

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024

2:00 p.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 2:00 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood 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. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee
7. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

1. Teecara Richardson (FL)
2. April Simmons (IN)
3. Ashley Hodges (KY)
4. Kimberly Heywood (UT)

Members Not in Attendance:

1. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
2. Latosha Mallory (AL)
3. Rhonda Turner (FL)
4. Abbye Tyler (MD)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist
3. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Agenda

J. Wald (ND) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. B. Montelongo (CO) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

M. Casey (DE) made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023, meeting minutes. T. Hunt (CT) seconded. The motion passed.

Check-ins

- Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair Jones (MD) led a check-in self-check awareness.

Meeting Norms

- Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair Jones (MD) shared the list of nine (9) meeting norms established last year. The norms emphasize the importance of respecting each other's statements, avoiding generalizations, and allowing for disagreement.
- **T. Hunt (CT) made a motion to adopt the meeting norms as presented for the year. F. Dauway (SC) seconded. The motion passed.**

Reports

Overview of 2023 Accomplishments

Rule 4-104: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision Amendment Proposal)

- One of the accomplishments in 2023 by the RDEI Committee was the proposed amendment to Rule 4-104. The proposal was the work of the committee and was submitted by the RDEI Committee Chair and Vice Chair. The rule amendment passed. During the process of updating the current ICJ Rules, a few grammatical modifications and minor consistency edits were noted.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) shared the modified version and explained that she and RDEI Committee Vice Chair Casey (DE) endorsed the grammatical modifications, noting they did not change the intent of the proposal.
- Director Underwood elaborated on the updating of resources by the ICJ National Office after the passage of rule amendments. She explained the changes to be necessary and do not change the intent of the amendment.
- The RDEI Committee reviewed the modifications and agreed.
- **F. Dauway (SC) made a motion to endorse the modifications to the amended Rule 4-104 as presented. C. Frieberg (SD) seconded. The motion passed.**

Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families Best Practice

- A related accomplishment in 2023 by the RDEI Committee was the development of the [Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families Best Practice](#) resource.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) provided an over of the Best Practice and the background of the development. The new Best Practice was published on June 22, 2023, and is available on the Commission's website.

New Business

Select Regional Ambassadors

- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) opened the floor for members to volunteer to be the RDEI regional ambassadors in their respective region meetings. Regional ambassadors provide updates during regional meetings on the work of the RDEI Committee.
- The following committee members volunteered:
 - East – Tasha Hunt (CT)
 - Midwest – Jessica Wald (ND)
 - South – Sherry Jones (MD)
 - West – Brooke Montelongo (CO)

Identify trainers for [Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families Wednesday Workshop](#) on April 24, 2024

- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) recalled the committee agreed to provide live training related to the new rule proposed that passed. The curriculum and power point for the training session are complete and ready for volunteers to lead the session.
- Jessica Wald (ND), Kimberly Heywood (UT), Felicia Dauway (SC), and April Simmons (IN) volunteered. Chair Jones (MD) will also reach out to Latasha Mallory (AL) to assist with the [Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families, Wednesday Workshop](#) training session.
- Director Underwood added the date of the Wednesday Workshop overlaps with the in-person Spring Executive Committee meeting and will need to be changed. Amanee Cabbagestalk will work with presenters to coordinate.

Discuss how states collaborate with tribal nations and possible live training.

- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) updated on a collaboration meeting between the ICJ Officers and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP). From the collaboration, Kellie Blue, OJJDP Associate Administrator, Youth Justice, and System Innovation Division, will explore potential partnerships.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) asked members to share what their states are doing related to tribal nations.
- C. Frieberg (SD) shared the significant progress that South Dakota has made collaborating with the nine (9) reservations within the state, with support of a state/tribal juvenile diversion grant. A few of Native American groups provide drug and alcohol prevention and recovery programs for younger adults. He added that the tribal leaders serve two-year terms, which makes it difficult to sustain continuity in working relationships and projects. One county's population is 99 percent Native American. The Diversion Coordinator works as a liaison for technical assistance for both sides to respond to the youth in the diversion programs rather than a county court. The South Dakota Diversion Coordinator meets regularly with six of the nine tribes. C. Frieberg (SD) emphasized the importance of culturally sensitive programming.
- J. Wald (ND) highlighted North Dakota's effective working relationship with their five (5) tribal reservations. There are liaisons and the cases are handled through the juvenile courts. Supervision on the reservation is allowed; however, enforcement of the law is not. The relationship building has taken a long time to develop. Communication is key and Native Americans are included in many of the state training/conferences.

Next Steps

- Collaboration with OJJDP continues with plans to invite someone from OJDP to a future RDEI meeting.
- RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) reminded members that the committee can share relative links to resources related to racial justice, LBGTQ, and human trafficking with Amanee Cabbagestalk and she will include in the *ICJ Updates* monthly newsletter.
- The February 20, 2024, and March 19, 2024, meeting times are moved to 11:30 a.m. ET to accommodate the members participating in the Implementation Leadership Academy.

Adjourn

RDEI Committee Chair Jones (MD) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 3:01 p.m. ET.