

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

South Region Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

11:00 a.m. ET

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative F. Dauway (SC) called the meeting to order at 11:00 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, Regional Representative
2. Jean Hall (FL), Commissioner, Alternate Regional Representative
3. Patrick Pendergast (AL), Designees
4. Judy Miller (AR), Designee
5. Jefferson Regis (DC), Commissioner
6. Rusty Rodgers (GA), Commissioner
7. Amy Welch (KY), Commissioner
8. Angela Bridgewater (LA), Commissioner
9. Sherry Jones (MD), Commissioner
10. Maxine Baggett (MS), Designee
11. Julie Hawkins (MO), Commissioner
12. Stephen Horton (NC), Commissioner
13. Corrie Copeland (TN), Commissioner
14. Daryl Liedecke (TX), Designee
15. Natalie Dalton (VA), Commissioner
16. 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. Debra Devine Holcomb (AK)
6. Terrance Clayton (FL)
7. Ty Ligon (FL)
8. Tecara Richardson (FL)
9. Rhonda Turner (FL)
10. Shanice Rhyne (GA)
11. Ashley Hodges (KY)
12. Yolonda Latimer (LA)
13. Abbye Tyler (MD)
14. Latoya Oliver (MD)
15. Rachel Johnson (NC)
16. Mason Harrington (SC)
17. Bridget Webb (SC)

18. Quincy Hughes (TN)
19. Jessica Stefenack (VA)

Guest in Attendance:

1. Anthony Wynn (AL)

South Region Voting Members Not in Attendance:

1. Melinda Hampton (KY), Designee
2. Robert Anderson (MS), Commissioner
3. Jeffrey Cartmell (OK), Commissioner
4. Robert Hendryx (OK), Designee
5. 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

C. Copeland (TN) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A. Welch (KY) seconded. The motion passed.

Minutes

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

Check-ins

Representative F. Dauway (SC) opened the floor for members to share a fond memory from past summers.

Reports

Hot Topics from "ICJ Updates"

- Representative F. Dauway (SC) reported the following from the most recent issues of the *ICJ Updates* newsletter.
 - Rule amendments, updated forms, and UNITY updates became effective on April 1, 2024.
 - A complete [list of updated resources](#) is available with links to the Commission's website. *Rule Amendments Training Sessions* were recorded and are available on the TalentLMS site. She encouraged members to distribute information to local authorities.
 - UNITY Open House sessions were offered on April 2 and April 4.
 - A *UNITY Spotlight* special edition was also issued outlining the changes.
 - Previous *Wednesday Workshop* sessions were recorded and posted on the TalentLMS site, including the *ICJ & NCMEC Collaboration* session and the *Absconder Reports* session. In May, the following sessions will be provided:
 - [May 1](#): *Best Practice on Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families*, presented by the Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
 - [May 29](#): *Office of Refugee Resettlement Information Session*
 - The [Training Report Form](#) has been improved. States are required to submit information regarding trainings provided and now may submit information regarding multiple sessions on one form.

- Section IV of the [ICJ Expungement Policy](#) has been updated.
- Section IV, Paragraph C of the [ICJ Travel Reimbursement Policy](#) has been updated.
- The [2024 Annual Business Meeting](#) (ABM) will be held August 25-27, 2024, in Mobile, Alabama.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

- Representative Dauway (SC) reported the information below from the Executive Committee’s [March 28](#) meeting.
 - Indiana Commissioner Mary Kay Hudson resigned, and the position is vacant.
 - Fiscal Year 2025 ICJ dues invoices were recently emailed to states with fiscal years beginning on July 1.
 - The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) recently hosted its 2024 Juvenile Justice Conference. Executive Director Underwood, Commission Vice Chair Julie Hawkins (MO), and Ohio Commissioner Sasaun Lane represented the Commission. Director Underwood co-presented a workshop regarding ICJ Returns with Judge Robert Hoffman (NCJFCJ Ex Officio) and Commissioner Hawkins. The presentation will be made available for in-state judicial training.
 - Emma Goode will retire at the end of May from her position as Logistics and Administrative Specialist.
 - Several Commission leaders completed the Alliance for Community Justice Innovation (ACJI) Implementation Leadership Academy. The budget includes funds to offer the course again next year.
 - Victims Representative, Nataki Brown, updated the Executive Committee that proposals are being accepted for grants focused on Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking. National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is in April.
 - The Executive Committee discussed ongoing efforts to address issues that arise in non-delinquent runaway cases. Additional information will be gathered via a survey, which will be distributed soon.

Training Committee

- Training Committee Ambassador Chanda Leshoure (AL) reported the Training Committee met [April 4, 2024](#). The Training Committee has been planning for the 2024 ABM. She noted that Alabama is excited to host this year’s meeting.
- Latosha Mallory (AL) shared that the Alabama ICJ Office is organizing an optional dinner cruise on the [Perdido Queen](#). A live poll was conducted to gauge interest. Eighty (80) percent of respondents expressed interest in participating.
- The Training Committee reviewed updates to resources resulting from recent rule amendments.
- The Training Committee approved the draft agenda for the 2024 ABM, which will be recommended to the Executive Committee for approval in April.
- Two *Wednesday Workshops* sessions are scheduled in May, as previously described.
- She shared the totals from the first quarter training.
 - TalentLMS
 - 1,154 logins from 379 users
 - 2,128 course completions
 - Wednesday Workshops and Live Trainings
 - Total Attendance: 888 people
 - Sessions:
 - January: *National Runaway Safeline*
 - February: *Absconder Reports*

- March: NCJFCJ Conference Workshop
 - 4 Rule Amendment Training Sessions (Every Wednesday in March)
- Online Training Reports
 - 33 reports submitted from 14 states.
 - 34 trainings conducted for 516 participants.

Racial Diversity Equity and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee

- Racial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee Chair S. Jones (MD) reported the Racial DEI Committee met [March 19, 2024](#).
- National Office staff and Chair Jones met with Marcia Good, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), to discuss ICJ processes. The committee is exploring ways to strengthen collaborations with tribal nations. OJJDP will assist in that endeavor. OJJDP staff will present a *Wednesday Workshop* soon.
- The committee will present a *Wednesday Workshop* session on May 1. This training session aligns with the [ICJ Best Practice: Home Evaluation Considerations for Unconventional Families](#).
- The next meeting is May 21, 2024.

Compliance Committee

- Compliance Committee member M. Harrington (SC) reported the Compliance Committee met March 11 and April 3.
 - With the 2022 UNITY Data Assessment recommendations complete, the Compliance Committee is looking to develop UNITY dashboards. The National Office will discuss development with Optimum Technologies during upcoming meetings.
 - The goal is to provide an overview of each individual state compared to the nation. It will serve to assist states with their internal processes related to compliance. In time, dashboards will change the landscape on how the Commission conducts performance measurement assessments in the future.

Technology Committee

- Director Underwood reported the Technology Committee worked diligently to prepare UNITY for the rule amendments.
- The Technology Committee was tasked with reviewing UNITY data fields from which information is collected for ICJ annual reports, including the “Travel Plan Detail” section in UNITY. While completion of this section is optional, data regarding airport surveillance is only captured if the section is completed. UNITY users are encouraged to use the “Travel Plan Detail” section.
- The Technology Committee is beginning to evaluate UNITY enhancement requests. Negotiations are underway to renew the contract for operation of the UNITY system.
- Efforts are underway to develop multifactor authentication for UNITY, as required by the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) for data system operations.

Rules Committee

- Rules Committee Chair S. Horton (NC) reported that the Rules Committee met on April 17.
- Chair Horton (NC) applauded all presenters that led the live rule amendment training sessions.
- The Rules Committee 2-year calendar was modified to align with the 2025 ABM in August 2025. Therefore, the deadline for rule proposal submissions will be December 31, 2024.
- Proposed amendments should clearly define the issue. When developing proposals, members are encouraged to consider if concerns could be more effectively addressed through strategies that do not include rule amendments.
- Director Underwood reported the 2025 ABM will be held August 25-27, 2025, at the Hilton Downtown Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio. The August date prompted the Rules Committee calendar modification as 2025 is a rules year.

Unfinished Business

Representative Dauway (SC) reported the discussion regarding “unhoused youth” in the January meeting will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business

Upcoming New Survey

- Director Underwood recalled that several committees and regions have discussed issues related to returning non-delinquent runaways. Most recently, the East Region and Rules Committee have discussed related topics and recommended surveying other states to gather data.
- The Executive Committee will review the draft survey questions at their April meeting.

Next Steps

- S. Jones (MD) shared that the Maryland ICJ Office now offers drop-in information sessions on the second Thursday of each month. The sessions were developed to promote transparency and build better professional relationships with local authorities and stakeholders. The sessions often focus on ICJ processes. Feedback has been positive and productive.
- The region’s next meeting is July 18, 2024.

Adjourn

Representative Dauway (SC) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 11:50 a.m. ET.