



ASSOCIATION OF JUVENILE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS
2002 Annual Meeting
August 7, 2002
Savannah, Georgia

Meeting Minutes

Officers Present:

Michael C. Reddish, President
Ronald J. Leffler, Vice President
Donna Bonner, Secretary
Cindy Pittman, Treasurer

Secretariat:

Kristine C. Prince

Members Present:

Judy Miller, Arkansas
Patricia Burt, Connecticut
Rose Holmquist, Delaware
Jean Hall, Florida
Robert Champion, Indiana Probation
Karen King-Jones, Kentucky
Sarah LeBlanc, Louisiana
Cynthia Yim, Maryland
Brent Buerck, Missouri
Lori Schweinfurt, Nevada
John Gusz, New Jersey Probation
Judy Stephens, North Carolina
Amanda Behe, Pennsylvania
Dawne Gannon, South Carolina
Michael Lacy, West Virginia

Summer Foxworth, Colorado
Sandra Matlack, Connecticut
JoAnn Phillips Rohan, D. C.
M. Jody Taylor, Idaho
Christine Reece, Kansas
Paul Gibson, Kentucky
Beth Meng, Louisiana
Maxine Baggett, Mississippi
Danise Sipple, Nevada
E. Wayne Carmack, New Hampshire
Dianne Miller, New York Parole
Pamela Helbling, North Dakota
Warren Lewis, Pennsylvania
Ryan Pinto, Washington

Guests:

Larry Anderson, District Director, Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

1. **WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

AJCA President Michael Reddish welcomed everyone to the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators and asked everyone to introduce themselves and state how long they had worked with the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

President Reddish introduced the theme of the 2002 Annual Meeting which is *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Work*, and he thanked everyone for all of their dedicated service in working with ICJ during the past year. ICJ offices provide a tremendous service to the juveniles they serve, to their families and to the communities in which they live. He paraphrased a quote stating "To the world you may be just one person, but to one person, you may mean the world." He stressed that the work we do is very important in the lives of these young people, and he urged members to continue in their

commitment to their work.

President Reddish thanked Cindy Pittman of the Georgia ICJ office for hosting this year's meeting. Ms. Pittman welcomed the membership to her home state of Georgia. She then introduced Larry Anderson, District Director of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice who also provided a warm welcome to the membership. Mr. Anderson told about the monumental changes and sweeping reforms that have occurred in the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice during this past year. Some of those changes and reforms included a new classification system, new districting, new graduated sanctions program, new employee performance program as well as a new management performance program, and new alternatives to detention. Their focus is now on team case management and this has been very successful. He stated that the jobs of those in juvenile corrections would be impossible without the help and assistance of those that work with the Interstate Compact nationwide and he thanked the membership for all they do.

Roll call was taken by the Secretariat. President Reddish went over the agenda for the 2002 Annual Meeting and made some slight adjustments. He discussed the importance of the presentation on the compact rewrite on Friday morning where representatives from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) will present the new *Interstate Compact for Juveniles*. He distributed an article from *Youth Today* (Appendix A) which was the impetus for the review of the current ICJ and the decision to draft a new compact.

Karen King-Jones announced the silent auction and stated that the proceeds raised during the silent auction will be donated to an agency within the state of Georgia which deals with at-risk juveniles.

2. TRAINING MODULE: AVOIDING THE PROBLEMS

President Reddish thanked Donna Bonner (TX) and Cindy Pittman (GA) for coordinating the training module today. He also thanked Ms. Bonner for providing training for new ICJ administrators yesterday.

Ms. Bonner explained that today's training session would focus on avoiding problems in the ICJ process. She asked that the session be informal and that members brainstorm and identify the issues that cause problems. The following are issues that members identified:

- Funding (or lack thereof) for states to return runaways
- Funding for treatment of juveniles once they are in a receiving state
- Problems in enrolling children in school districts in receiving states if they are not living with a parent or legal guardian
- Having to deal with agencies other than the ICJ offices in some states in attempting to return runaways
- Dealing with the airlines and the issue of escorts for juveniles being transported on

- airplanes
- Medical care for juveniles and permission to treat for medical conditions
- Airport surveillance
- Added charges by the airlines for transporting juveniles being returned by the ICJ office
- The issue of “children removed from the custody of the court”
- Status offenses which are excluded from the Juvenile Justice Act
- The differing ages of majority in various states
- Emancipation issues (do they conflict with Rule 3-103?) and eligibility for compact services
- The problem of dealing with aliens (both legal and illegal) – their inability to provide documentation for requisitions
- Dealing with Native American tribes and tribal courts in providing services
- States’ refusing to return non-delinquent runaways
- How can we access the National Runaway Switchboard services?
- Detention issues
- Failure to notify receiving states of a juvenile’s arrival in their state
- Poor clothing and physical descriptions for airport surveillance
- Cooperation with counterparts and local jurisdictions in other states
- Liability issues
- Confidentiality issues with regard to the release of information
- Staff/caseload ratios in ICJ offices
- Poor home evaluation reports
- Services on military bases

The members (and the topics listed above) were divided into four groups. The assignment of each group was to discuss and brainstorm ways to deal with the issues assigned to their group. Groups met to discuss their issues and then broke for lunch.

After lunch, each group gave a report:

Group 1 Spokesperson Paul Gibson (KY)

- Funding for medical treatment for ICJ juveniles: *Check into the possibility of seeing whether Medicaid will pay for those services. Also, when a home state has identified services that the juvenile will need in the receiving state, the home evaluation done by the receiving state should clearly state whether those services will be available in the proposed placement. If those services will not be available, the sending state should reconsider the placement.*
- School enrollment problems: *When a juvenile is placed in the receiving state, the parent or legal guardian in the home state should assign temporary custody and guardianship to the person(s) with whom the juvenile will be residing. That assignment of custody and guardianship should be written and notarized or should be filed with the court. When this is done, a school district must let the juvenile enroll in school. This may be more difficult if a juvenile will need special education*

services because a parent's signature is needed to access those services.

- *Funding problems in transporting juveniles: The problem of states not paying to return their juveniles is clearly addressed in the AJCA Rules and Regulations. It is the responsibility of the sending (home) state to pay transportation costs. There should be funding available in each ICJ office to return juveniles. Federal monies under Title IVB should be available to pay for these returns. Each ICJ office should identify which agency in their state is receiving this funding, and then arrangements should be made that would allow ICJ offices to tap into this funding.*
- *Escorts for juveniles transported via airplanes: A risk assessment should be done by the detention staff which is holding the juvenile. This assessment should be taken very seriously by the demanding (home) state and if a juvenile is deemed to be an escape risk, escorts should be provided by the demanding state.*
- *Medical care / permission to treat: If a juvenile is seriously in need of immediate medical care in a life or death situation, a physician will usually treat the juvenile regardless of permission. In other situations, a juvenile court judge may be requested to give permission for treatment. Treatment costs should be borne by the home state. The home state may try to recoup those costs from the parents.*
- *"Children Removed From the Custody of the Court:" AJCA needs to review the requisition form and consider removing this as a checked item at the top of the form. Parental kidnappings, disputed custody issues, etc., should not be handled under the ICJ.*
- *Extra airport charges for juveniles being returned via the ICJ: The airlines can make any extra assessments they deem necessary, however, this does not seem like a legitimate charge. Perhaps AJCA could contact the airlines to discuss this issue and problem solve. However, it was noted that representations from the major airlines were invited to this meeting and all declined to come and participate.*

Group 2 Spokesperson Judy Miller (Arkansas)

- *Age of majority issues: The statute of the home state determines the legal status of their own juveniles. If the home state deems a person to be a "juvenile," then the receiving state cannot change that status.*
- *Emancipation issues: A clarification needs to be made on AJCA Rule 3-103.*
- *Aliens: Legal aliens should be provided the same services that other juveniles are*

provided. Perhaps INS should be contacted to help with illegal aliens. Wayne Carmack (New Hampshire) volunteered to do some research on federal laws and requirements on this issue and will report back to the Executive Board.

- *Native American tribes: Native American tribes are sovereign nations who are not signatory to the Compact and ICJ services are not provided on reservations. If a Native American juvenile lives outside the reservation and needs ICJ services, then he/she is treated as any other juvenile in need of services.*
- *Military Bases: Military bases are in a similar situation as Native American reservations. It is up to each military base to decide if they will allow supervision to occur on the base. If not, then the receiving state should notify the sending state that supervision services will not be provided.*

Group 3 Spokesperson Pam Helbling (North Dakota)

- *Cooperation with other ICJ offices and other sister agencies: It is a good idea to forge good relationships with ICJ offices throughout the country. This is one important by-product of attending the Annual Meeting and the Mid-Winter Workshop where administrators have the opportunity to network and get to know each other. Ms. Helbling also suggested that we try to become more educated on the mandates under which each state office is working.*
- *Liability issues: Make sure that each juvenile's due process rights are adhered to. The Form III should be signed in front of a judge.*
- *Confidentiality issues: This issue needs to be researched and a rule drafted. It was not clear whether the confidentiality law of the sending state should be adhered to in releasing information contained in a juvenile's file, or the confidentiality law of the receiving state takes precedence.*
- *Staff to case load ratio: This is an issue that the proposed new National ICJ Commission should look at. They should take into consideration not just the number of bodies, but also the time spent in consulting about cases, time spent training staff and locals, etc. The Rules and Regulations Committee is also looking at this issue and is working on drafting a survey to be sent to each state/territory.*

Group 4 Spokesperson Cindy Pittman (Georgia)

- *Refusal to return runaways: Most times a state's refusal to return a runaway is based*

on the fact that they have no funding to return the juvenile. This funding issue was already addressed by Group 1.

- *National Runaway Switchboard: The National Runaway Switchboard has instituted a program with Greyhound Bus that will return runaways free. However, the call must be initiated by the juvenile and it is for first time, non-delinquent runaways only. A juvenile must be entered on NCIC as a runaway in order to qualify for this service. The NRS will send representatives to the Mid-Winter Meeting for a presentation.*
- *Detention issues: This group did not come up with any resolutions for this issue.*
- *Failure to notify locals of the arrival of a juvenile: They encouraged staff to follow up on emails and faxes to ensure that the information was received.*
- *Inadequate home evaluations: They encouraged state ICJ offices to not accept inadequate reports from their locals. Set a higher standard and train locals to give more detailed reports.*

3. REGIONAL MEETINGS

The members were asked to convene in regional meetings to discuss the following questions and to report back to the membership tomorrow morning:

- 31 Are there any additions or omissions that need to be made to the current Rules and Regulations?
- II Are there any special issues that were addressed during the training that need to be addressed as a region?
- III. Are there any specific regional issues that should be addressed?

4. ADJOURN

Members were then excused to attend regional meetings and the general meeting was adjourned for the day.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kristine Prince, AJCA Secretariat
August 15, 2002