

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024

10:00 a.m. ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative F. Dauway (SC) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee, Region Representative
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner, Alternate Region Representative
3. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
4. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
5. Rusty Rodgers (GA), Commissioner
6. Melina Hampton (KY), Designee
7. Stephen Jenkins (LA), Designee
8. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
9. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
10. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
11. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
12. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
13. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Designee
14. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
15. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Tracy Cassell (GA), Designee
2. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee
3. Chanda Leshoure (AL)
4. Latosha Mallory (AL)
5. Terrance Clayton (FL)
6. Alannah Flagler (FL)
7. Ty Ligon (FL)
8. Ryan Smith (FL)
9. Rhonda Turner (FL)
10. Sherri Springate (KY)
11. Benjamin Turner (KY)
12. Latoya Oliver (MD)
13. Rachel Johnson (NC)
14. Mason Harrington (SC)
15. Bridget Webb (SC)
16. Jessica Stefenack (VA)

South Region Voting Members Not in Attendance:

1. Patrick Pendergast (AL), Designee
2. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
3. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner
4. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
5. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
6. Jeffrey Cartmell (OK), Commissioner
7. Louis (Lou) Serrano (TX), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Emma Goode, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
3. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policies Specialist
4. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager

Agenda

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) highlighted the new agenda format.
- **N. Dalton (VA) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. S. Horton (NC) seconded. The motion passed.**

Minutes

- **J. Hall (FL) made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023, meeting minutes. S. Bond (WV) seconded. The motion passed.**

Check-ins

- As an icebreaker activity, Representative F. Dauway (SC) opened the floor for members to share any major events in their lives that they wished to share.
- R. Hendryx (OK) announced that Jeffrey Cartmell (OK) is the new Oklahoma ICJ Commissioner.
- M. Hampton (KY) announced that Kentucky is searching for a new Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner. In the interim, Larry Chandler has been named acting Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner.

Reports

Hot Topics from “ICJ Updates”

- Representative Dauway (SC) reported the following hot topics from the most recent issue of the “ICJ Updates.”
 - All ICJ State Council 2023 Reports are due January 31, 2024. Reports may be submitted online on the Commission’s website.
 - Rule Amendment Training Sessions will be provided live each Wednesday in March prior to the new rules going into effect April 1, 2024. Registration is available on the website for each of the following sessions.
 - Training Session A: Rule, Form, and UNITY Changes pertaining to the Transfer of Supervision and Travel Permit Cases
 - March 6, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - March 13, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - Training Session B: Rule, Form, and UNITY Changes pertaining to Returns and Failed Supervision Cases
 - March 20, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - March 27, 2024 @ 1:00 pm ET
 - On January 31, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m. ET, the National Runaway Safeline will provide the ICJ Wednesday Workshop. [Registration is available on the Commission’s website.](#)

- Representative Dauway (SC) shared that South Carolina was approved for a grant that will provide financial assistance for transitional housing for youth up to age 23. The grant is an effort to address the increasing homeless population in the state.

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee
 - Representative Dauway (SC) reported the Executive Committee met in November and December. She provided highlights from the meetings as follows.
 - The Executive Committee will conduct the 2-day Spring Planning Meeting in April in Louisville, Kentucky.
 - UNITY Privacy Policy Work Team was created to review the policy.
 - Nataki Brown was elected as the Victims Representative for the Commission and will serve on the ICJ Executive Committee.
 - Results from the 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Survey were reviewed by both Executive and Training Committees. Planning is underway for 2024 ABM.
- Compliance Committee
 - Compliance Committee member M. Harrington (SC) reported the Compliance Committee met in December and January. They are asking all regions to provide feedback on the Proactive Monitoring Program via a live poll in all regions to be conducted later in the meeting.
- Rules Committee
 - Rules Committee Chair S. Horton (NC) reported that the Rules Committee met [December 20, 2023](#). The Rules Committee 2-year calendar was approved through April 2025. As reported earlier, rule amendments training and preparation is well underway.
 - The Rules Committee discussed the meaning of “appropriate authority,” as used in Rule 6-103 as it relates to the non-voluntary return of runaways. The Rules Committee recommended the Executive Committee develop a work group to address the concerns.
 - The Rules Committee began discussing a proposed amendment to create an appeals process for denied home evaluations. Also, the committee will discuss extending the 45-day time frame for home evaluations.
 - The committee will continue to discuss issues related to collaborations with child welfare agencies at future meetings.
- Training Committee
 - Training Committee Ambassador Chanda Leshoure (AL) reported the Training Committee met in December and January. The 2023 ABM Survey results were shared for the discussion and planning for the 2024 ABM in Mobile, Alabama.
 - The online in-state training report form is being modified to simplify and expedite submissions.

Unfinished Business

Discuss Child Welfare Collaborations

- Representative Dauway (SC) recalled the panel discussion during the ABM 2023 and opened the floor for additional feedback.
- R. Hendryx (OK) shared that the Oklahoma Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) Coordinator has been a great contact in the process when needed.
- S. Horton (NC) spoke to the differences in state organizational charts. More challenges seem to arise in states where the child welfare agency and the ICJ are housed in different departments. Strong relationships between ICPC and ICJ improve in-state communications and issues.

New Business

Provide feedback on the Proactive Monitoring Program

- J. Adkins, National Office, explained the purpose of the poll is to gather feedback related to the Proactive Monitoring Program for the Compliance Committee. The poll included four questions (two multiple choice questions and two open response questions). J. Adkins, National Office, administered the poll.
- The results from all regions will be accumulated and results shared in the future.

Next Steps

- N. Dalton (VA) requested discussion of ICJ returns involving juveniles placed by the US Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) during the new business section of a future meeting. She shared that Virginia was recently involved in three challenging cases involving the ORR. The challenges included establishing jurisdiction and obtaining documentation of entitlement for the return. Representative Dauway (SC) requested more information and agreed to include the topic on a future agenda.
- R. Hendryx (OK) expressed concerns about conducting home evaluations in cases where the family appears to be homeless. He cited four cases in which the home evaluation revealed there was no real residence. Addresses included store fronts, living in cars, and a borrowed home. He shared the difficulty finding a home base and how to conduct home evaluations when there is no home. Other region members suggested review of the [ICJ Best Practice: Working with Homeless Juveniles](#) and [ICJ Advisory Opinion #01-2018](#).
- S. Horton (NC) shared his experience with a recent transfer of supervision request wherein it appeared there was no intention of residing at the address submitted. He suggested it may be more appropriate to begin with an ICJ Travel Permit in some cases. ICJ Travel Permits may be issued for up to 90 days while an appropriate residence is established. This practice makes the legal guardian responsible for locating a residence rather than the sending state.
- C. Copeland (TN) commented that the sending state is usually not aware the address is an empty lot until the receiving state notifies them. J. Hall (FL) concurred.
- Representative Dauway (SC) agreed to include the topic on a future meeting agenda.

Adjourn

Representative Dauway (SC) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 10:49 a.m. ET.