

INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR JUVENILES

Midwest Regional Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2025

11:00 a.m. EST

Via Zoom



Preliminary Business

Call to Order

Representative J. Rader (NE) called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. EST.

Roll Call

Kirsten Wade (National Office) called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Voting Commissioners/Designees in Attendance:

1. Jacey Rader (NE), Commissioner, Midwest Regional Representative
2. Casey Gerber (WI), Commissioner, Alternate Regional Representative
3. Kellianne Torres (IA), Designee
4. Tomiko Frierson (IL), Commissioner
5. Chris Biehn (IN), Commissioner
6. Fareeda Washington (KS), Designee
7. Michael Tymkew (MI), Commissioner
8. Tracy Hudrlik (MN), Commissioner
9. Jessica Wald (ND), Designee
10. Sasaun Lane (OH), Commissioner
11. Charles Frieberg (SD), Commissioner

Compact Staff in Attendance:

1. Angel Jones (IL)
2. Holly Kassube (IL)
3. Laura Hausladen (IN)
4. Nataly Sevilla (IN)
5. April Simmons (IN)
6. Nita Wright (IN)
7. Liz Wilson (KS)
8. Rebecca Hillestead (MN)
9. Abbie Christian (NE)
10. Cheryl Frost (SD)
11. Jennifer McFadden (WI)

Commissioners/Designees Not in Attendance:

1. Lisa Bjergaard (ND), Commissioner
2. Megan Milner (KS), Commissioner
3. Curtis Hamstra (IA), Commissioner

Guests in Attendance:

1. Susan Barnard (NE)

National Office Staff in Attendance:

1. Kirsten Wade, Logistics and Administrative Specialist
2. Jenny Adkins, Operations and Policy Specialist

3. Joe Johnson, System Project Manager
4. Amanee Cabbagestalk, Training and Administrative Specialist

Agenda

K. Torres (IA) made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. C. Frieberg (SD) seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Minutes

T. Hudrlik (MN) made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from the meeting on November 12, 2024. C. Gerber (WI) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Check-ins

Representative Rader (NE) opened the meeting by asking members what winter activity happens in their state that is unique.

Hot Topics from “ICJ Updates”

- Rules Commenting Period
 - Representative J. Rader shared that the Rules Commenting Period is February 24, 2025 – March 26, 2025. She shared that the best time for state council meetings is during that period, so they can respond to proposals.
- Human Trafficking Prevention Month
 - Update Human Trafficking Matrix
 - Representative J. Rader (NE) encouraged members to review and update the Midwest Human Trafficking Matrix on the Commission’s website during the month dedicated to prevention efforts.
 - How does Human Trafficking screening happen in your state?
 - Representative J. Rader (NE) asked region members to what human trafficking screening happens in their states.
 - *Representative J. Rader shared that the UNITY Spotlight has released on using the Human Trafficking data section in UNITY.*
- *Wednesday Workshop Live Training Session*
 - The Rules Amendment Proposal Commenting and Review Period Wednesday Workshop will be held on February 26, 2025 at 1:00PM EST.

Unfinished Business

Rules Committee Feedback on Rule 4-104

- Chair J. Rader (NE) started a discussion on the Rules Committee's feedback on the Region’s proposal to amend Rule 4-104.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) stated that the Rules Committee recommended the Commission adopt the proposal on Rule 4-104. She shared that the Rules Committee asked the Midwest Region to clarify the proposal justification.
- J. Adkins, National Office, shared that the Rules Committee voted 8-0-1 to support the proposal with a recommendation to clarify what should be documented on the form by inserting another word or words in the following phrase: “by documenting [insert word here] on the Form VIII, Home Evaluation Report.”
- Chair J. Rader (NE) shared the following options to clarify wording in the proposal for Rule 4-104:

- By documenting the unforeseeable conditions
- By documenting such conditions
- By documenting the conditions which cannot be enforced
- M. Tymkew (MI) stated that he would vote for the option “by documenting the conditions which cannot be enforced.”
- The Rule 4-104 proposal would now state: “A receiving state that is unable to enforce any condition of supervision imposed by the sending state shall notify the sending state of its inability to enforce the condition(s) by document the conditions which cannot be enforced on the Form VIII, Home Evaluation Report.”
- **T. Hudrlik (MN) made a motion to insert "the conditions which cannot be enforced" to the Midwest Region's proposed amendment to Rule 4-104(6) to clarify what must be documented by the receiving state on the Form VIII, Home Evaluation Report, based on the Rules Committee's recommendation. M. Tymkew (MI) seconded. The motion passed.**

New Business

- M. Tymkew (MI) asked members about issues with Delta Airlines regarding return flights for unaccompanied minors. He discussed a recent incident where a youth was not allowed to board due to lack of surveillance in Atlanta, despite following Delta's unaccompanied minor protocol. He questioned whether this was a widespread issue or specific to their experience.
- T. Hudrlik (MN) said that she has had the opposite issue with Delta. She said that Delta requires use of the unaccompanied minor protocol and has been resistant to have local authorities provide additional surveillance of the youth during layovers.

Reports

- Executive Committee
 - K. Torres (IA) shared that the Executive Committee discussed the Medicaid changes that started on January 1st, 2025, for youth that are incarcerated or have transitioned out of incarceration. She shared that there are certain services that have to be offered to these youth within 30 days prior to and 30 days after their release.
- Information Technology Committee
 - K. Torres (IA) shared that the Technology Committee has two sub committees that are working on different tasks.
 - The Business Analysis (BA)/Enhancement Subcommittee is working on enhancements and rule-related enhancements. The subcommittee will meet to finalize and discuss how the proposed rule amendments could impact UNITY or forms. The work group is also testing multi-factor authentication for UNITY.
 - The Tableau/UNITY Subcommittee is developing compliance dashboards and plans to purge the training system annually.
 - The Technology Committee also discussed the Rules Committee’s recommendation to remove the reference to “best interest” on the Form III. The discussion was tabled to the meeting on February 11, 2025.
- Rules Committee
 - T. Hudrlik (MN) shared that the Rules Committee discussed proposals and recommendations, including sending requests to the Technology Committee. The committee will meet again next month and face-to-face on April 7-11, 2025.
 - T. Hudrlik (MN) reminded members that the Rules Commenting Period is February 24 to March 26, 2025.
 - Chair J. Rader asked how many rule proposals are expected to be discussed.
 - J. Adkins, National Office, answered there are 7 rule amendment proposals.
- Racial Diversity Equity and Inclusion (RDEI) Committee

- J. Wald (ND) shared that the RDEI Committee discussed the underutilization of the human trafficking field in UNITY and reviewed data for runaway cases, emphasizing the need for offices to better investigate and document potential trafficking situations.
- J. Wald (ND) also shared that J. Johnson from the National Office shared human trafficked data for return cases by type and race. Training Committee
- J. Wald (ND) shared that the Training Committee reviewed the 2024 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Survey results and looked at 2025 ABM draft agendas. The committee also brainstormed training opportunities and discussed the Bakken Human Trafficking Summit in North Dakota.

Next Steps

- A. Cabbagestalk, National Office, reminded members that state council reports are due on January 31, 2025.

Adjourn

M. Tymkew (MI) made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Representative Rader (NE) adjourned the meeting by acclamation without objection at 11:37 a.m. EST.