



# ASSOCIATION OF JUVENILE COMPACT ADMINISTRATORS

Mid-Winter Workshop

March 19, 2003

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Meeting Minutes

## Officers Present:

Ronald J. Leffler, President, IN Parole  
Donna Bonner, Vice President, TX  
M. Jody Taylor, Secretary, ID

## Secretariat:

Kristine C. Prince

## Members Present:

Darrell Morong, AZ  
Joann Phillips Rohan, D.C.  
Amanda Beagles, FL  
Mark Boger, ME  
Cynthia Yim, MD  
Maxine Baggett, MS  
John Paradis, MT  
Linda Bowmer, NV  
Dennis Wertz, NJ Parole  
Dale Dodd, NM  
James Eakins, OK  
Amanda Behe, PA  
Larry Yargerough, PA  
Michelle Latter, VA  
Lisa Catlett Price, VA

## Guests:

Gordon Vance, National Runaway Switchboard  
Ann Ambrose, Juv. Justice Deputy Commissioner  
Aaron Chapman  
Clay Thornton  
Judge James Farris, TX

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AJCA President Ron Leffler welcomed members to the 2003 AJCA Mid-Winter Workshop. Mr. Leffler thanked the Pennsylvania ICJ office, specifically Amanda Behe, Larry Yarberough and Warren Lewis, for hosting the workshop. He also thanked Cindy Pittman for making all of the arrangements with the hotel and Donna Bonner for her work on putting together the agenda.

Mr. Leffler welcomed new members who were attending for the first time and discussed the importance of networking with their colleagues from other states. He explained that the Mid-Winter Workshop was a “working” meeting and that the input of all those present is important to the work of AJCA. He encouraged new members to become involved in the various AJCA committees, and to attend the Annual Meeting in August in Phoenix.

Mr. Leffler reported that the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles has been introduced into many state legislatures across the country this year, and that North Dakota is the first state to become signatory to the new Compact. He anticipates that the new Compact will be enacted in the State of New Mexico in the next several days. He asked that each state representative be a “champion” for the new compact in their own states, and that they make themselves informed about the compact in order to provide any information or assistance that might be requested by their legislators or agency directors.

Mr. Leffler introduced Larry Yarberough, Deputy Compact Administrator in Pennsylvania, who enthusiastically welcomed everyone to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Yarberough thanked the local planning committee for all of their hard work in putting together this workshop: Amanda Behe, Ted Shear, Lisa Vanacourt, John Gusz and Warren Lewis. Mr. Yarberough then introduced Ann Ambrose, Juvenile Justice Deputy Commissioner.

Ms. Ambrose welcomed the group to Philadelphia, the fifth largest city in the country. Ms. Ambrose provided a brief overview of the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system and opened up a discussion of areas of concern regarding Interstate Compact services in Philadelphia. Members identified the following concerns:

- **Airport surveillance is not being provided at the Philadelphia airport. Ms. Ambrose said she would look into the possibility of asking local probation/parole staff to provide this surveillance.**
- **The issue of refusal to house non-delinquent runaways in secure detention facilities pending return. Ms. Ambrose agreed to review the letter written by John Wilson of OJJDP regarding this issue.**
- **Juvenile warrants not being put into NCIC. Ms. Ambrose agreed this was the practice in Philadelphia, but agreed to look into the matter further with the District Attorney.**

In closing, Ms. Ambrose thanked the group for their participation in the discussion and said she hoped that everyone would enjoy their stay in Philadelphia.

## **2. NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD**

Gordon Vance, Director of Programs for the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) provided training on their services. The service began locally in 1971. In 1974 it became the federally-designated national communications system through funding from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (Attachment A).

The mission of NRS is to facilitate relationships that ensure that youth and families have access to resources in their communities. The services they provide are:

- **A 24-hour confidential crisis line for homeless youth and their families.**
- **Information and referral.**
- **Conference calls between homeless youth and their families.**
- **A message service where homeless youth and their families can leave messages for each other.**
- **Education and prevention materials are provided free of charge for distribution at school events, health fairs, community activities, etc.**

- Website services at [www.nrscrisisline.org](http://www.nrscrisisline.org)

NRS has partnered with Greyhound Bus Lines in providing bus tickets for homeless youth to return home. They have also received frequent flyer miles from America West Airlines which can be used to return youth if certain criteria are met.

Once the youth has returned home, NRS will follow up with a phone call two days later to make sure that the youth and his/her family know how to follow up with resources that are available in their community for on-going services.

### 3. ROLL CALL

A roll call of states was taken by the Secretariat. Mr. Leffler discussed the agenda for the remainder of the meeting, and expressed disappointment that calls to various airlines were not returned. There will be no one from the airlines at the Mid-Winter Workshop to discuss mutually important issues involving the use of commercial airlines in returning youth home.

The meeting adjourned for lunch. Jim Toner of NCJFCJ arranged for a favorite AJCA luncheon speaker, Judge James Farris of Beaumont, Texas. As always, Judge Farris provided an inspirational talk. At the conclusion of his remarks, Judge Farris announced that he was on his “farewell” tour and would not be on the speaking circuit after this year.

### 4. HOW ICJ HELPED BRING ABOUT POSITIVE COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT.

This was AJCA’s first attempt to have a panel of juveniles who would discuss how the ICJ helped turn their lives around and bring about positive community adjustment. NRS co-sponsored this Workshop by agreeing to donate frequent flyer miles provided by America West Airlines to fly these juveniles and parents to Philadelphia. The Panel was to present at the National Juvenile Justice Conference and at the AJCA Workshop. Given time constraints of the project, only one nomination was received.

Mr. Leffler introduced Aaron Chapman and his step-father, Clay Thornton. Mr. Leffler noted that they gave a similar presentation at the National Juvenile Justice Conference. Aaron had been placed in the State of Texas through the ICJ from the State of Washington. Aaron discussed how he had gotten into trouble at an early age and was finally placed in secure detention in the state of Washington. When his family moved from Washington to Texas, they asked that Aaron be allowed to come to Texas to live with them once he was released. Aaron stated that the new environment in Texas helped to give him a clean start. Moving to Texas gave him the opportunity to form relationships with new friends who would support his new adjustment.

Mr. Thornton discussed how he and his family moved to Texas primarily in order to get Aaron away from his group of friends in Washington who had been a bad influence, hoping the move would

help him start over again. Both expressed appreciation for the services offered through the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

Members of the audience asked questions of both Aaron and Mr. Chapman and thanked them for coming to present this discussion at the workshop.

5. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kristine Prince, AJCA Secretariat  
April 16, 2003