



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

South Region Meeting MINUTES

January 25, 2022 · 11:00 am ET
Video Conference

Members in Attendance:

1. Julie Kempker (MO), Chair
2. Tom Langer (AL)
3. Amber Schubert (AR)
4. Joe Winkler (FL)
5. Steve Turner (KY)
6. Jamie Lee (LA)
7. Timothy Moose (NC)
8. Lisa Helton (TN)
9. David Gutierrez (TX)
10. Jim Parks (VA)
11. Diann Skiles (WV)

Members not in Attendance:

12. Richard Tischner (DC)
13. Chris Moore (GA)
14. Martha Danner (MD)
15. Nathan Blevins (MS)
16. Jerry Adger (SC)
17. James Rudek (OK)

Guests:

1. Elizabeth Powell (DC)
2. Tim Strickland (FL)
3. Joe Kuebler (GA)
4. Miriam Dyson (GA)
5. Don Werner (KY)
6. LaShonda Campbell (MD)
7. Alison Woodruff (MO)
8. Rick Kuttenkuler (MO)
9. Richie Spears (MS)
10. Betty Payton (NC)
11. Melanie Collins (NC)
12. Frank Mesarick (OK)
13. Richie Spears (MS)
14. Christopher Harris (SC)
15. Lloyd Turner (SC)
16. Rene Hinojosa (TX)
17. Jocelyn Angton (TX)
18. Julie Lohman (VA)

19. Jordan McKinley (WV)

Staff

1. Ashley Lippert, Executive Director
2. Allen Eskridge, Policy and Operations Director
3. Barno Saturday, Logistics and Administrative Coordinator
4. Xavier Donnelly, ICOTS Project Manager
5. Drake Greeott, Web Development Manager

Call to Order

Chair J. Kempker (MO) called the meeting to order at 11:00 am ET. Executive Director A. Lippert called the roll. Eleven out of seventeen voting members were present, a quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Commissioner S. Turner (KY) moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner D. Skiles (WV) seconded. Agenda approved.

Commissioner S. Turner (KY) moved to approve the minutes from September 23, 2021 as drafted. Commissioner L. Helton (TN) seconded. Minutes approved.

Discussion

Executive Director A. Lippert presented the FY 2023 ICOTS Enhancements Process Dates to the region.

- March 1, 2022
 - All proposed enhancement requests submitted by a committee or region must be received by EOB March 1, 2022
- May 1 – June 1, 2022
 - Comment period
- August 26, 2022
 - Final drafts of enhancement & Statement of Work Quotes circulated to Commission members via Docket book.
- September 29, 2022
 - Final vote for enhancements at ABM

Per ICAOS policy, enhancement request forms must be completed and signed by a commissioner and provided at least 5 days prior to a region meeting for consideration.

Chair J. Kempker (MO) asked the region to submit any ICOTS enhancement proposals by February 15 to give the region time to meet and discuss the proposals.

Chair J. Kempker (MO) asked states to provide COVID updates for their state:

Arkansas - Commissioner A. Schubert stated that Arkansas had the highest number of hospitalizations since the beginning of the pandemic. The compact office continued working closely with the sheriff association on Compact related extraditions on case-by-case basis.

The correction facilities had been experiencing difficulties with staff retention. The department raised salaries for frontline correctional staff and parole and probation officers.

Arkansas public defendants advised that they cannot ethically accept any more cases and would start declining them in March due to court's backlog.

District of Columbia - DCA E. Powell stated that DC was fully operational and fully staffed. A new group of Community Supervision Officers starts in April.

Florida – Commissioner J. Winkler stated that Florida resumed all Interstate Compact activities since July 2020. Its pre-Covid offender population was 162,000, its present population is 146,000. The department requested their legislature to increase salaries for certified staff to help with recruitment and retention. Currently, they have over 230 certified vacancies.

Georgia – DCA M. Dyson stated that Georgia too was experiencing staffing issues with field officers. The compact office was providing online refresher training sessions to the field staff.

She added that the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) with the assistance of the Georgia compact office will host its Winter Training Institute in Georgia.

Executive Director A. Lippert invited region members to attend ICAOS training session led by Training Coordinator M. Spring with the assistance of Commission Chair J. Stromberg (OR) and DCA Liaison Committee Chair S. Brooks (OH).

Kentucky – Commissioner S. Turner stated that to help with staff retention issues, they allow their staff to telecommute 2 days and work in the office 3 days a week. The department rolled out a new mobile application for low-risk offenders across the state that allows them to upload their own GPS location and other reports online.

Louisiana – Commissioner J. Lee stated that Louisiana was fully operational. Similar to the other states in the region, their courts were backlogged, they operated with a skeleton crew due to COVID infections and faced high extradition costs.

Maryland – DCA L. Campbell noted that Maryland remained operational and compliant. No extraditions delays have been reported at this time.

North Carolina – Commissioner T. Moose stated that his state remained operational. The Department of Corrections would be consolidating with the Department of Public Safety by 2023.

South Carolina – DCA L. Turner stated that their compact office operated as usual.

Tennessee – Commissioner L. Helton noted that her state was facing the same issues with staffing and retention rates as well as high extradition cost as the other states in the region. They

increased the pay rate for staff; but still have about 10% vacancy rate in probation and parole. The compact office continued operating remotely.

Texas – Commissioner D. Gutierrez stated that Texas continued teleworking in normal capacity. The board of parole has a 25% vacancy rate. DCA Balandran left the Compact in December, Joselyn Angton was appointed as a new DCA.

Commissioner D. Gutierrez will attend a state-wide probation advisory committee meeting later this week where he will present on the rule proposals passed by the Commission last fall.

Virginia – Commissioner J. Parks stated that their compact office had been working remotely since the beginning of COVID. A new Governor took office a couple of weeks ago.

West Virginia – Commissioner D. Skiles reported on staff shortages with the interstate compact staff. Since their department fell under Homeland Security, the National Guard and other entities were assisting them.

Alabama – Commissioner T. Langer stated that they too experienced staff issues. He was not aware of any problems with extradition in his state. The department was asking the legislature for funds to hire staff and purchase equipment.

Missouri – Chair J. Kempker introduced a new DCA for the State of Missouri – Alison Woodruff. The compact office was working on filling its vacancies.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director A. Lippert stated that the nation office continues to prepare for the Commission’s 20th Anniversary. They will be launching the anniversary landing page in the upcoming week. The page will include Commission’s milestones and accomplishments, as well as historical timeline and ABM pictures.

The national office continues to work with a film crew on the Commission’s documentary and with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute on the Compact Study to present at the upcoming ABM.

The national office is collecting ICOTS enhancements from the committee and regions. The West Region has already submitted a few enhancements, and the Midwest region will review enhancement proposals for consideration at their meeting next week.

Old Business/New Business

There was no old/new business.

Adjourn

Commissioner D. Gutierrez (TX) moved to adjourn. Commissioner T. Langer (AL) seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 am ET.