

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024

11:00 am ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative F. Dauway (SC) called the meeting to order at 11:00 am ET.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Felicia Dauway (SC), Designee, Regional Representative
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner, Alternate Regional Representative
3. Patrick Pendergast (AL), Designees
4. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
5. Rusty Rodgers (GA), Commissioner
6. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
7. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee
8. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
9. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
10. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Designee
11. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
12. Stephanie Bond (WV), Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Tracy Cassell (GA), Designee
2. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee
3. Melinda Hampton (KY), Designee
4. Alannah Flagler (FL)
5. Latosha Mallory (AL)
6. Ryan Smith (FL)
7. Terrance Clayton (FL)
8. Rhonda Turner (FL)
9. Benjamin Turner (KY)
10. Deanna McNulty (LA)
11. Shanice Rhyne (GA)
12. Ashley Hodges (KY)
13. Abbye Tyler (MD)
14. Latoya Oliver (MD)
15. Rachel Johnson (NC)
16. Mason Harrington (SC)
17. Jessica Stefenack (VA)

South Region Voting Members Not in Attendance:

1. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
2. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner

3. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
4. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
5. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
6. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
7. Jeffrey Cartmell (OK), Commissioner
8. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
9. Louis (Lou) Serrano (TX), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

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

Agenda

J. Hall (FL) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A. Welch (KY) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes

J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024, meeting minutes. J. Hall (FL) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Check-ins

Representative F. Dauway (SC) opened the floor for members to answer two check-in questions:

- What is one word to describe how you are feeling today?
- What makes you feel like your job is important?

Reports

Hot Topics from *ICJ Updates*

- Representative Dauway (SC) shared highlights from the last issues of the *ICJ Updates* monthly newsletters.
 - Register for the dinner cruise offered during the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in Mobile, Alabama. If you have any questions, please contact L. Mallory (AL).
 - [2023 State Council Report](#) has been published on the Commission's website.
 - States should [submit in-state training reports](#) no later than July 31, 2024.
 - [Register](#) for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting in Mobile, Alabama by August 9, 2024.
 - A new [ICJ Request Form is now available on the Commission's website.](#)

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

- Representative Dauway (SC) reported the Executive Committee last met June 27, 2024 and discussed concerns related to virtual hearings for juveniles who were detained.
- Director Underwood reported that 49 out of 52 jurisdictions responded to the survey on Returning Non-Delinquent Runaways. The findings will be presented to the Executive Committee at the next meeting. She stated that one of the top three issues reported is that holding states do not provide adequate information regarding the circumstances in which the juvenile is located to the home/demanding state.
- Director Underwood also reported that the nomination period is open until August 9, 2024.

- This year, elections will be held for Commission Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Regional Representatives.
- Individuals can also submit nominations for the Leadership Award, Rising Star Award, and the Legacy Award.

Rules Committee

- Rules Committee member J. Hawkins (MO) reported the Rules Committee last met on July 17, 2024 and they discussed a proposed amendment to the travel permit rule. The committee has tabled the proposal in order to redraft the language.
- J. Hawkins (MO) reported the Rules Committee also discussed removing the phrase “best interest” from the ICJ Form III. The discussion was tabled.

Training, Education, and Public Relations Committee

- Training Committee member D. Liedecke (TX) reported the Training Committee met on July 11, 2024 and they discussed scenarios for the training session at the 2024 ABM.
- Training Committee member T. Cassell (GA) reported the Training Committee also discussed creating a new detailed bench card for attorneys or prosecutors to be used when returning juveniles.
- T. Cassell (GA) reported the Training Committee also discussed the new First-Time Attendee Orientation Luncheon at ABM.

Compliance Committee

- Director Underwood reported the Compliance Committee met on June 5, 2024 and discussed the idea of creating a new dashboard that will roll out in stages. The dashboard will help states monitor their compliance rates easily and help states visualize case management. The first dashboard is related to transfers of supervision cases.

Finance Committee

- Finance Committee Ambassador P. Pendergast (AL) reported that the Finance Committee was scheduled to meet on July 18, 2024 to finalize the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2026.
- He reported the Finance Committee made changes to the travel reimbursement policy and would finalize the plans to educate commission members about changes at the next meeting.

Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

- Director Underwood reported that the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee met on July 15, 2024 and discussed data that related to race and ICJ cases. She reported there were some minor differences in the rates at which African American youths are moving through the system. The data showed that African American youths are overrepresented in ICJ cases, as they are in the juvenile justice system.
- Director Underwood also reported that the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee discussed the tracking of data regarding human trafficking in UNITY. The committee noticed that in most ICJ cases, no data is entered. Changes were made to the UNITY data management system so that human trafficking information can be entered on any sort of case and at any time during the process.
- The Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee also discussed a training that was provided to the committee by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) regarding collaborating with Native American tribes.

Unfinished Business

- Representative Dauway (SC) recalled the discussion regarding “unhoused youth” from the January South Region meeting.
- Representative Dauway (SC) shared that the term “unhoused” replaced the term “homeless” in the related ICJ best practice guide.
- Representative Dauway (SC) shared the following statistics:
 - On a single night in 2023, 34,703 unaccompanied youth were counted as homeless. 90% of these were between the ages of 18 and 24. The remaining 9.3%, which is 3,240 children, were under the age of 18.
 - 40.8% of unhoused youth are unsheltered or sleeping in places not meant for human habitation.
 - The most commonly quoted number of unhoused youths under the age of 18 comes from the National Incident Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrown-away Children. According to them, over 99% of youth will eventually return home, many remain away from home for over one week and some remain gone for over month.
 - Child trafficking is tied directly into unhoused youth. The unhoused youth are more vulnerable to become victims of child sex trafficking.
- Representative Dauway (SC) reported South Carolina has several independent living programs for unhoused youth. South Carolina also has several voluntary programs that serve youth aged 16-18 and other programs that serve ages 17–24.
- Representative Dauway (SC) asked members to share any resources their states might offer.
- Director Underwood reported the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Christopher Holloway, would be a good resource to use. She reported the Runaway and Homeless Youth program helps fund shelters and programs for homeless youth.
- Director Underwood shared that Chris Holloway worked for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the same time the Compact was redrafted and he was involved with the process of creating the new Compact that was adopted by the states.
- Director Underwood reported that another resource is Susan Frankel, who is the Executive Director for the National Runaway Safeline. She reported that Susan Frankel attended the 2023 ABM and is a member of the Training Committee.
- J. Miller (AR) asked if the discussion regarding “unhoused youth” is related to conducting home evaluations when families are living in their cars.
- Representative Dauway (SC) recommended tabling the discussion until the next meeting so that members in the South Region can share the challenges they are seeing or how cases are being handled.
- J. Miller (AR) asked if there were any best practices or documents that tells receiving states how to proceed with a case where the family does not have housing.
- Representative Dauway (SC) suggested formulate questions to ask Susan Frankel with the National Runaway Safeline at ABM to better serve the population.
- Director Underwood and J. Adkins shared a resource regarding [Best Practices on Unhoused Juveniles](#).

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Next Steps

- Representative Dauway (SC) shared she would work with the National Office to invite Susan Frankel to ABM. She requested South Region members to come prepared with questions.
- The South Region’s next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2024 in Mobile, Alabama.

Adjourn

Representative Dauway (SC) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 11:49 am ET.