



ASSOCIATION OF JUVENILE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS

Mid-Winter Workshop

March 23, 2001

Reno, Nevada

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jim Chaffee, Arizona

Cindy Pittman, Georgia

Karen King, Kentucky

Rose Ann Bisch, Minnesota Lisa

April Honey, Nevada

Pamela Helbling, North Dakota

Margo Bryce, Vermont

Sharon Brophy, NJ-Parole

Judy Miller, Arkansas

M. Jody Taylor, Idaho

Sarah LeBlanc, Louisiana

Johnson, Mississippi

Michael Epstein, NJ-Parole

Victor Congleton, Oregon

Jeff Patnode, Washington

Amanda Beagles, Florida

Sarah Jane Stark, Iowa

Beth Meng, Louisiana

Michael Reddish, NE-Parole

John Gusz, NJ-Probation

Donna Bonner, Texas

Pam Snodgrass, Nevada

Secretariat:

Kristine C. Prince

1. WELCOME/UPDATE ON ANNUAL MEETING 2001

Michael Reddish welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken by the Secretariat.

Beth Meng of the Louisiana ICJ Office gave an update on plans for the Annual Meeting to be held July 31 - August 4, 2001 in New Orleans. She has contracted with the Doubletree Hotel for sleeping and meeting rooms. A hospitality suite in the hotel will be open all day from Monday, July 30th through Saturday. On Wednesday evening, August 1st, a walking tour of the French Quarter will be available, and on Thursday, August 2nd, members will be taken on a tour of one of Louisiana's secure juvenile facilities. Lunch will be provided by the facility. The Awards Banquet will be held on Friday evening, August 3rd. The Louisiana ICJ Office will provide folders for each participant, and volunteered to xerox all handouts and reports to be placed in the folder.

Mr. Reddish announced that NCJFCJ will be holding its Mid-Winter Conference at the Galleria Hotel in Houston, Texas sometime in March 2002. It has been the tradition of AJCA to hold its Mid-Winter Workshop in conjunction with the judges' conference. He will get more information to everyone as he receives it.

2. AJCA STATISTICAL REPORTS

Jody Taylor reviewed the AJCA Yearly Statistical Report Form as there seems to be some confusion about how to fill it out. The new form which was approved at the last Annual Meeting asks for much more detailed information than the older version of the form had requested. Ms. Taylor reported that each ICJ administrator should review the

form now, making note of the information that is asked, and each will have to determine how best to collect that information for their state for the upcoming year.

Mr. Reddish explained that one of the purposes for collecting this information is that AJCA needs a clear picture of the workload of each ICJ office, and how many cases are being handled. Some members objected to the gathering of this quantity of information stating that they simply don't have the time to collect the information, nor the staff to assist them in collection. Additionally, many states' information systems don't collect this information. Mr. Reddish explained that the collection of this information is vital to AJCA, and that OJJDP is very interested in this information and will likely use these numbers in computing assessments for each state when the new compact is enacted. He suggested it is highly possible that, in the future, OJJDP will request even more information than is asked for on the new form. Michael Epstein stated that in the future, this information could be generated from the AJCA website.

Because of some continuing confusion on question 5 under "parole supervision," Ms. Taylor will reword the sentence to say "*Of these, how many of those reported to ICJ were returned?*"

Mr. Reddish suggested that further training on the use of this form may be necessary, especially for those members not in attendance. He will encourage regional representatives to train others within their regions.

3. TRANSPORTATION OF JUVENILES ACROSS STATE LINES

Jim Chaffee brought up the issue of returning escapees and absconders to their home states and said that it is the policy of Arizona that all absconders or escapees from Arizona will be returned with escorts. He often requests that other states do the same to reduce their liability and risk. Several states disagreed to returning all juveniles with escorts. However, Mr. Chaffee made a formal request that a legal opinion be sought about this issue.

Members were then divided into the two remaining committees, Rules and Regulations and Strategic Planning, to complete their assignments and report back to the full group in the afternoon session.

4. COMPACT REVISION

Mr. Reddish explained that the afternoon session will be a brainstorming session regarding the rewrite of the Juvenile Compact. The ideas and recommendations generated from this discussion will be presented to the compact drafting team for its

consideration. The following recommendations were made:

- It was felt that it is highly likely that state councils will be formed and, if so, the group felt strongly that those people who sit on the state councils should be the people who are managing the compact on a day-to-day basis and who are heavily involved in the activities of the compact.
- The group recommended that a national commission be formed which would be similar to the national commission created by the new adult compact. However, the representatives who sit on the national commission should not be “political appointees” or “figure heads” but should instead be the people who are overseeing compact day-to-day in their state and are highly involved in managing the compact.
- The group was supportive of the notion of a full-time, paid staff that would support the national commission.
- There was some discussion about whether to recommend the appointment of both a compact administrator and a deputy compact administrator. Some felt that to keep the deputy compact administrator position may only serve to continue the administration of the compact in the way it is being administered by many states currently, with a political figure head as the compact administrator and the deputy compact administrator as the one who actually does the work of the compact. The concern with this being that the compact administrator will be the person representing the state on the national commission, and that person won’t know much about how the compact operates or what the pertinent concerns and issues are.
- Questions arose as to what should be done with split probation/parole states, and the consensus was that it would remain the decision of each state as to how they want to allocate their one vote, whether they want one person casting the entire vote, or whether they want to split their votes and allow probation to have one-half vote and parole to have one-half vote. However, it is likely that only one person will be allowed to attend the national commission meetings.
- A suggestion of creating regional councils was made, but the group was not in favor of that idea.
- It was recommended that there be some uniformity among all the states as to which state agency would house the compact. However, it was also mentioned that, again, this is the decision that each state will make.

- The group unanimously rejected the idea of any tie-in between the state juvenile council and the state adult council. However there was some support for the idea of having a representative of the adult compact on the juvenile council to assist in dealing with issues that arise with over-age “juveniles.”
- The group recommends that the state council be comprised of representatives from the governor’s office, the state attorney general’s office, the legislative branch, the judiciary, compact administrators, victim’s groups, and others as deemed necessary.
- There was some discussion about who the voting state official would be. It is likely that this responsibility will fall to the person who represents the state on the national commission. The composition of the national commission is of vital concern to the group. If the national commission is made up of administrators who know little about the running of the compact, perhaps AJCA (comprised of the everyday managers of the compact) should continue to meet and propose rules to the national commission.
- The group saw the merit in adopting an administrative rulemaking process when new rules are passed.
- There was much discussion about the current policy that only those in attendance at the Annual Meeting can vote on compact business. Some suggested that every state or territory signatory to the compact should be allowed to vote whether they attend the Annual Meeting or not. The pros and cons of each policy was discussed. The consensus of the group was that AJCA should recommend to the drafting team that the current policy be continued and written into the new compact.
- The fee structure and the equation which will be used to assess fees to each state was discussed, and the group felt that the manner in which the adult compact will assess fees should be reviewed and something similar should be written into the juvenile compact.
- The issue of enforcement of rules and regulations was brought up, and the group recommended that the approach with states who are not complying should be friendly and pro-active in the beginning, followed by technical assistance and training for the offending state. If that doesn’t work well, then injunctive relief should be sought.

5. **ADJOURN**

AJCA President, Mike Reddish, thanked everyone for their thoughts, comments and suggestions, stating that this is a very important time for those involved in the juvenile compact. It is important that all voices be heard. This is an opportunity for AJCA to be actively involved in rewriting the compact and in fashioning how that new compact will look.

Mr. Reddish then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristine C. Prince, AJCA Secretariat
April 4, 2001