

*TEXAS STATE COUNCIL FOR INTERSTATE ADULT OFFENDER
SUPERVISION*

Price Daniel Building
209 W. 14th St. Fifth floor
JANUARY 31, 2019

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chair, Council Member, called the State Council meeting to order at 10:01 AM, Thursday, January 31, 2019. Those in attendance included:

Brodie “Brody” Burks, Texas Commissioner, Governor’s Appointee

David G. Gutierrez, Chair, Council Member

The Honorable Michael Keasler, Council Member, Court of Criminal Appeals Appointee

Pam Alexander-Schneider, Council Member, Governor’s Appointee, Victim’s Representative

Pamela Thielke, Council Member, Compact Administrator

Tina Balandran, Council Member, Exécutive Director’s Désignée

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion by David G. Gutierrez to approve the minutes from July 26, 2018. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision Overview (ICAOS) – Tina Balandran

- A. Annual Business Meeting (ABM)-** During the ABM, four staff from the Texas Interstate Compact office were recognized and presented with a Spirit of the Compact Award. The ABM conducted a presentation on Human Trafficking. A vote was held for the Deputy Compact Administrator (DCA) Liaison Committee Chair, who will serve on the Executive Committee, to be the liaison between the commissioners and the DCA’s in all 50 states and three territories. The DCA Committee has created a focus newsletter, which includes staff highlights, recognitions, new staff assignments, retirements, region reports, tip of the quarter (best practices across the states), highlights difficult cases and resolutions where states collaborated with each other and mentoring programs for newly appointed DCA’s.

During the **South Region Meeting**, conducted at the ABM, Texas voiced concern about common law marriage, due to not being recognized as a union during the transfer request process. Further discussions were held to define the word ‘*spouse*’ as is relates to a common law marriage. Continue discussions on defining spouse.

The **Compliance Committee Meeting** also met during the ABM. Illinois and the Virgin Islands received notification for not meeting the 80% or above compliance standards. California received a \$25,000 fine due to non-warrant issuance or entering a nationwide warrant as mandated by the ICAOS rules.

Ms. Balandran announced the next **ABM Meeting** will be held in San Diego, California October 8 – October 9, 2019.

B. Committee Memberships-

- Heather Clark - Technology Committee
- Tina Balandran - Compliance committee

Membership attendance allows the opportunity to be a voice for Texas and to submit ideas regarding enhancements in the ICOTS database. Attendance of the Compliance Committee provides a better opportunity to understand the compliance percentages for our state.

C. Supervision Totals-To Texas (Inbound) and from Texas (Outbound) parole and probation cases between 2010 thru 2018.

A combined total of probation and parole offenders transferring to Texas from other states in 2018 is 6,869

- Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana and Oklahoma are the top five states transferring offenders to Texas
- Arkansas, California, Florida, Louisiana and Oklahoma are the top five states where Texas transfers offenders
- Louisiana and Oklahoma are the top states who transfer to and from Texas for probation
- Transfers to Texas for Probation is 4,618
- Transfers to Texas for Parole is 2,251

A combined total of probation and parole offenders transferring from Texas to other states in 2018 is 9,555

- Transfers From Texas for Probation is 6,820
- Transfers From Texas for Parole is 2,735
- The top three states for Probation and Parole Dual Supervision cases from Texas transfers are California, Louisiana and Oklahoma

D. Recidivism rate totals for To Texas and From Texas cases are as follows:

Recidivism Rate Totals- To Texas (Inbound) and from Texas (Outbound)

To Texas total 896 cases:

- 534 - Absconders
- 204 - Required by receiving state to return to the sending state
- 121 - New Felony Conviction
- 37 - New Conviction of a violent crime in Texas

Total percentage is 8% of *To Texas* cases who have been returned to the sending state

From Texas total 802 cases:

- 460 - Absconded supervision
- 223 - Required by sending state to return to sending state.
- 31- New Conviction of a violent crime in receiving state.
- 88 - New Felony Convictions

Total percentage is .08% of *From Texas* cases returning to Texas

All efforts of graduated sanctions must be taken prior to requesting to return to sending state or issuing a warrant.

E. *Compliance Standards* - Ms. Clark provided the compliance standards and averages for January-December 2018.

F. *Trainings* - Ms. Balandran gave a brief overview of the trainings that were conducted over the past year. In person training was held at the Abilene District Parole Office (DPO), Dallas DPO and the Dallas Community Supervision Corrections Department (CSCD). These trainings were for both probation and parole staff. An internal training for Victim Services was also conducted. Upcoming trainings to be held at Walker and Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD). Ms. Balandran also attended the Probation Advisory Committee meeting (PAC) where she provided an update of the compliance numbers and informed the PAC Committee of the trainings offered throughout the metro area at this time. The PAC suggested inviting the rural areas when trainings are being held in nearby cities to ensure all ICOTS users are properly trained.

G. *FY19 & FY20 Audit*- a brief overview was provided of the 2019 audit that was held during October 2018. This audit conducted by the National Office was to ensure that we maintained deactivated accounts and administrative users. We had one question about a deactivated user; however, it was explained the user was reactivated, after returning to active duty, and no further action was needed. The FY2020 Audit will be conducted beginning July 2019. This will be an Absconder warrant verification; ensuring warrants are properly entered into NCIC and includes a review of the retaking processes. Texas is required to have policies and procedures in place for the warrant and retaking processes. ICAOS will randomly select up to 30 cases and will allow 30 days to respond to the audit request.

H. *Region Directors*- This year, Parole Division's five Region Directors have reached out to the Probation Chiefs in their regions and the surrounding areas to create more collaborative relationships between probation and parole. The Region Directors and Probation Chiefs are working together towards the same focus in order to meet the client's individual needs.

IV. Report from the Texas Interstate Compact Office – Brodie “Brody” Burks

A. *VINES* - is a system which provides victim notification across state lines. Texas is no longer using this system. The compact voted to end the IVINS contract due to contractual issues. The IVINS contract ended effective December 21, 2018.

B. Committees-

- Rules Committee - will be considering new rules for communication issues. Discussions will be held due to the need to define ‘spouse’ especially for common law states. The Midwest region has proposed 7-8 new rules.
- South Region - Brody Burks has been voted as the new chairman.
- Executive Committee – In person meeting will be held in Austin the first week of February to plan future ABM’s. The 2019 annual business meeting will be in San Diego, California and 2020 ABM following will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

V. Determination of next meeting date

Council Members agreed to meet on July 11, 2019 at 10 am in the Price Daniel Bldg.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Gutierrez, State Council Meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM.