



# AJCA Newsletter

Serving Youth Nationwide

Fall 2002

## One Step Closer to a New Compact

### *From the President*

- Ronald J. Leffler, IN Parole  
AJCA President

Greetings! It seems like only yesterday that we were at the Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. In addition to the regular business meeting, there was a lot of good information exchanged and feedback received.

The biggest challenge that faces us over the next couple of years is getting the new Compact passed in all of the states and territories. Over the next several months, legislators in all states and the territories will be getting copies of the new Interstate Compact *for* Juveniles from the Council of State Governments (CSG). The legislators will be asked to pass the new compact into law. Many issues will be discussed during this process. The AJCA leadership advocates that our members be proactive. Ensure that your legislators have accurate and up-to-date information and be prepared to educate them. I urge all of you to become familiar with the new Compact, be able to cite the pros of the new Compact and the cons of our current Compact, and know your statistics.

Upon our return from Savannah, we each should have shared the new information obtained from CSG with our supervisors. Hopefully, by this time, you are developing action plans on how to get the new compact introduced in the 2003 legislative session.

Helping guide the new compact through the adoption process is the biggest challenge that the Association and the nation have faced in over forty years in this area. The new compact maintains the authority of the Compact Administrator and raises the level of the Deputy Compact Administrator. I urge all of you to support the new compact and work to get it passed in your individual states, the District of Columbia, or the territories.

Established in 1955, the Interstate Compact on Juveniles is the only public law in existence to regulate the interstate movement of juvenile offenders, the return of absconders and escapees, and runaways. The Compact was written before the interstate highway system, before readily accessible air transportation, and before the personal computer literally revolutionized the way we live personally and professionally. Moreover, the juvenile population supervised under the Compact has dramatically increased over the past half century and many jurisdictions have expanded supervision and program expectations to include such areas as victim input and notification requirements, sex offender registration, and age related issues. These concerns coupled with growing dissatisfaction with an outdated and antiquated Compact structure has given root to growing public safety and juvenile welfare concerns.

Ratification will occur upon passage by the 35<sup>th</sup> state. At that time, the big challenge of implementation will occur. However, discussion of that challenge is for another article.

In closing, it is vital that we all be prepared for the introduction of the Compact and understand the importance its being ratified. The new Compact brings the issues that face us daily into perspective and provides a means of enforcement that has been lacking in the past. When ratification occurs, doing business as we know it will change for the better. Eventually all fifty states, the District of Columbia and territories will pass the new Compact legislation. This is a very exciting time for those in ICJ and AJCA.



### *The Interstate Compact for Juveniles - A New and Improved Tool for Effective Management and Juvenile Accountability*

-Richard L. Masters  
Special Counsel  
The Council of State Governments

The endorsement of the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles by the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators (AJCA) on August 10, 2002 at Savannah, Georgia was indeed an historic event. As we look forward to the "unveiling" of the proposed new compact to legislators and its introduction and passage into law, it is important to recall and remember the "journey" which has brought us to this important watershed.

#### THE OLD COMPACT

#### THE ROAD TO CHANGE

In 1999, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) conducted a detailed survey of the states, revealing many contentious issues and deficiencies within the current Compact. As currently written and implemented the current compact is not adequate. Its language and procedures are insufficient and antiquated, its rules and procedures are not widely followed or understood and its structure and administration is powerless to meet either public safety expectations or the needs of juveniles within the modern justice system. More specifically, not all states have identical compact language. Since the adoption of the original compact by all fifty states, three significant amendments have been proposed and enacted into law by some states but not by other states. Rules under the current compact cannot be enforced because it does not

provide any procedures to do so. Thus there is no means of assuring compliance even where the compact provisions at issue have been adopted by all of the states. There is no accountability and no consequences for states that violate and ignore the current compact rules. The survey also found significant needs for additional training to be made available to state and local juvenile justice officials and to improve the speed and quality of communication through the use of state of the art computer technology.

The existing compact provisions and rules are administered by the AJCA, which is both a professional, tax-exempt association of government officials and also serves as the administrative agency to carry out the terms of the current compact provisions and rules. However, this body is not specifically designated under the compact nor is it given specific authority to make and enforce rules or the provisions of the compact. Nor is there any provision, under the current compact, for a full time staff to coordinate compliance or adequate funds to do so. Although existing compact administrators deserve to be commended for their labor to manage an interstate supervision process which is overworked, understaffed, and under-funded, the significance of this compact and its unique role in promoting both public safety and protection of juveniles must address these deficiencies and problems.

- In June 2000 the Council of State Governments (CSG), which facilitated the drafting and adoption of the original compact, and OJJDP developed and facilitated an Advisory Group to examine and determine appropriate action to address the multitude of problems identified through the 1999 survey and follow up with respect to the Interstate Compact on Juveniles. Composed of twenty-four policy experts representing a broad and
- 2) Gubernatorial appointment of authorized voting representatives of all member states on a national governing commission, which meets at least annually to attend to the general business, rule making and enforcement procedures on behalf of the administrative body.
  - 3) Clear rule making authority delegated to the National Commission and provisions for meaningful sanctions to administer and enforce the operation on the compact.
  - 4) Mandatory funding mechanism sufficient to support essential compact operations (staffing, data collection, training/education, etc.).
  - 5) Collection of standardized information and information sharing systems.
  - 6) Coordination and cooperation with other interstate compacts which have "overlapping" jurisdiction, namely the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children and the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision.

In summary, the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles will provide a better framework for the promotion of public safety, the welfare of juveniles, and the protection of victims within the states through the control and regulation of the interstate movement of juveniles. The continued involvement and support of the AJCA will continue be a significant factor in its introduction and passage by state legislators as CSG and OJJDP work together with the Association to provide information and support to this important public policy initiative.

<p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p><b>The AJCA web site has changed to:</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="http://www.ajca.us">www.ajca.us</a></u></b></p> <p><b>and will be operational</b></p> <p><b>in the near future.</b></p>
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*A Second Chance*

diverse group of institutions and organizations with direct interest in juvenile supervision issues, the Advisory Group met twice between June 2000 and May 2001 to 1) review and analyze the information from the survey and 2) develop recommendations for action to improve the compact. After recommending a comprehensive revision of the Compact, a drafting team was organized during the fall of 2001. Like the Advisory Group, the drafting team consisted of fifteen policy experts from throughout the country with extensive experience in the area of juvenile justice, legislation, and interstate compacts. The drafting team was tasked with the mission of reviewing the Advisory Group recommendations and translating those objectives into specific provisions of a comprehensive amended compact. The final stage in this phase of the work was the dissemination of the draft of the newly proposed Interstate Compact for Juveniles to state officials, compact administrators and interested stakeholder groups for review and comment. This circulation and review took place from April of 2002 through June 2002.

**SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE IN THE NEW INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR JUVENILES**

The new compact addresses the deficiencies documented in the current compact system including enforcement, administration, finances, communications, data collection and exchange, and training. The Interstate Compact for Juveniles, among other improvements, provides for:

- 1) The establishment of an independent compact administrative agency with the authority to administer the ongoing compact activity, including provision for full time staff support.

***AJCA Resolution***

The following Resolution was adopted on Saturday at the 2002 Annual Meeting. The vote on the Resolution was 97 in favor. Only twenty representatives were present, several of whom represented one-half of their state and had a half vote, several states abstained from voting. The Resolution was requested by CSG to gain support for the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles.

<p><b><u>RESOLUTION</u></b></p> <p>Whereas, The Interstate Compact on Juveniles was established in 1955 and is the compact addressing the needs of juveniles within the juvenile justice system who move between states and has not been sufficiently amended in its forty-seven (47) year existence; and</p> <p>Whereas, This compact is the only vehicle for the interstate supervision of juvenile offenders, the return of absconders and escapees, and runaways; and</p> <p>Whereas, The complexities of the compact have become more difficult to administer, and many jurisdictions have expanded supervision and program expectations to include currently unregulated practices such as victim input and notification requirements, sex offender registration, and age related issues; and</p> <p>Whereas, After national surveys and a detailed study by a task force appointed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the recommendation has been to rewrite the document to bring about an effective management capacity that addresses public safety concerns and juvenile accountability.</p> <p>Be it therefore resolved, That the Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators hereby endorses and recommends adoption of the new compact entitled "Interstate Compact For Juvenile" by the fifty (50) states, the District of Columbia, and affected territories of the United States of America.</p> <p>Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Ronald J. Leffler, President -Michael C. Reddish, Immediate Past President</p>
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-Maureen Blaha, Executive Director  
National Runaway Switchboard

"Thank you. I don't know what I would have done without your help," said a runaway using the Home Free program. Since 1995, in partnership with Greyhound Bus Lines, Inc., the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) sent nearly 11,000 youth home. Greyhound's donation is valued at almost one million dollars. Committed to reaching as many youth as possible, Greyhound launched a campaign earlier this year, promoting the program in 450 of their busiest stations. Designed to be not simply a "bus ride home," Home Free provides youth and their parents/guardians with a second chance at reunification.

Youth are eligible to use the program twice in their lifetime, but must initiate the call to the National Runaway Switchboard themselves. The child must want to go home for this to have any chance of success. For youth between the ages of 12 and 18, trained "liners" (staff/volunteers answering NRS' 24-hour hotline) explore why the youth left home and how they expect things will change. Dealing with the issue prior to returning home plays a significant part in the success of the Home Free program. A similar conversation takes place between the parents/legal guardian and the "liner." Finally, all parties are brought together and the "liner" mediates a plan for return that includes referrals to local resources within their community. NRS staff follow up to determine if youth reached their destinations safely and to provide additional resources, if appropriate.

In November 2001, Greyhound expanded the program to include youth through age 20. (The program is not available to youth who have reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.) For the older teen ages 18-20 the options increase to include return to an extended family member or to an independent living or transitional living program nearest their home or family of origin. Youth ages 18-20 must have left home due to reported or unreported family conflict or abuse.

There are exceptions to the program, however. Youth who are under arrest or mandated by law to return to a detention center, treatment program, or any other mandated residential situation other than to their parent or legal guardian's home are not eligible. Nor is the program a free ride for non-runaway youth traveling across the country. A parent/legal guardian must have filed a Runaway Report with the police within the first five days of the minor youth leaving home.

Youth age 15 and older may travel alone. Although youth under age 15 cannot

While we were disappointed to discover NRS funds are not accessible to probationers and parolees, NRS does have a bank of donated America West frequent flyer points to send youth to conferences. The AJCA Board would like to take advantage of this opportunity to expand its relationship with NRS, as well as to learn of some first hand "success" stories by hosting a panel presentation on Interstate youth.

Over the next few weeks, when talking with local staff, please gather some suggestions for some of those success situations. The youth and a parent or guardian would need to be willing/interested in attending a portion of the Mid-Winter Workshop and participate in a panel discussion. AJCA would be responsible for their accommodations. We are looking for those youth whose lives have been changed by the opportunity to live in another state. A memo regarding the complete nomination and selection process will go out after the November Board meeting.



### Ordinary People, Extraordinary Work

- Kristine Prince, AJCA Secretariat

The Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators held their 2002 Annual Meeting August 7-10 in historic Savannah, Georgia. The theme for the meeting was "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Work" Thirty representatives from twenty-eight states came together to preview the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles which will be introduced into state legislatures beginning in January 2003. Rick Masters and John Mountjoy of the Council of State Governments presented the new compact and facilitated a discussion of compact issues afterwards.

Larry Anderson, District Director of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

travel alone, NRS can arrange for a round trip ticket for a parent(s) to travel to the youth's location to bring him home. A call to the NRS hotline 1-800-621-4000 will clarify other program eligibility criteria.

"The program was very efficient" said a parent whose child used the program. "They made sure I knew what was going on at all times, so I wasn't a bit worried about where he was. Thanks!"

Since 1974, the National Runaway Switchboard has been the federally-designated National Communication System for Runaway and Homeless Youth, and prior to that a hotline for at-risk youth in the Chicago area. Last year, the National Runaway Switchboard handled 115,962 crisis calls from youth and their families from across the country. Its services are done with the support of and in collaboration with organizations and programs throughout the nation.

The National Runaway Switchboard works to facilitate relationships that ensure youth and families have access to resources in their communities. Its services include the Home Free program, crisis intervention, facilitation of conference calls, a message service, information and referral, education and outreach and a state-of-the-art web site at [www.nrscrisisline.org](http://www.nrscrisisline.org).



## ICJ Success Stories and the National Runaway Switchboard

-Karen M. King-Jones, KY

Over the past several months, the AJCA Board has had several communications with Maureen Blaha of the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS). The NRS is responsible for the return of many runaway juveniles whose names never cross the desks of ICJ staff and occasionally some who do. The initial conversations between the two organizations was an attempt to tap into NRS funds for those states which currently do not have funds to return their runaways.

provided a warm welcome to the membership. Mr. Anderson spoke of the monumental changes and sweeping reforms that have occurred in the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice during the past year.

The Awards Banquet was held Thursday night at Mrs. Wilkes' Boarding House where the group was treated to authentic southern cooking served "family style." It was a delightful location for the Awards Banquet and those who attended enjoyed themselves tremendously.

A silent auction was held and \$150.00 was raised which will be presented to an

**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

agency within the State of Georgia that deals with at-risk juveniles.

## *Awards, Awards, Awards*

*-M. Jody Taylor, ID ICJ*

The following awards were presented at the Awards Banquet:

**Lifetime Membership:** Linda Bombaci, formerly of the New Hampshire ICJ office; Duane Edwards, formerly with the New Mexico ICJ office; and Fred McDonald, formerly with the West Virginia ICJ office. All presentations were announced at the banquet, and the plaques were either delivered or mailed to the recipients.

**Frederick Award:** Ron Leffler (IN Parole) received the Frederick Award for 2001-2002. His nomination included the following words of praise: "Ron...is a man of incredible integrity [who] goes about his work for the Association without ever attempting to bring attention or praise to himself. He has taken on assignments that others have declined to handle and has stepped to the plate in leadership roles on many occasions."

**AJCA Mid-Winter Workshop  
March 18-22, 2003  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
More information to follow.**

**Mitchell Wendell Award:** The Executive Board broke new ground this year by presenting three identical Wendell Awards, to the people and organizations who have been so instrumental in the process of creating the new Interstate Compact for Juveniles. Those recipients are: Chris Holloway of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, John Mountjoy of the Council of State Governments, and Rick Masters, a contractor of services to the Council of State Governments. In the nomination, the three were praised for their continuing diligence in the process and for their dedication to doing the job right.

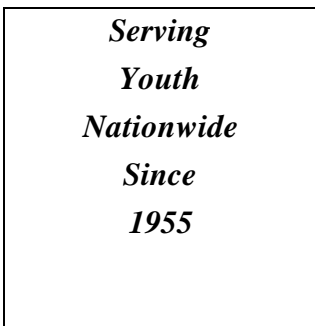
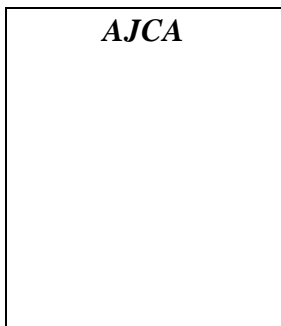
**Mike Reddish (NE-Parole)** was presented with the outgoing president's plaque with thanks for having served his second term as AJCA president.

And, last but definitely not least, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Cindy Pittman (GA) for her work in organizing the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Carmack, DCA, NH; Amanda Behe, ICJ Coordinator; PA; Michael B. Lacy, Compact Administrator, WV; Brenda Cook and Bev Herst.

All of the participants indicated that they enjoyed the "hands-on" case scenario exercises. The topics that generated the most comments and questions concerned the use of the new forms, juvenile sex offender laws across the country, travel permits, and the Rendition Amendment.

In addition to these issues, evaluations show that participants appreciated learning about the procedures, timeframes and limits, legal status differences between the states, how to approach the handling of unusual situations, and how cooperation between the states makes the whole system work. It was an enjoyable and productive training session!



### *Training Highlights*

Training for the Interstate Juvenile Compact administrators and staff was held at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia. The one-day training session on August 6<sup>th</sup> was attended by nine representatives from ICJ offices and thirteen Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice staff. Those attending were: Sandra Mattlack, DCA, CT; Christine Reece, DCA, KS; Brent Buerck, DCA, MO; Lori Schweinfurt, DCA, NV; Danise Sipple, Correspondent, NV; E. Wayne

Justice staff. Those attending were: Sandra Mattlack, DCA, CT; Christine Reece, DCA, KS; Brent Buerck, DCA, MO; Lori Schweinfurt, DCA, NV; Danise Sipple, Correspondent, NV; E. Wayne

## Committee Appointments

Ronald J. Leffler  
AJCA President

During the Executive Board meeting on August 10, 2002, Board members were appointed to serve as chairs to standing AJCA Committees. The appointments are as follows:

Budget.....Summer Foxworth (CO) and Judy Stephens (NC)

## 2002-2003 Executive Board Members

The following individuals were elected at the Annual Meeting to fulfill positions on the 2002-2003 Executive Board:

Ronald J. Leffler, IN Parole.....	President
Donna Bonner, TX.....	Vice President
M. Jody Taylor, ID.....	Secretary
Cindy Pittman, GA.....	Treasurer
Judy Miller, AR.....	Board Member
Summer Foxworth, CO.....	Board Member
Karen King-Jones, KY.....	Board Member
Cynthia Yim, MD.....	Board Member
Maxine Baggett, MS.....	Board Member
John Gusz, NJ Probation.....	Board Member
Pam Helbling, ND.....	Board Member
Brent Buerck, MO.....	Board Member
Judy Stephens, NC.....	Board Member



Rules and Regulations.....	Judy Miller (AR)
	Karen King-Jones (KY)
Strategic Planning.....	Cynthia Yim (MD)
Technology.....	John Gusz (NJ)

These committees function during the year and meet at the Mid-Winter Workshop. Much of the Mid-Winter Workshop is spent in committee work.

During the Rules and Regulations Committee report on August 8th, some areas of concern were identified by the membership. Those areas of concern were discussed and members agreed to work on those concerns before the 2003 Mid-Winter Workshop. All of the concerns are subtopics of the Rules and Regulations Committee and the work will have to be coordinated through that committee. Listed below are the areas of concern and the individuals who agreed to research them:

Public Safety .....	Mike Reddish (NE) and Robyn Peterson (OH)
Victims Rights .....	(needs a chair)
Sex Offender Registration and DNA Testing Requirements	Pal Gibson (KY) and Ryan Pinto (WA)
Travel Permits.....	Donna Bonner (TX) and JoAnn Rohan (DC)
Airport Surveillance.....	Christine Reece (KS)
Alien Residents.....	Wayne Carmack (NH)
Border Agreements.....	Cynthia Yim (MD)
	JoAnn Rohan (DC) and Michelle Latter (MS)
Emancipated Juveniles.....	Lori Schweinfurt (NV)
Confidentiality Rule.....	Karen King-Jones (KY)

**For the most recent revision of the Interstate Compact for Juveniles, check out the CSG website at:**

Bylaws and Manual.....	Brent Buerck (MO)
Nominations.....	Maxine Baggett (MS)
Partnerships.....	Donna Bonner (TX)
Professional Development.....	Pamela Helbling (ND)
Resolutions and Awards.....	M. Jody Taylor (ID)

The sub-committees need to formulate action plans as to how to address these issues before the 2003 Mid-Winter Workshop in Philadelphia.

Thank you to everyone who agreed to serve on the Board and as head of committees. Also, thanks to the members for volunteering to look into the issues that were presented. Hopefully we can come up with solutions to these concerns.

## New Slate of Regional Representatives Approved by the Membership

- Pam Helbling, ND ICJ

At the 2002 AJCA Annual Meeting, new Regional Representatives were approved to serve as resources to the compact administrators in their respective areas. All Regional Representatives will be sent a description of the duties which they agree to perform as a representative, essentially to inform, train and provide as a sounding board to the state compact administrators and staff in their region.

The following regions and reps are:  
Northwest and West Coast Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii --Jody Taylor (ID)

Midwest and North North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Wyoming--Pamela Helbling (ND)

Midwest/ Central Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, and Iowa –Summer Foxworth (CO)

Mideast Coast West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam –Cynthia Yim (MD)

Northeast - New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island –Margo Bryce (VT)

Southeast Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee –Karen King-Jones (KY)

## New Faces

AJCA welcomes the following new ICJ staff :

Patty Ware ..... Compact Administrator in Alaska  
 Darrell Morong ..... DCA in Arizona  
 Billie Greer..... DCA in Illinois Parole  
 Howard Beyer ..... Compact Admin. in New Jersey  
 E. Wayne Carmack ..... DCA in New Hampshire  
 Dale Dodd..... DCA in New Mexico  
 Daryl Liedecke ..... Extradition Specialist in Texas  
 Daphne Walker.....Parole Coordinator in Texas  
 Brenda Crockett.....ICJ Coordinator in Utah (temporary)  
 Ryan Pinto .....DCA in Washington  
 Michael Lacy..... Compact Admin. in West Virginia

A few of our colleagues have retired or received new assignments. We wish the best of luck to:

Jim Chaffee .....Arizona  
 Howard Jordan.....California  
 Duane Edwards.....New Mexico  
 Nikki Barnhart ..... Utah  
 Marlaina Belles ..... Utah  
 Darrel Freidt..... Washington  
 Fred McDonald..... West Virginia



## Training Tidbit

*Did you know that a Form III signed by the juvenile who is not in the presence of a judge is invalid?*

*The proper completion of a Form III starts with the runaway/absconder/escapee appearing before the juvenile judge, with the guardian ad litem, if appointed. The judge must read the juvenile his/her rights. The form is completed to indicate to whom the juvenile is returned (parent, juvenile probation, juvenile justice*

Please contact your regional representatives when you have questions, issues, great ideas for handling situations, agenda items for our meetings or just need to talk through a case.



*agency, or law enforcement).  
 The juvenile signs the Form*

*III in the presence of the judge and the guardian ad litem, if appointed. The judge, after consultation with the home state and the holding authorities, determines how the juvenile is to be returned. The judge and guardian ad litem, if appointed, sign the form.*

## AJCA Newsletter

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