishment of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, which drives law and policy, and the ongoing efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities in the system.
- D. Liedecke (TX) reported that the next movie will be presented on May 30, 2025: *A Million Dollar Cage*. On July 11, 2025, the movie *The Central Park Five* will be presented.
- Chair M. Casey (DE) recommended opening the Movie Club sessions to Executive Committee and the Training Committee members.

- C. Frieberg (SD) made a motion to recommend that Executive Committee and Training Committee members be invited to attend Movie Club sessions in May and July. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was discussed.

New Business

- Chair M. Casey (DE) advised that the committee will discuss renaming the committee and/or reframing related statements at the next meeting, in consideration of recent national trends.
- Suggestions for consideration include:
 - Community Engagement Committee
 - Access and Advancement Committee
 - Inclusion and Impact Committee
 - Leadership and Inclusion Committee
- Members inquired about the need for change and whether the Commission was at risk of loss of funding. Director Underwood advised the Commission was funded entirely through dues paid by States. Personnel from at least 3 States have been admonished not to participate in RDEI-related activities.
- Members reiterated the value of maintaining the commitment to principals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and warned against making a hasty decision.

Next Steps

- The next RDEI Committee meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

Adjourn

Chair M. Casey (DE) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 12:00 p.m. EDT.