

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2024

3:35 pm CT

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza

Mobile, Alabama



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative F. Dauway (SC) called the meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. CT.

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), Designee
4. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
5. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
6. Tracy Cassell (GA), Designee
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. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
16. Lynn Fielder (WV), Designee

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Latosha Mallory (AL)
2. Rhonda Turner (FL)
3. Shawanda Reynolds-Cobb (GA)
4. Deanna McNulty (LA)
5. Yolonda Latimer (LA)
6. Janet Self (MS)
7. Mason Harrington (SC)
8. Bridget Webb (SC)

South Region Voting Members Not in Attendance:

1. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
2. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
3. Jeffrey Cartmell (OK), Commissioner
4. Louis (Lou) Serrano (TX), Commissioner

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist

Guests:

1. Tom Langer, Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICHAOS), Alabama
2. Juan Sepulveda, National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS), Alabama
3. Nataki Brown, ICJ Victims Representative, South Carolina
4. Niesha Robinson, Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC), Georgia
5. Cindy Wang, Department of Juvenile Justice, Georgia

Agenda

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

Minutes

J. Miller (AR) made a motion to approve the July 18, 2024, meeting minutes. A. Bridgewater (LA) seconded the motion. Representative Dauway approved the minutes by unanimous consent without objection.

Check-ins

Representative F. Dauway (SC) initiated a check-in activity for the region members to share one word to describe how they are feeling.

Reports

Hot Topics from *ICJ Updates*

- Hot Topics from “*ICJ Updates*” (Region Representative)
 - Wednesday Workshop Live Training Session
 - Best Practices for the “Final Travel Plan” in UNITY on August 28, 2024
 - Distribution of *2024 Annual Report*
 - Hard copies of the recently released annual report are now available. Each state may pick up 10 copies during the Annual Business Meeting. There is also a signup sheet for requesting additional copies.
 - Committee sign-ups for 2024-2025 (using YAPP App)
 - Members were encouraged to sign up for committees for the year ahead using the meeting application (YAPP App). The link will also be sent via email after the annual meeting.
- Committee Reports
 - Executive Committee (Region Representative)
 - Representative F. Dauway shared the Executive Committee met on Monday, September 23, 2024 and discussed the potential storm threatening Mobile, Alabama, and other southern states. Attendees planning to leave the Annual Business Meeting early were advised to inform the National Office as soon as possible. If there is no quorum at the General Session, a virtual meeting will be planned at a later date.

- Representative F. Dauway announced the Executive Committee received the Fiscal Year 2024 Auditor Report. The audit resulted in an “unmodified opinion” which indicates a “good, clean audit”.
- Representative F. Dauway shared that Director Underwood met with officials from Guam, who are interesting in potentially adopting the Compact.
- The Executive Committee approved a registration for Youth HOPE Month partner, sponsored by the National Runaway Safeline.
- Representative Dauway shared that the Executive Committee made amendments to the *Fact Sheet on ICJ Returns and Non-Delinquent Youths* and the *Executive Committee Handbook*.
- The Executive Committee approved the new contract for operation and enhancements of UNITY.
 - Director Underwood shared new UNITY Contract changes:
 - Transferred ownership of UNITY software from Optimum Technologies (OTech) to the Commission.
 - Added requirement for OTech to provide cybersecurity risk insurance.
 - Established regular monthly release cycles, which will consolidate updates to UNITY for non-critical support fixes and Microsoft system updates.
 - Established new support resolution timeframe.
 - To enhance security, multi-factor authentication will be implemented by 12/31/2024.
 - To support periodic assessment of performance measurement standards, UNITY SQL tables will be updated to capture and store home evaluation, quarterly progress reports, and violation report dates in UNITY by 12/31/2024.
 - Refined enhancement process; establishes that changes to existing functionalities will not result in additional maintenance and support costs.
 - Established plan for annual reset of UNITY Training system. “Juvenile profiles” and “user profiles” will be retained, cases will be removed.
- R. Hendryx (OK) asked if travel permits will be tracked reports on UNITY?
 - Director Underwood replied that eventually a dashboard and new report will be created to help track travel permits for compliance rates.
 - J. Hawkins (MO) stated the idea of the dashboard is to compare how the state compares to the national standard.
- C. Copeland (TN) shared that as of January 1st, Tennessee is enacting “blended sentencing”. Blended sentencing means juveniles charged with certain offenses in Tennessee will have a right to a jury trial. This law requires the juvenile court to hold a transfer hearing if a juvenile is 16 to 18 years old at the time of the alleged conduct. The juvenile court can exercise jurisdiction over the juvenile until age 24. If the court makes specific findings, the juvenile court will transfer the juvenile to adult criminal court for disposition as if the juvenile were an adult.

Unfinished Business

Discuss Best Practice on Working with Unhoused Juveniles resource and review case scenarios

- R. Hendryx (OK) shared case scenarios on unhoused juveniles where families are living out of cars and shared that Oklahoma is seeing about four cases a year.
- J. Hawkins (MO) shared a scenario where a family were living in a van on a relative's property. Missouri provided supervision to ensure the juvenile was safe.
- S. Horton (NC) shared that an important factor is whether the family is making themselves available, regardless of where their residence is. States can work with those individuals to find resources for placement. The situation becomes difficult when transient individuals do not respond or make contact to assist with supervision.
- F. Dauway (SC) suggested discussion of strategies for working with unhoused juveniles.
- S. Horton (NC) asked R. Hendryx (OK) whether unhoused juveniles in Oklahoma cases provide a mailing address to help locate the residence
- R. Hendryx (OK) answered that the addresses given are often abandoned homes or empty lots.
- J. Hawkins (MO) shared that states deny cases because the juveniles cannot be located and not because they are unhoused.
- F. Dauway (SC) summarized it is best to continue collaborating and communicating with states receiving cases on unhoused youths to best determine next steps.

New Business

Adding additional members to the State Council, State of Alabama

- P. Pendergast (AL) shared a letter regarding expansion of Alabama's State Council membership to include a representative from the Juvenile Detention Director's Association and a representative from the Department of Human Resources.

Sex Offender Registry in Florida

- F. Dauway (SC) shared that quite a few South Carolina juveniles that are visiting Florida have encountered concerns about sex offender registration.
- J. Hall (FL) shared the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) requires the police report / petition of all juvenile sex offenders or police reports / petitions of any sex related charged for the juvenile. FDLE determines whether the juvenile has to register as a sex offender in the state of Florida. The juvenile must also let local law enforcement in Florida know that they are in the area.
- J. Hall (FL) stated that sex offenders must maintain registration for the duration of their life. The juvenile can petition for the removal from the sex offender registry after 25 years.
- S. Horton (NC) shared the Rules Committee is looking at the registration and reporting requirements for sex offender registration. The ICJ rules currently do not indicate any requirements in regards to reporting and registration for visiting a state, only for juveniles to reside in a new state, and not.
- F. Dauway (SC) suggested members train local staff on Florida sex offender requirements.

Elect South Regional Representative

- Vice Chair J. Hawkins (MO) shared that F. Dauway (SC) agreed to serve another year as Regional Representative. J. Hawkins opened the floor for additional nominations. There were none.
- J. Hawkins announced that F. Dauway (SC) was elected by unanimous consent to serve another two-year term as the Regional Representative for the South Region.

Discuss Work Group on Returning Non-Delinquent Runaways

- Director Underwood thanked everyone who returned data on the survey on *Returning Non-Delinquent Youth*. She reported that 52 jurisdictions responded to the survey. The survey results identified three top issues:
 - Lack of understanding or alignment between ICJ Rules and child welfare agency requirements and practices.
 - Lack of communication between state ICJ offices about the circumstances in which the youth was located.
 - Lack of clarity about ICJ requirements related to pick-up and detention of runaways.
- The Executive Committee reviewed results of the survey and decided to form a work group that will convene in the Fall. Membership will be comprised of ICJ personnel, ex officio members, and other key stakeholders. Those interested in joining the work group should express interest on the committee interest form.

Next Steps

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) shared that the upcoming year is a “rules year” and asked members to think about any rule amendment they would like to propose.
- S. Horton (NC) shared that in July, the North Carolina office lost Rachel Johnson. He thanked the Commission and the South Regional Committee for their grace, kindness, and patience during the hard time.
- J. Hall (FL) shared an update on the hurricane were Florida’s ICJ staff needed to leave the meeting early to avoid the storm.

Adjourn

Representative F. Dauway (SC) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 5:47 p.m. CT.