



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

West Region Meeting MINUTES

January 14, 2021 · 2:00 PM ET
Video Conference

Members in Attendance:

1. Roberta Cohen (NM), Chair
2. Rebecca Brunger (AK)
3. Dori Littler (AZ)
4. Guillermo Viera Rosa (CA)
5. Merideth McGrath (CO)
6. Dwight Sakai (HI)
7. Cathy Gordon (MT)
8. Sheri Sliva (NV)
9. Jeremiah Stromberg (OR)
10. Dan Blanchard (UT)
11. Mac Pevey (WA)
12. Coltan Harrington (WY)

Members not in Attendance:

1. Denton Darrington (ID)

Guests:

1. Lorna Colver (AK)
2. Matthew Poyzer (AZ)
3. Chris Smalling (CA)
4. Andrew Zavaras (CO)
5. Michael Knott (HI)
6. Brook Mamizuka (HI)
7. Victoria Vigil (NM)
8. Bill West (NV)
9. Nora Antonucci (NV)
10. Karen Collins (NV)
11. Deborah Dreyer (NV)
12. Mark Patterson (OR)
13. Tanja Gilmore (WA)
14. Patricia Odell (WY)

Staff:

1. Ashley Lippert, Executive Director
2. Allen Eskridge, Policy and Operations Director
3. Barno Saturday, Logistics and Administrative Coordinator
4. Mindy Spring, Administrative and Training Coordinator

5. Xavier Donnelly, ICOTS Project Manager
6. Kelsey Moore, Web Applications and Tech Support Manager

Call to Order

Chair R. Cohen (NM) called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm ET, twelve out of thirteen members were present; a quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Commissioner D. Littler (AZ) moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner S. Sliva (NV) seconded. Agenda approved.

Commissioner J. Stromberg (OR) moved to approve the minutes from September 8, 2020 as drafted. Commissioner R. Brunger (AK) seconded. Minutes approved.

Discussion

Rule proposals for submission to the 2021 Annual Business Meeting (ABM): Chair R. Cohen (NM) stated that the deadline to submit rule proposals for consideration at the 2021 ABM was February 1, 2021. She inquired if the region members had any rule proposals to move forward.

Commissioner D. Littler (AZ), Rules Committee member, reminded the region that last year, the Rules Committee established a workgroup to address whether the Commission should consider a standard timeframe for issuing warrants in the interest of training stakeholders and public safety. Based on the workgroup's recommendation, the committee proposed a rule proposal package to expand the timeframe for issuing compact compliant warrants to a standard 15 business days, when an offender fails to arrive/return as instructed or is subject to retaking. She added that the Rules Committee would meet with regions in the upcoming months to discuss the proposal package in details.

DCA West Region chair report – DCA T. Gilmore (WA) stated that the West Region DCAs met last week to discuss ICOTS enhancements and rule proposals. She added that it was a productive meeting, but she had no major changes to report.

State Updates: Chair R. Cohen (NM) asked the members to share their state updates.

Alaska – Commissioner R. Brunger stated that their interstate compact office continued to process transfers to the best of their abilities, though they had limited operations in the field.

Alaska requires all visitors to be tested prior to arriving or at the airport and to quarantine for 14 days. They also had travel restrictions in some rural areas.

Alaska started rolling out the COVID-19 vaccines.

Arizona – Commissioner D. Littler stated that Arizona had high infection and hospitalization rates. The state started rolling out the vaccination. She added that the compact office continued to work together to resolve transfer related issues.

California – Commissioner G. Viera-Rosa stated that California, Los Angeles County in particular, struggled with a high number of COVID-19 infections. They started rolling out the vaccine to the Department of Corrections employees.

California’s jail capacity was restricted due to limited court operations.

DCA C Smalling added that they started to process both incoming and outgoing transfer requests. He noted that a few counties had limited staff and processed cases with a delay.

Colorado – Commissioner M. McGrath stated that Colorado faced similar challenges as the other states. They continued rolling out the vaccine and their courts were starting to reopen. The jails were backlogged four times the capacity they had been historically.

Their probation office operations were getting back to normal, though often times they still had to work on case-by-case basis.

For the parole office, jail space and extradition were the biggest issues.

Hawaii – Commissioner D. Sakai noted that COVID-19 cases were still high in Hawaii. They continued to utilize different methods to supervise offenders. They retained minimum staff in the compact office.

Hawaii had a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival unless the traveler was part of the safe travel program that required a negative COVID-19 test.

Due to Hawaii’s budget crisis, the compact office had a hiring freeze that significantly affected the compact office operations as some staff had retired in the last few months.

Hawaii started vaccinate its correction and detention facilities.

Montana: Commissioner C. Gordon stated that Montana experienced a rising number of deaths related to COVID-19. Montana still was not extraditing or incarcerating offenders from other states.

Nevada – Commissioner S. Sliva stated that their compact office operated similar to the other states. They continued to scrutinize their extraditions. They have COVID-19 vaccines available for all their employees. The Governor delayed the opening of businesses for another month.

New Mexico: Chair R. Cohen stated that New Mexico had a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all incoming offenders. Their legislative session starts next week and would review a few bills that affect Department of Corrections operations.

All probation and parole officers who requested the COVID-19 vaccine, had been vaccinated. New Mexico started vaccinating their institution population.

She added that their office saw increased number of absconders resulting from the reporting by phone supervision.

Oregon: Commissioner J. Stromberg stated that Oregon started vaccinating its Department of Corrections' staff as well as population within the institutions. The compact office has also moved entirely to a virtual platform.

Their Governor continues to advance 40-60 commutations a month to reduce the capacity within their institutions.

Utah – Commissioner D. Blanchard stated that similar to the other states, Utah had many early releases from their prisons. Now they were down to 2003 level of prison population.

Utah was in a process of vaccinating its public safety employees as well as the high-risk incarcerated offenders.

Commissioner D. Blanchard noted that they were experiencing issues with their local law enforcement on warrant issuance and extradition that could affect other states transfers.

Prior to the holidays, they moved to a new physical location. A quarter of their staff went back to work in the office.

Washington – Commissioner M. Pevey stated that Washington started their legislative session on Monday. The state was challenged by the budget constraints. They were in the process of implementing a couple of bills from last session to decrease their supervision population.

The compact office was moving towards teleworking on permanent basis.

Washington began the vaccinating its higher risk population and their public safety employees.

He thanked California for working together through a difficult extradition case.

Wyoming – Commissioner C. Harrington (WY) stated that WY had no current restrictions related to the offenders' travel. Wyoming faced similar budget problems as the other states.

Executive Director Update: Executive Director A. Lippert presented her report to the region:

- DCA T. Hudrlik (MN) completed her two-year term as the DCA Liaison Committee chair. The Executive Committee appointed DCA S. Brooks (OH) to be the new chair.
- The Executive Committee approved a plan to assist states with preparation for rescinding the applicability of Rule 2.111 on April 1, 2021. The committee will make the formal decision in February or March to rescind the rule.

Commissioner J. Stromberg, Commission Chair, added that the Executive Committee put a lot of thought into deciding on the rescinding date. He reminded the region that if by April 1, states

were still experiencing significant limitations; they can submit individual requests to extend the applicability of the rule in their state.

- The Executive Committee approved changes to the state council policy AP 3-2009. The changes allowed states to submit their state council information online. Executive Director A. Lippert demonstrated the online state council reporting form developed by the national office. The form pre-populates state's existing data simplifying the process for making corrections or additions.

The Executive Committee agreed that no enforcement for the states council policy compliance would occur in 2020.

- The ABM Planning Workgroup is working on setting the agenda for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

The Executive Committee selected New York City, NY as the location for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting. The calendar year of 2022 was a DCA Training Institute year and the Commission's 20th anniversary.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Region Goals: The region reviewed and was in agreement with its current region goals.

Region goals:

- *Develop a list of known best practices, emerging trends and training opportunities.*
- *Engage discussions on aligning compact practices with principles of reentry/justice reinvestment.*

New ICOTS Enhancements Proposals: Chair R. Cohen (NM) informed the region that Nevada and Washington submitted several draft ICOTS enhancement requests for review and consideration. She noted that if approved by the region, the full Commission would vote on these enhancements at the 2022 Annual Business Meeting. The enhancements would be in production in the 2023 calendar year.

The region reviewed the ICOTS enhancement to modify workflow for RFRI reason 'living in receiving state at the time of sentencing' proposed by Nevada.

Training Coordinator M. Spring stated that the national office recommended the West Region consider addressing the issue described in the enhancement through training instead. While it was common practice for states to deny an RFRI request for offenders 'living in the receiving state at the time of sentencing' when outside the 7-day timeframe (Rule 3.103 (a)(1)), this enhancement poses several data concerns as well as cost implications due to the nature of the RFRI workflow. Ceasing these unnecessary denials would:

- Increase the efficiency of the transfer process and decrease unnecessary 'paperwork' and ICOTS processing.
- Provide states the ability to accurately 'track' the offender and prevent gaps in supervision (other reasons for Reporting Instructions do not allow for a NOD/NOA until reply and offenders are typically already in Receiving State while the RFRIs are being processed).
- Allow for accurate use of Dashboard tools
 - Identify various areas of non-compliance with Rule 3.103 (a) (such as what users/counties are sending outside the 7-day timeframe).
 - Accurately identify offenders who qualify for each reason for RIs, how many are accepted, whether they are mandatory versus discretionary, and those who successfully complete supervision.

The region decided to forward the proposal to the Training Committee.

The region will review the rest of the enhancements at its next meeting scheduled for April 15, 2021.

Adjourn

Commissioner J. Stromberg (OR) moved to adjourn. Commissioner S. Sliva (NV) seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm ET.