

# INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

*West Regional Meeting Minutes*

November 13, 2024

3:00 pm ET

Via Zoom



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## Preliminary Business

### Call to Order

Representative N. Belli (OR) called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm ET.

### Roll Call

Director Underwood called the roll and quorum was established.

### Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Nina Belli (OR), Commissioner, West Regional Representative
2. Maureen Clifton (WY), Commissioner
3. Brooke Montelongo (CO), Commissioner
4. Kristin Davidson (HI), Commissioner
5. Anne Connor (ID), Designee
6. Mike Barthel (MT), Commissioner
7. David Laity (NV), Commissioner
8. Dale Dodd (NM), Commissioner
9. Raymundo Gallardo (UT), Designee
10. Jedd Pelander (WA), Commissioner

### Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Nichel Saceda-Hurt (AK), Designee
2. Antonio DeJesus (CA), Commissioner
3. Jose Villalobos (CA)
4. Robert Hislop (MT)
5. Gladys Altamirano (NV)
6. Kimberly Heywood (UT)
7. Dawn Bailey (WA), Designee

### Voting Members Not in Attendance:

1. Robert Heide (AK), Commissioner
2. Howard Wykes (AZ), Designee
3. Sonia Sweeney (UT), Commissioner

### National Office Staff in Attendance:

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

## Agenda

M. Clifton (WY) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A. Connor (ID) seconded. The motion passed by way of unanimous consent.

## Minutes

A. Connor (ID) made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 24, 2024. B. Montelongo (CO) seconded. The motion passed by way of unanimous consent.

## Reports

- Executive Committee
  - Representative Belli (OR) reported the Executive Committee met on November 7, 2024, and discussed sponsoring the enrollment of emerging ICJ leaders in the Implementation Leadership Academy.
    - The Implementation Leadership Academy will run from February – March, for 8 weeks, with 90-minute video sessions per week.
    - Members interested in participating in the Implementation Leadership Academy should contact Representative Belli (OR) or Commission Chair H. Wykes (AZ).
  - Representative Belli (OR) shared that Executive Committee members were asked to keep in mind and asks questions and think about the “why” such as Why are we doing this? What is this important? Why is this being brought up? when issues, matters, solutions and/or requests are brought forward or proposed. She asked members to share their thoughts on “why” region meetings are important.
    - J. Pelander (WA) said hearing about challenges in other states helps prepare for future challenges and provides opportunities to help solve issues happening in other states.
  - Representative Belli (OR) reported on the Executive Committee’s reminder concerning the dispute resolution procedure that is outlined in the ICJ Rules and Commission Policies:
    - First, commissioners in the states involved should discuss the matters to see if they can resolve it.
    - If no resolution is reached, the commissioners can request assistance with dispute resolution, using the form on the Commission’s website, which is sent to the Executive Director for review.
  - The Executive Committee reviewed the process for requesting an interpretation of rules:
    - State ICJ office staff should first consult their state’s compact administrator or deputy compact administrator to help interpret the rules.
    - If further assistance is needed. the compact administrator or commissioner can submit a request to the executive director for assistance in interpreting the rules. The executive director will respond to the request within 10 days.
- Compliance Committee
  - Representative N. Belli (OR) asked members who are interested in joining the Compliance Committee to email Chair J. Rader (NE).
  - Director Underwood reported the Compliance Committee met on November 6, 2024, and shared an overview of what the Committee will be working on for the year:
    - Re-examining the Commission’s Performance Management Assessment policy
    - Development and rollout of compliance dashboards

- Information Technology Committee
  - J. Johnson (National Office) reported the Information Technology Committee met on November 12, 2024, and discussed objectives for the Committee for the year:
    - On December 1, 2024, members will be prompted to accept the new Privacy Policy in UNITY or the UNITY training system.
    - In February 2025, the Information Technology Release Multi-Factor Authentication in UNITY for enhanced security.
    - Review enhancement requests more in-depth for the assessment process.
    - Review rule amendment proposals that have an impact on UNITY.

### Unfinished Business

#### **Continue discussion regarding state’s data collection for “non-delinquent runaways that are not held in detention”**

- Representative N. Belli (OR) reminded members that concerns were raised at the last West Region meeting about the data request previously sent out by the National Office. Members indicated the questions were not formed in a way that captured helpful information, as it was focused on how many non-delinquents are placed in non-secured detention.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) stated that it was previously suggested that the survey questions should be revised, then the National Office should send out the survey again.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) asked how the question should be reworded to capture data wanted by the West Region.
- A. Connor (ID) asked what the members are trying to get at with the question and suggested focusing on risks that may be associated with holding a non-delinquent runaway in a non-secure setting.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) affirmed that A. Connor (ID) asked a great question. She added it was a good opportunity for the region to decide what data should be captured and what type of cases should be referred to in the survey.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) shared that the question on the original survey was: “Between January 1 and August 31, 2024, how many non-delinquent youths ran away from a non-secure facility in your state prior to being returned?”
- D. Dodd (NM) stated that, in New Mexico, youths are not being detained because there are usually no detention beds available and there are limited staff to run the detention centers.
- J. Adkins (National Office) shared a potential clarifying question: “As the holding state, how many non-delinquent youths ran away from a non-secure facility in your state, prior to being returned, between the time period of January 1 and August 31, 2024?”
- A. Connor (ID) shared that Idaho recently opened detention alternatives for status offenders. The alternatives are five centers across Idaho that are non-secure settings for status offenders. Idaho also updated its laws to prevent local status offenders, including runaways, from being held in secured detention. However, this change has not been applied to runaways from other states that are picked up in Idaho.
- R. Hislop (MT) shared that Montana has two juvenile detention centers for the entire state.
- B. Montelongo (CO) shared that Colorado’s detention situation is dire, similar to New Mexico’s situation.
- J. Villalobos (CA) shared that local authorities in Los Angeles County have refused to take non-delinquent youths into the juvenile hall.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) asked how the region should reword the question for the survey.

- A. Connor (ID) suggested that the Work Group on Non-Delinquent Runaways could provide further clarification on the issue regarding non-delinquent runaways that are not held in detention.
- A. DeJesus (CA) shared it would be important to find out how non-delinquent juveniles are being housed in other states during the non-delinquent juvenile return process. He stated that states are struggling with the means of detention, and asked how this is affecting returns.
- A. Connor (ID) shared a positive experience wherein a juvenile confirmed as a human trafficking victim was successfully returned to Idaho with the help of a robust team in Houston, Texas.
- A. DeJesus (CA) mentioned a change in the FBI's operations regarding victim advocates, and suggested that states reach out to local offices for assistance.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) recommended postponing further discussion until the work group's recommendations were received.

#### **Discuss request for an Advisory Opinion regarding the California Law (SB-135)**

- Representative N. Belli (OR) wanted to obtain an update on the status of the request for an advisory opinion regarding the California law (SB-135) that extends juvenile jurisdiction to some individuals who were previously convicted and sentenced by adult courts.
- Representative Belli (OR) indicated that at the last meeting, A. DeJesus (CA) and A. Connor (ID) were tasked with submitting a request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the California legislation has the effect of a material change to the ICJ rules surrounding eligibility.
- A. Connor (ID) stated they would submit the request by Friday, November 15, 2024.
- Director Underwood highlighted the need for California's ICJ office to determine whether these individuals are considered "juveniles" in California, and whether they are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.
- A. DeJesus (CA) stated that they are placed under juvenile jurisdiction.
- Representative N. Belli (OR) suggested California ICJ consult with their agency attorneys for further clarification.
- A. Connor (ID) raised a concern about the retroactive labeling of individuals as juveniles after they have served prison terms for adult charges.
- A. DeJesus (CA) agreed to gather specific information on how these individuals are reclassified and to clarify the distinction between being considered a "juvenile" and being under the "jurisdiction of a juvenile court."
- Representative N. Belli (OR) thanked A. Connor (ID) and A. DeJesus (CA) for the extra research and time to write a request for an advisory opinion regarding the California law (SB-135).

#### **New Business**

- A. DeJesus (CA) announced the retirement of Bryan Stephens, who was a deputy compact administrator in California. He and J. Villalobos (CA) will manage the operations until a replacement is hired and trained.
- A. Connor (ID) shared that the Idaho State Council on Interstate Supervision has decided to team up with the state council required by the Interstate Compact on Adult Offender Supervision. Recently, it has not been possible to get appointments due to the dissolution of Idaho's Board of Juvenile Corrections.

#### **Hot Topics from the *ICJ Updates***

- Representative N. Belli (OR) reported the following from the most recent issues of the *ICJ Updates*.
  - [Fact Sheet on ICJ Returns and Non-Delinquent Runaways](#)

- Representative N. Belli (OR) reported that it has been updated to be more consistent with the ICJ rules and can be found on the Commission's website.
- [2024 Annual Report](#) Distribution to State Stakeholders
  - The *2024 Annual Report* is available online. Contact the National Office to request additional physical copies.
  - Providing the *Annual Report* to local stakeholders can be beneficial.
- Wednesday Workshop Live Training Session
  - A recording of the *Wednesday Workshop* featuring the National Runaway Safeline held on October 30, 2024, is now available on TalentLMS.
  - The *Wednesday Workshop* series will resume in January 2025.

#### Next Steps

- A. Connor (ID) reminded members how important the ICJ is and critical role they fulfill through their work.

#### Adjourn

Representative Belli adjourned the meeting by way of unanimous consent at 4:05 pm ET.