

## Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

### Ohio Council Meeting Minutes

1:00 pm

July 25, 2019

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#### Members in Attendance

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Suzanne Brooks              | Deputy Compact Administrator, DPCS                          |
| 2. Katrina Ransom              | Adult Parole Authority Superintendent (pending appointment) |
| 3. Craig Berry                 | Lake County Chief Probation Officer                         |
| 4. Judge Melba Marsh (video)   | Judge, Hamilton County Common Pleas Court                   |
| 5. Judge Tyrone Yates (video)  | Judge, Hamilton County Municipal Court                      |
| 6. Julie Doepke (video)        | Supervisor/Victim Serv. Unit, Hamilton Co. Prob.            |
| 7. Elizabeth Miller (phone)    | Assistant Director, Ohio Public Defender's Office           |
| 8. Judge Michael Russo (phone) | Judge, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court                   |
| 9. Representative Don Manning  | Ohio House of Representatives                               |

#### Members not in Attendance

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Sara Andrews          | Commissioner  |
| 2. Sheriff Larry Sims    | Warren County Sheriff's Office                                  |
| 3. Morris J. Murray      | Prosecutor, Defiance County                                     |
| 4. Heinz Von Eckartsberg | Assistant Superintendent, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation |

## Staff

1. Sherri Hartman Interstate Compact Analyst, DPCS
2. Kristin Farrell-Logsdon Interstate Compact Analyst, DPCS

## New Member Orientation

Suzanne Brooks opened the meeting and introduced the new members of the council, Representative Don Manning from the Ohio House of Representatives and Heinz Von Eckartsberg from the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Suzanne advised that all appointments are filled, with the exception of an appointment from the Ohio Senate.

## Old Business

Suzanne addressed that the last time the council met, numerous members were in person at the Annual Business Meeting in Cleveland. Since that time, the council has taken an as needed approach to meeting; however, moving forward, it would be beneficial to meet on a more consistent basis.

## New Business

Suzanne discussed the criteria surrounding the FY2020 audit from the national office regarding Ohio's warrant tracking process for outgoing cases. Reviewed how Ohio had developed and evolved a process and some of the preliminary findings regarding warrant tracking. Discussed the issue of nationwide warrants not being entered on interstate compact cases and discussed potential areas for improvement in this area. Chief PO Craig Berry indicated that it may be helpful to indicate within the ICOTS system at the time of the OVR reply that the

request has been made for a nationwide warrant, which would place some liability on the officer completing the report.

The Governor has recently tasked a workgroup to look at how warrants are being issued at a state level. Suzanne indicated that a report was recently received regarding the workgroup's recommendations which included a tier system for the issuance of warrants. Tier 1 warrants (Nationwide) would be utilized for more serious offenses; however, this may be an opportunity to make a legislative recommendation to include interstate compact offenders in this category. Representative Manning has indicated a willingness to work with Suzanne to draft language that may be incorporated legislatively.

Suzanne discussed recent issues that have been identified with the holding of out of state offenders and the role of jail staff, prosecutors, etc. Identified that many of the issues are stemming from a lack of education. A suggestion was made that the Attorney General's (AG) Office write an opinion on the legal weight of the interstate compact application signed by the offender, which includes their waiver of extradition. The council would like to pursue this option further with the AG's Office.

Suzanne provided council members with the State of Ohio's overall compliance for FY2019. Overall, compliance was well above the 80% threshold. Suzanne identified the continued need to focus on the timeliness of replies to violation reports.

Suzanne discussed rule proposals that will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in October. The concern surrounding the possible requirement to have a nationwide warrant in the place at the time of the violation report reply was addressed. In discussing the process for reviewing violation reports, it was the consensus that the timeframes that are being proposed do not seem to be realistic and that other alternatives should be considered. Additionally, language indicating that a revocation hearing shall be pursued on those offenders who are subject to return reporting instructions (RIs) following a violation hearing. There is concern that violation behavior may be submitted as behavior requiring retaking; however, that behavior would not necessitate a revocation in Ohio. If the behavior is formally addressed, the RIs should still be granted. Concern that RIs will be denied based on this interpretation of the rule proposal. Suzanne indicated that many of the rule proposals included clean-up language. Suzanne also advised that she would forward Victim Representative Julie Doepke the language surrounding possible changes for victim input for review and recommendations and well as any

other recommendations of how we can further address victim needs within the State of Ohio and this population.

### **Member Updates**

Judge Marsh indicated that she would like to see field staff involved in the state council meetings to provide more feedback regarding the day to day activities. All state council members were in agreement with this approach and Suzanne indicated that she would work with Chief PO Berry to bring field staff together at the next meeting.

Judge Russo indicated that there are several new judges in Cuyahoga County that could benefit from an overview training of the interstate compact agreement. Suzanne indicated that she would reach out to Administrative Judge John Russo to try to set up a training opportunity.

Chief PO Berry indicated that he is going to work with Suzanne on incorporating a web based module on interstate compact in the training that is required for new probation/parole officers.

Adjourn 2:05 pm