

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



June 20, 2023
2:00 p.m. ET
Via Zoom

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

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

1. April Simmons (IN)
2. Stephen Jenkins (LA)

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Marvin Speed (CA), Commissioner
2. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
3. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner
4. Jessica Nash (RI), Commissioner
5. Richetta Johnson (VA)

Guests in Attendance:

1. Sherri Springate (KY)
2. Curtis Murry (CA)

National Office Staff & Legal Counsel in Attendance:

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

Call to Order

Vice Chair Casey (DE) called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

T. Hunt (CT) 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 April 18, 2023, Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee meeting minutes as presented. B. Moore (MA) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Proposed Amendment to ICJ Rule 4-104: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision *Submitted by Commissioners S. Jones (MD) and M. Casey (DE)*

- Vice Chair Casey (DE) recalled that the Rules Committee did not support adoption of the proposed amendment to Rule 4-104: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision as submitted.
- He reported that after reviewing comments at their May 16 meeting, the Rules Committee recommended changes to the language for consideration.
- Commissioners Casey and Jones discussed the changes and agreed the recommended modifications would strengthen the proposal. The justification was updated to focus on the data reviewed in 2022, which led to the proposal.
- J. Wald (ND) voiced approval for the recommendations and agreed the suggestions were positive and retained the intent of the proposal.
- S. Jones (MD) and M. Casey (DE) shared their appreciation to the group for their contributions and their appreciation of the Commission's process.
- The Rules Committee was notified of the acceptance and the proposal will move forward as amended.
- Director Underwood updated on the next steps and the process for rule proposals.
 - During the ICJ 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), there will be a training session on Tuesday about all proposals. The session will be presented by Rules Committee members, accompanied by representatives of rule proposals not developed by the Rules Committee.
 - The final vote will occur on Wednesday during the General Session.
 - After passage of the rule amendments, the National Office will review and update all related resources and complete UNITY modifications, as needed.
 - Training will be provided on all amendments prior the effective date.
 - New rules will go into effect by April 2023.

Review Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families

- Vice Chair Casey (DE) advised that the Rules Committee also recommended development of a best practice.
- He presented a draft "*Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families*" developed by the RDEI Work Group for consideration. The best practice was developed to provide guidance on preparation of home evaluations.
- Director Underwood updated on the approval process for new ICJ best practices. New or amended best practice resources go to either the Training Committee or the Executive Committee for approval for publication.
- Director Underwood requested input about how to bring more attention to the best practice, in addition to announcing and posting on the website.
- A. Cabbagestalk shared that a training outline related to the new best practice has been developed. It could be used to provide a live training session, which

could be recorded and uploaded to the TalentLMS training site for on-demand learning.

- S. Springate (KY) voiced support for posting, announcing, and training. She suggested that “more is better” to increase visibility, since the Commission’s website hosts many resources.
- T. Hunt (CT) suggested spotlighting jurisdictions to showcase how they have put the best practice into action. She asked whether the UNITY system tracks data related to kinship placement. Director Underwood replied that the system does not track this information. S. Jones (MD) suggested that states could submit scenarios for publication, similar to the “runaway of the month” series in the past.
- Director Underwood noted that the “runaway of the month” series was discontinued due to the lack of submissions from states. She suggested that the RDEI Committee members would need to take the lead in submitting scenarios for publication.
- Vice Chair Casey (DE) took an informal poll to discern how to best move forward.
- T. Hunt (CT) and S. Jenkins (LA) supported aligning the publication of the best practice with training in conjunction with the rule amendment passage for the largest impact.
- **J. Wald (ND) made a motion to approve publication of the “*Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families*” as presented, and to provide training after the decision on the proposed amendment to Rule 4-104: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision. B. Moore (MA) seconded. The motion passed.**

Violation Reports Best Practice Update

- Vice Chair Casey (DE) commented that due to the focus and work on the proposed amendment of Rule 4-104 and the new “*Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families*,” the committee has not completed a best practice on violation reports.
- A. Cabbagestalk suggested the task could be carried over to next year, as the committee is winding down in preparation for the Annual Business Meeting.
- The committee members agree to move the best practice on violation reports to the top of the to do list for next year’s committee.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- S. Jones (MD) asked that members identify and encourage potential leaders to seek nomination for an officer position or other leadership role in 2024.
- A. Cabbagestalk reminded members that registration is now open for the 2023 ICJ Annual Business Meeting for the ICJ Commissioners/Designees. Registration will open for everyone else on July 6.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Casey (DE) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 2:48 p.m. ET.