

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

West Region Meeting Agenda

Sheraton Salt Lake City
Alta-Brighton Room
4:00 p.m. MST
September 26, 2023



Attendance

Voting Members

1. Howard Wykes (AZ), Designee, West Region Representative
2. Maureen Clifton (WY), Commissioner, West Region Alternate Representative
3. Robert Heide (AK), Commissioner
4. Michael Farmer (CA), Commissioner's Voting Designee
5. Brooke Montelongo (CO), Commissioner
6. Kristin Davidson (HI), Commissioner
7. Jenn Baer (ID), Commissioner's Voting Designee
8. David Laity (NV), Commissioner
9. Dale Dodd (NM), Commissioner
10. Raymundo Gallardo (UT), Commissioner's Voting Designee
11. Nina Belli (OR), Commissioner
12. Dawn Bailey (WA), Commissioner's Voting Designee

Non-Voting Members

1. Nichel Saceda-Hurt (AK)
2. Shirleen Cadiz (HI)
3. Kimberly Heywood (UT)

Guests

1. Susan Frankel, National Runaway Safeline (Ex Officio)
2. Matt Peavy, Interstate Commission on Adult Offender Supervision (Ex Officio)
3. Derek Veater, Utah State Council Member

National Office Staff

1. MaryLee Underwood, Executive Director
2. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training & Administrative Specialist

Call to Order

West Region Representative H. Wykes (AZ) called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. MT.

Roll Call

Director Underwood called roll and quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda

M. Farmer (CA) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. R. Heide (AK) seconded. Representative Wykes (AZ) indicated the agenda was approved by unanimous consent without objection.

Approval of Minutes

B. Montelongo (CO) made a motion to approve the July 13, 2023 meeting minutes. M. Clifton (WY) seconded. D. Bailey (WA) abstained. Representative Wykes (AZ) indicated the agenda was approved.

Discussion

Hot Topics

- **[2023 ICJ Rule Proposals](#)**
 - M. Farmer (CA) referred to D. Dodd's (NM) question about the proposed amendments to Rule 4-101: Authority to Accept/Deny Supervision (Proposed by DE/MD) from the training session that day.
 - M. Farmer (CA) suggested that Mr. Dodd look back at the initial rule proposal and compare it to the new submission and this would help clarify and answer a lot of questions.

- **“Effective Strategies for In-State Training”**
 - Representative Wykes (AZ) stated that his table had robust discussions during the “Effective Strategies for In-State Training” session and asked the group if there was any further discussion.
 - D. Laity (NV) commented that it would be helpful if the Training Committee could come up with an app that has a workflow for judges to have easy access to processes and contact information. He stated that sometimes they just need to know what to do at that very moment.
 - Director Underwood suggested going to the [“Tool Kit for Judges”](#) on the Commission’s website. It organizes information by topic and this may help to address that need.
 - M. Farmer (CA) asked if the training presentations presented at conferences throughout the country can be shared.
 - A. Cabbagestalk, National Office, responded that sharing is possible. Email acabbagestalk@juvenilecompact.org to request access and assistance.

Returns & Child Welfare

- **New ICJ & Child Welfare Toolkit Published**
 - Representative Wykes (AZ) reminded the region about the new toolkit that was recently published on the Commission’s website titled: [Returns & Child Welfare: Collaborating to Safely Return Runaways when Abuse is Reported.](#)
 - Representative Wykes (AZ) stated that he was looking forward to the panel discussion during the General Session. He applauded the two West

Region members that will participate. R. Gallardo (UT) is the moderator and B. Montelongo (CO) is one of the panelists.

- Representative Wykes (AZ) mentioned that he shared the toolkit with his state council and opened the floor for others to share any related items that have occurred since the new toolkit was published. The project morphed from a best practice into the published toolkit that continues to be a working project. He encouraged region members to think about questions for the panel and how to move forward. There are always opportunities for continuation.
 - Director Underwood acknowledged that the West Region (as a group and select individuals) has demonstrated great leadership in bringing this issue forward to make it relevant throughout the nation. She added that many others have started conversations and the movement has the potential for dramatic positive effects on juveniles.
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Meeting Update
 - Director Underwood provided an update on the region's recommendation to connect with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). First to ensure she understood the complexity on the topic, a [survey](#) was conducted. The results were that forty (40) percent of the respondents indicated they were having challenges when interacting with child welfare agencies. Director Underwood encouraged everyone to review the [survey results](#).
 - Director Underwood mentioned that Susan Frankel of the National Runaway Safeline (an ex officio organization) helped to connect the National Office with two different programs at ACF. First, a connection was made with Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. The key contact there is Chris Holloway, who was previously connected with ICJ. He previously worked for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) and assisted with the revision of the original Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Mr. Holloway invited ICJ to present a training later this year.
 - Chair Nina Belli (OR) and Jenny Adkins, National Office Staff, plan to present the training and attend the conference to learn more and make connections.
 - Director Underwood mentioned that she was introduced to a new term. Juveniles who are referred to as "kicked out." This refers to juveniles who did not run away, but whose parents did not welcome them back with open arms or literally kicked them out. There could be a disconnect there and an underlying issue that needs to be discussed. Also there has been an increase in courts that are unwilling to hold juveniles and shelters are becoming more common.
 - D. Dodd (NM) added that youth can be "red-flagged," meaning that they will not be held in detention or shelters. This is an additional challenge.
 - M. Farmer (CA) added that in his experience, the problem with shelters is that they are generally community based – not connected with the court, and there is no mechanism to connect with ICJ or get the youth transported. He believes that the youth in California shelters have been

connected with the ICJ and have been alerted by the home/demanding states that they are there.

- J. Baer (ID) added that in Idaho, the connection with shelters is generally through probation.
 - Director Underwood added that National Office also met with three staff members at ACF's Children's Bureau who manage grant funding. They discussed the roles they play and ways to work better together. She learned about the many different models for child welfare systems whereby some states are centralized and some are county-based. Additionally, the Children's Bureau does not have the regulatory authority that some other organizations have. Some items are very different, for example, the definition of "abandonment."
 - Director Underwood mentioned the glossary of terms that was developed for the workshop to be presented the next day (located in the [Docket Book](#) and in the [toolkit](#)). The terms were taken from the [Children's Bureau Gateway Glossary](#). She encouraged states to find out how these terms are used in their states. The criteria may differ by state. She also mentioned that they identified ways to collaborate during this meeting. The Children's Bureau is willing to provide information about ICJ on their website. Director Underwood advised that information about child welfare state liaisons is accessible online and that the Commission will be adding a link to toolkit. She stated that they also have regional training and technical assistance if needed.
 - Director Underwood asked if anyone has worked with state liaisons. R. Gallardo (UT) replied that Utah's State Council included a deputy director of DCFS; Salt Lake County has a liaison can search cases for them. For example, if a youth in Nevada is alleging abuse/neglect against parent in Utah, they can search the allegation, a helpful connection.
 - Director Underwood stated that she will follow up with the connections at the Child Welfare Information Gateway.
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Meeting Update
 - Director Underwood also encouraged the region to visit the [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#) website. She recently had a meeting with their partnerships manager.
 - The Executive Committee decided that we will invite the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to present at a future Wednesday Workshop so that members of the Commission can learn more about their mission, resources, and the work that they do.
 - Ex Officio Partnerships
 - Director Underwood stated that one of her priorities is to connect with ex officio members to make sure that we have strong bonds. The ex officio members present at this year's Annual Business Meeting were introduced during the Training Session.
 - Director Underwood encouraged the region to connect with these ex officio members during the Annual Business Meeting.

- [National Runaway Safeline](#) Overview
 - Director Underwood then introduced Susan Frankel of the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) and asked her to share more about her organization. The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) is based in Chicago. A majority of their staff are dispersed throughout the country. They have been operating for over 50 years and are a 24-hour crisis intervention and support system for young people who have been “asked” to leave home or anyone who has experienced any type of crisis/homelessness. Additionally, the NRS provides training and technical assistance.
 - Susan Frankel (NRS, ex officio) provided a brief overview of their services and programs. She mentioned a new one-day training rolling out at the end of November that may be of interest to Commission members.

- [Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP) Meeting
 - Director Underwood also updated that there is a meeting scheduled with an administrator from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) next week. She looks forward to meeting with them to discern building a partnership to assist with the Commission’s challenges.

- M. Farmer (CA) thanked Director Underwood for listening to the work group and added one final thought on the issues with shelters. There is also an issue with confidentiality. In his California cases, the shelters typically will not acknowledge that they have the youth until he involves other state staff up the chain of command. He suggested that county attorneys be educated so that may translate into action.
- M. Farmer (CA) commented about a California – Hawaii collaboration whereby the Hawaii child welfare was actively involved with a youth who was in detention in Hawaii resulting in the California child welfare’s involvement.

State Updates

- Representative Wykes (AZ) stated that he is currently handling all returns as Paul Cody is no longer with Arizona.

Old Business

Rule 5-103: Reporting Juvenile Non-Compliance, Failed Supervision and Retaking

- Representative Wykes (AZ) reminded the West Region that they proposed amendment to Rule 5-103: Reporting Juvenile Non-Compliance, Failed Supervision and Retaking submitted by the West Region earlier in the year and was later withdrawn. The West Region may be interested in revisiting the proposal for modifications to present for the next rules cycle.

New Business

- Representative Wykes (AZ) welcomed the first-time attendees. He acknowledged the West Region for their support this his first year as the West Region Representative. He applauded the work accomplished by the West Region this year.

- Representative Wykes (AZ) thanked Alternate Region Representative M. Clifton (WY) for serving. He looks forward to next year and all that will be accomplished.

Adjourn

Representative Wykes (AZ) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 5:01 p.m. MT.