

# Interstate Compact State Council

## December 4, 2020

### Minutes

The Indiana Interstate Compact State Council met by video conference on December 4, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Justin Forkner presided over the meeting.

- 1. Members present.** The following members of the State Council were present: Mary Kay Hudson, Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Court Services and Compact Administrator; Judge Dana Kenworthy, President of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Chris Naylor, Executive Director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council; Joel Gruber, proxy for the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction; Laura Berry, Executive Director of the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Devon McDonald, Executive Director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; Don Travis; proxy for the Director of the Department of Child Services; and Justin Forkner, Chief Administrative Officer of the Office of Judicial Administration and chairperson of the State Council.
- 2. Staff present.** April Dubree, Jenny Bauer, Angie Hensley, Nita Wright, and April Simmons provided staff assistance to the Council.
- 3. Approval of minutes.** The September 2020 meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Laura Berry and second from Dana Kenworthy.
- 4. Welcome remarks.** Justin Forkner welcomed the members and reported that Turran Blazier recently left her position with the Office of Judicial Administration. He stated that Ms. Blazier worked in the Office of Judicial Administration for twelve years as a compact specialist. Mr. Forkner noted that her departure is a significant loss for the office and staff is transitioning until the position is filled. Mr. Forkner also thanked Ms. Blazier for her service to OJA and the Compact State Council.
- 5. ICAOS Update.** April Simmons reported that there have been no significant changes in the Compact Office COVID 19 response since September. She noted that many courts are conducting remote sentencings for defendants and many probation departments have moved to remote work because of increases in

COVID cases. The Compact Office is reminding local departments to timely submit reporting instructions even for offenders still in the state of residence and sentenced virtually by an Indiana court. Ms. Simmons also reported that probation departments continue to do well meeting timelines for interstate transfer cases, with compliance exceeding 90 percent.

Nita Wright reported that the OJA Compact Office is working to improve internal compliance with user accounts. She noted that Compact staff will de-activate accounts dormant for 90 days and transfer the case to the main county contact. The internal audits of user accounts will allow early identification of issues in a county and address before becoming a compliance issue. Ms. Wright also reported that the LMS system training platform is live for training. Two separate platforms were launched—a platform for UNITY users and an on-demand platform for general training. Indiana is a full roll-out state for UNITY, which requires three mandatory training modules on the new system. There are also five optional trainings available on general compact information. She further reported that Indiana can also load its own training modules into the LMS platform and accounts are available for State Council members. Mr. Forkner asked interested members to contact Ms. Wright for an account.

Ms. Wright also reported Turran Blazier's appointed position as a deputy compact administrator is vacant with her departure and will need to be filled. This role is separate from the compact specialist role. Ms. Wright and April Simmons have split the duties until the roles are filled, with Ms. Simmons taking on some of the DCA duties. Mary Kay Hudson reported that the position has been posted and should be filled by February.

- 6. ICJ Update.** April Simmons reported that Indiana's COVID response still includes using technology to assist local departments to meet standards. This includes using video conferencing for home visits, which makes the turn-around time much faster. She also reported that compliance rates are still exceeding the national average. Nita Wright reported that Indiana judges have been concerned about releasing runaways to their home state when there is an abuse claim. The ICJ rules require return of the juvenile to the home state with a report of the abuse claim to the home state's abuse hotline. Indiana's responsibility is to effectuate the return. The Compact Office has worked with judges, law

enforcement, and DCS to make the return of runaways smoother with shorter detention times. The Council members discussed sharing training materials with judges and other stakeholders. The Council members also discussed the number of runaways who claim abuse. Nita Wright also reported that most of the state is trained on modules #1 and 2 for the UNITY rollout. She hopes that all Indiana users will be trained by the end of December. Ms. Wright also reported that the launch of UNITY was pushed back to February 2021.

- 7. NCIC Access.** Mary Kay Hudson reported that the issue of submitting a request to the State Police for the purpose of NCIC access for OJA Compact Staff was discussed at the last meeting. Jenny Bauer reported that she met recently with Dan Miller from IPAC and Michelle Goodman to draft an outline for the NCIC letter. Ms. Bauer noted that the letter follows the list of the access criteria provided by the State Police as well as information from the Department of Justice's NCIC planning document. Ms. Bauer noted that the success of the request will hinge on DOJ's determination if OJA meets the definition of a criminal justice agency. Ms. Bauer stated that the letter was distributed to members before the meeting and asked for feedback by December 11. Justin Forkner asked members to let OJA staff know if they are willing to sign the letter.
- 8. Other business.** Mary Kay Hudson reported that Sen. Sandlin is filing his SB 317 again for the 2021 legislative session. The bill was drafted at the request of the Council and would allow the county transportation fund. She stated that the bill did not receive a hearing in the 2020 session. Ms. Hudson also reported that 2021 is a rule-making year for ICAOS and ICJ. She sits on the Rules Committee for both commissions (and chairs for ICAOS) and welcomes ideas for amendments. Justin Forkner asked members to review the proposed meetings for 2021 and inform OJA staff of potential conflicts.
- 9. Next Meeting Date.** The Interstate Compact State Council is scheduled to meet March 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer  
Indiana Office of Court Services