



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Midwest Region Meeting MINUTES

August 23, 2022 - 11:00 am ET
Video Conference

Members in Attendance:

1. Sally Kreamer (IA), Chair
2. Mary Kay Hudson (IN)
3. Allen Godfrey (MN)
4. Katrina Ransom (OH)
5. Russell Marlan (MI)
6. Sally Reinhardt-Stewart (NE)
7. Amy Vorachek (ND)
8. Bradley Lewandowski (SD)

Members not in attendance:

9. Joselyn Lopez (WI)
10. Hope Cooper (KS)
11. VACANT (IL)

Guests:

1. Gary Roberge, Treasurer (CT)
2. DCA Daryn Cobb (MI)
3. Susan Barnard (NE)
4. DCA Alyssa Miller (ND)
5. DCA Suzanne Brooks (OH)
6. DCA Chuck Frieberg (SD)
7. DCA Jacey Rader (NE)
8. DCA Tracy Hudrlik (MN)
9. DCA Brenna Kojis (WI)
10. DCA Matthew Billinger (KS)
11. DCA Joel Gruber (IN)
12. April Simmons (IN)
13. Nataly Sevilla (IN)
14. Nita Wright (IN)
15. DCA Sara Ball (SD)

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. Drake Greeott, Web Development Manager

Call to Order

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) called the meeting to order at 11:04 am ET. Eight out of eleven voting members were present, a quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) seconded. Agenda approved.

Commissioner R. Marlan (MI) moved to approve the minutes from May 10, 2022, meeting as drafted. Commissioner A. Vorachek (ND) seconded. Minutes approved.

Discussion

Chair J. Kreamer (IA) thanked Treasurer G. Roberge (CT) for attending the meeting to discuss the dues proposal.

Treasurer G. Roberge (CT) stated that the Commission had not had a dues increase since 2009 and last year, it had a one-time dues reduction due to COVID to provide relief to states.

In fiscal year 2023, the Commission's expenses are anticipated to exceed revenue and did not need to use long-term investment funds to balance the budget. Further, it has had a surplus for years prior thanks to strong financial management by the national office.

To preserve operating funds for emergencies, the Commission has a policy to maintain a year's worth of operating in the long-term investment fund. In year 2025-26, however, projections show that with transfers required to balance the budget, that fund is expected to cross below that emergency policy threshold.

An additional pressure on the Commission's funding may come from a rebuild of the ICOTS system, which has not had a major revision since its deployment. This rewrite/rebuild is anticipated to have a significant cost associated with it.

Accordingly, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Executive Committee approved, the proposal of a modest dues increase of 5.25% for the next five fiscal years that stabilizes at 3% moving forward. The anticipation is that the larger increase should stabilize operating revenue and expenses with the 3% figure maintaining balance and providing funds to help replenish reserves and help fund ICOTS revisions.

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) thanked the Treasurer and asked for questions.

Commissioner S. Reinhardt-Stewart (NE) asked about the amount of the increase moving forward at the 3% range. Could that amount be revisited or reassessed if not sufficient or if not needed?

Treasurer G. Roberge (CT) stated that the increase will only be maintained when needed.

Commissioner R. Marlan (MI) asked how the 5.25% amount was arrived at.

Executive Director A. Lippert noted that the figure was one of many scenarios presented that helped balance the Commission's budget. This figure was seen as a way over time to provide stability and a standard increase would help states work with their fiscal departments.

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) discussed this issue with their governor's office. The Iowa office does not receive a line item to pay its state dues. Paying for increased costs may require reductions in other areas. They do not want to increase the cost to justice involved individuals to meet these increases. States should be discussing these increases with their fiscal officers.

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) stated that the Commission has been fortunate not to have a dues increase over the past decade with gratitude for efforts to maintain low operating and personnel costs. He stressed that we must have funding to operate the Commission, believing that we have done everything we can to manage finances appropriately over the years. If the Commission does not do this, we may have such a significant increase in the future that it would be unpalatable to members.

Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) is satisfied that all due considerations have been made to help the Commission maintain and discharge its duties. The recommendation did not come lightly given awareness of challenges that many states face financially. Though it is an increase in dues, it is required to allow us to maintain service and continue to make investments in technologies that help the members fulfill their duties.

Commissioner K. Ransom (OH) noted her support for the dues increase proposal.

Commissioner G. Roberge (CT) thanked everyone for their thoughtful comments and looked forward to discussing the issue more at the Annual Business Meeting.

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) stated that the Treasurer was open to communication with members at any time and thanked him for his time.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) asked the Executive Director how preparations for the Annual Business Meeting were progressing.

Executive Director A. Lippert stated that approximately 160 people have registered for the meeting, but that registration was closing that week. She encouraged everyone to register quickly.

Adjourn

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) moved to adjourn. Commissioner K. Ransom (OH) seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am ET.