

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023
4:00 p.m. MST
ABM Onsite Meeting



Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee, Region Representative
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner, Alternate Region Representative
3. Patrick Pendergast (AL), Designee
4. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
5. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
6. Rusty Rodgers (GA), Commissioner
7. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner
8. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
9. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
10. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
11. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
12. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
13. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
14. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Designee
15. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
2. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner

Non-Voting Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Latosha Mallory (AL)
2. Terrance Clayton (FL)
3. Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (GA)
4. Tracy Cassell (GA)
5. Stephen Jenkins (LA)
6. Yolanda Latimer (LA)
7. Janet Self (MS)
8. Mason Harrington (SC)
9. Bridget Webb (SC)

Ex Officiis in Attendance:

1. Juan Sepulveda (AL), National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)

Guests in Attendance:

1. Linda Nieves (TN), TN State Council Member (Agency's Attorney)
2. Carla Fults, Association Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Call to Order

Representative F. Dauway (SC) called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. MST.

Roll Call

System Project Manager Joe Johnson called the roll and a quorum was established.

Agenda

C. Copeland (TN) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. J. Hall (FL) seconded. The motion carried.

Minutes

J. Hawkins (MO) made a motion to approve the July 25, 2023 meeting minutes. J. Regis (DC) seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion

Hot Topics:

- 2023 ICJ Rule Proposals
 - There were no questions regarding 2023 ICJ Rule Proposals.
- Effective Strategies for Training Locals
 - S. Horton (NC) expressed challenges for in-state training in a high labor turnover environment.
 - Representative F. Dauway (SC) commented that there was a need for family court judges training and emphasized the importance of properly trained field staff. S. Jones (MD) supported efforts to provide ICJ presentations at judges' conferences.
 - C. Copeland (TN) commented on the importance of establishing a relationship with the state administrative office of the courts and to seek inclusion on agendas for ICJ training at state judicial conferences and trainings for state agency attorneys.
- Published Toolkit on Returns and Child Welfare
 - Representative F. Dauway (SC) reviewed the [ICJ Updates](#) with regards to the published toolkit on returns and child welfare.
 - J. Hawkins (MO) briefed on her experiences working with child welfare agencies.
 - Carla Fults (AAICPC) shared insight from her experiences working with child welfare agencies. She provided operational tips and suggestions on how to best navigate agency interactions and referenced the AAICPC Regulations.
 - J. Hall (FL) briefed on Florida's information about ICPC and child welfare operational practices.

State Updates

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) updated that all South Carolina field staff training sessions have been completed apart from two makeup dates. The state continues to experience facility overcrowding and limited staff.
- J. Hall (FL) updated that the Florida Compact office is fully staffed. Florida too continues with crowded facilities.
- P. Pendergast (AL) reported that Alabama does not have issues with holding juveniles in detention. The probation field officers work with Alabama state attorneys and the administrative offices of the courts to facilitate detention issues. Additionally, he reported that Alabama has an ICJ runaway protocol.
- S. Jones (MD) reported that Maryland has ongoing training for newly hired staff. The Maryland Compact staff continue to operate on a hybrid schedule. S. Jones (MD) shared a human trafficking case that resulted in a positive outcome.
- J. Miller (AR) updated that the Arkansas Division of Youth Services staff members have a choice to work remotely or in their offices. Arkansas has closed detention centers and is incurring challenges housing runaway juveniles.
- J. Hawkins (MO) stated that Missouri raised the age of majority to 18. Missouri also continues to experience insufficient holding facilities and staffing facilities.
- S. Reynolds-Cobb (GA) updated that Georgia has sufficient housing; however, the state is short staffed. Georgia works closely with the Georgia Department of Human Services to facilitate housing of juveniles as needed.
- M. Baggett (MS) updated that Mississippi is in the process of selecting a new state council member.
- S. Jenkins (LA) updated that Louisiana continues to experience insufficient bed space and labor turnover/shortage issues. A. Bridgewater (LA) added that over the last three (3) years, the state deployed probation and parole officers to help staff the secure care facilities. Louisiana is contracting with an outside entity to relieve the state probation and parole officers of their secure care facility duties to allow state probation and parole officers to resume their primary regional duties. Facility licensing and monitoring duties have been moved to the Office of Juvenile Justice by the state legislative body.
- R. Hendryx (OK) reported he continues to work remotely, and Audry Rockwell continues to work in the Compact office. R. Hendryx (OK) spoke about a new "Hope Initiative" that recognizes the critical nature of juvenile trauma.
- D. Liedecke (TX) updated that Texas too is experiencing crowded detention centers.
- J. Regis (DC) updated that the District of Columbia is also experiencing staffing issues in the detention centers. Additionally, he updated on warrant issues with judges and is seeking support from the National Office.
- S. Horton (NC) updated that Rachel Johnson (NC) trained 305 North Carolina staff as the state works to transition to a UNITY model 1 state. To stay ahead of the labor turnover in North Carolina with a 35% decline in field staff, North Carolina will begin training on the amended ICJ Rules at the beginning of the year.
- C. Copeland (TN) shared state incentives instituted to address the labor shortage.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Representative F. Dauway (SC) shared that New Jersey is combing through “cold cases” and running DNA tests. The DNA test outcomes can impact juvenile cases that are decades old. States may be contacted about cases that are impacted.

Adjourn

Representative Dauway adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 4:46 p.m. MST.