

**Interstate Commission for Juveniles**  
*Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee*  
*Meeting Minutes*



April 18, 2023  
2:00 p.m. ET  
Via Zoom

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**Voting Members in Attendance:**

1. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner, Chair
2. Francis "Mike" Casey (DE), Commissioner, Vice Chair
3. Tasha Hunt (CT), Commissioner
4. Becki Moore (MA), Commissioner
5. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
6. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance:**

1. Latosha Mallory (AL)
2. April Simmons (IN)
3. Stephen Jenkins (LA)

**Members Not in Attendance:**

1. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner
2. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner
3. Richetta Johnson (VA)

**Guests in Attendance:**

1. Shannon Yarber (CA)
2. Sherri Springate (KY)

**National Office Staff & Legal Counsel in Attendance:**

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

**Call to Order**

Chair S. Jones (MD) called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. ET.

**Roll Call**

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

**Agenda**

**F. Dauway (SC) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. J. Wald (ND) seconded. The motion carried.**

**Minutes**

**J. Wald (ND) made a motion to approve the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee's March 28, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. F. Casey (DE) seconded. The motion carried.**

## Discussion

### ICJ Rule 4-104 Amendment Proposal Submission Update

- Racial DEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) updated on the proposed amendment to Rule 4-104: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision submitted by herself and F. Casey (DE).
- F. Casey (DE) and J. Wald (ND) attended the Rules Committee April 5, 2023 meeting to provide support for the proposal and answer questions.
- F. Casey (DE) acknowledged that it was a good experience and she shared the Rules Committee's feedback. In summary, the Rules Committee agreed with the intention of promoting kinship care and helping juveniles maintain long-term connection. However, they did not vote to support the proposal for adoption. The Rules Committee recommended developing a best practice/resource on home evaluations and provided some suggestions.
- J. Wald (ND) commented that while a best practice/resource is a good idea, a best practice does not carry the weight of a rule. Therefore, some Compact offices view it as a guideline and not a requirement.
- B. Moore (MA) commented that the proactive proposal was intended to create a systemic change to address inequities. This concept is a new way of thinking for most and will require time to evolve the culture. She compared it to running a marathon, not a sprint, and to encouraged the committee to continue to work to evolve. T. Hunt (CT) shared that family engagement is a big topic in her state. Recently, Connecticut changed the definition of family to better reflect the realities that many experience.
- B. Moore (MA) suggested adding a speaker on the topic at 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Director Underwood updated that the 2023 ABM Agenda is set; however, it is not too early to think about the 2024 ABM Agenda.

### Ideas for a Best Practice/Resource on Home Evaluations

- Chair Jones (MD) opened the floor for ideas for a best practice/resource on home evaluations. The Committee recently completed a survey on the topic and the responses were shared.
- T. Hunt (CT) suggested a training on the Commission's learning management system or a live training.
- J. Wald (ND) mentioned that she could take the suggestion back to the Training Committee.
- Director Underwood suggested the committee focus on defining the problem prior to addressing a solution. T. Hunt (CT) added that it the problem is related to the culture of the Commission.
- Chair S. Jones (MD) noted the importance of understanding the purpose of the home evaluation in general.
- F. Dauway (SC) shared that South Carolina held a staff training on implicit bias and the ICJ Rules, home evaluations, quarterly progress reports (QPRs), and violation reports.
- S. Springate (KY) suggested including information/guidance about mandatory acceptance in a positive light.
- J. Wald (ND) suggested including information about the communication between states.

- The consensus of the RDEI Committee was to incorporate equity language into the best practice/resource. Below are the Work Team members who have agreed to develop best practices on the topic of ICJ Home Evaluations:
  - F. Casey (DE)
  - A. Simmons (IN)
  - S. Jenkins (LA)
  - J. Wald (ND)
  - B. Moore (MA)
- The RDEI Committee will not meet in May. The time will be used by the Work Team to develop the best practices.

### **Old Business**

- Chair S. Jones (MD) reminded members to continue to send pertinent resources related to the work of the committee to Amanee Cabbagestalk for inclusion in the monthly “ICJ Updates” newsletter.

### **New Business**

- Chair S. Jones (MD) suggested further discussion of how to improve collaborations when promulgating rules.

### **Adjourn**

**Chair Jones (MD) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:07 p.m. ET.**