



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Midwest Region Meeting Minutes

**September 27, 2022 · 12:46 pm ET
New York Hilton Midtown Hotel,
New York, NY**

Members in Attendance:

1. Sally Kreamer (IA)
2. Joan Coons (IL)
3. Mary Kay Hudson (IN)
4. Hope Cooper (KS)
5. Russell Marlan (MI)
6. Allen Godfrey (MN)
7. Sally Reinhardt-Stewart (NE)
8. Amy Vorachek (ND)
9. Katrina Ransom (OH)
10. Bradley Lewandowski (SD)
11. Joselyn López (WI)

Guests:

1. Brenna Puestow, WI
2. Daryn Cobb, MI
3. Blair Hofeldt, NE
4. Tracy Hudrlik, MN
5. Simona Hammond, IA
6. Julie Christensen, IA
7. Holly Kassube, IL
8. Joel Gruber, IN
9. Patrick Smith, MN
10. Chuck Frieberg, SD
11. Sarah Ball, SD
12. Alyssa Miller, ND
13. Susan Barnard, NE
14. Nataly Sevilla, IN
15. April Simmons, IN

Staff

1. Allen Eskridge, Policy and Operations Director

Call to Order

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) called the meeting to order at 12:46 pm ET. 11 out of 11 Commissioners were in attendance establishing a quorum.

Motion to modify and approve the agenda moving up new business made by Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN), seconded by Commissioner H. Cooper (KS). Agenda approved.

Discussion

Officer nominations

Nomination – Chair of Commission – Mary Kay Hudson

Motion to nominate Commissioner M.K. Hudson for Chair made by Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN). Seconded by Commissioner A. Vorachek (ND). Motion passed unanimously.

State Updates

Chair S. Kreamer (IA) – Noted that collaboration and cooperation with states and the region is valued. Chair S. Kreamer thanked the efforts of compact staff and DCAs. Saving money and effort and doing what is best for the victim and client is important and possible through communication. The state is now back to pre-COVID operating levels.

Commissioner H. Cooper (KS) – Informed the region that she is leaving her position to join the private sector. As well, DCA Matt Billinger has taken a new role, resulting in a change in DCA for the state. It is an election year. Therefore, there is likely to be a slight transition gap as a new team arrives. The state is back to normal operations. The ability for clients to interact with supervising officers from home is reported as having beneficial results.

Commissioner J. López (WI) – Updated that the state is operating in a new normal. Officers are engaged in part-time work from home. Delays in sentencing are challenging. The cost of transportation is high. Treatment options are challenging due to staffing issues. Technology is being placed in unit offices to accommodate virtual practices. New DCA Brenna Kojis has been welcomed to the Compact.

Commissioner M. K. Hudson (IN) – Updated that the Indiana Compact staff came to learn in New York. Indiana is moving back to usual operations, though operations didn't change much during the pandemic. NCIC access has been gained for warrant verification. Indiana does their own extraditions, so they don't have the same experience with increased vendor cost. On the parole side, they need to continue to use testing, sanctions, and revocations because of accountability needs. Probation has loosened reporting instruction requirements to be more accommodating.

Commissioner K. Ransom (OH) – Updated that the state is looking at other options for extradition. Costs have increased during the pandemic by 3 to 4 times past amounts. Offices are largely remote with officers in the field not in a traditional space. Compact staff work 100% from home. The state has made all required signatures available to begin work on the JRI notification project. And, the state continues to work on expanding training opportunities.

Commissioner R. Marlan (MI) – Updated that the state continues to utilize remote work. The number are down for parole and probation by roughly 20% since the start of the pandemic. Transport is expensive. Michigan officers are not peace officers and therefore not able to transport out of state. Communication and reciprocal treatment by states has been great.

Commissioner S. Reinhardt-Stewart (NE) – Informed the region that a change in personnel in the compact staff is occurring. Normal operations are in effect, and many are back in the office. Flexibility and remote options exist for officers and are considered helpful for their schedules and work environment. Clients still make visits in traditional office spaces; however, use of group rooms for some client visits has increased. Extraditions are expensive for the state with 12 probation districts. Each district maintains an ICOTS specialist but have experienced large turnover in staff. A meeting of the state council is anticipated soon. Parole has switched from the Department of Corrections to the Board of Parole.

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) – Updated that the new normal in state operations continues. Remote work has been made permanent for parole and probation. Retaking relies on sheriffs for nationwide warrants. Some sheriffs are upset about the cost of being used for retaking. The state council has been engaged to help obtain funding for sheriffs for nationwide work. The bill to fund sheriff retaking narrowly failed during the last session but will be put forward again. Since the 1970s, MN and WI interstate staff have had an in-person meeting that is now being expanded to IA for the Spring. All trainings are remote and monthly with mini trainings that have been well received.

Commissioner A. Vorachek (ND) – Noted that more engagement and conversations related to cross-border collaboration has been occurring resulting in beneficial results.

Commissioner B. Lewandowski (SD) – Updated that no COVID shutdown occurred in South Dakota. The state has struggled with extraditions, staffing, and training as a result of the pandemic. For probation, warrants are done by sheriffs who do not like the nationwide process.

Designee J. Coons (IL) – Updated that a new commissioner is forthcoming to replace the current interim. The state is back to normal operations. Warrant processing is local and challenging. Sheriffs have money due to a state law providing specific funding for retaking processes.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve August 23, 2022 meeting minutes made by Commissioner J. López (WI). Seconded by Commissioner K. Ransom (OH). Minutes approved.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN), seconded by Commissioner K. Ransom (OH). Meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm ET.