

Pennsylvania Interstate State Council Meeting

March 25, 2021

State Council Members in attendance:

Linda Rosenberg, PA Interstate Commissioner/State Council Chair/PPB Board Member

April Billet-Barclay, Deputy District Court Admin – Director of Probation Services, York

Francis Chardo, Dauphin County District Attorney

Anne Cornick, Deputy General Counsel, Governor’s Office of General Counsel

Edward Marsico, Jr, Judge in the Court of Common Pleas, Dauphin County (from 2:39 PM)

Todd Stephens, State Representative

Other Attendees:

Charles Eckert, Parole Manager of Interstate Services Division’s Parole Supervision & Retake Unit

Timothy Holmes, Acting Chief Counsel, DOC

George Little, Executive Deputy Secretary for Community Corrections, DOC

John Manning, Deputy Chief Counsel, PPB

Matthew Reed, Parole Manager of Interstate Services Division’s Incoming Unit

Margaret Thompson, Deputy Compact Administrator, Director of Interstate Services Division

Thomas Williams, Recorder, Interstate Services Division

Minutes

❖ Call to Order and Introductions

- The meeting having opened online via Zoom at 1:30 PM, Commissioner Rosenberg acknowledged quorum achieved, and called the Interstate State Council meeting to order at 1:45 PM. All parties noted above (except Judge Marsico) were online at that time.
- Council members and guests introduced themselves and briefly reviewed the agenda.

❖ Approval of Minutes

- Commissioner Rosenberg entertained a motion by Director Billet-Barclay to approve the minutes of the PA Interstate State Council meeting of March 10, 2020.
 - DA Chardo seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried unanimously.

❖ **Application Fee**

- Commissioner Rosenberg opened the floor to Director Thompson, who briefly reviewed the history of the Interstate Application Fee, and reviewed assessment and disbursement to PA counties, noting the effect of the COVID-19 crisis on application ebbs and flows of the last year.
- Commissioner Rosenberg entertained a motion by Director Billet-Barclay to maintain the Application Fee as \$125.00.
 - DA Charo seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Rosenberg entertained a motion by Dept Gen Counsel Cornick to maintain full disbursement of the funds collected from the Application Fee to PA counties.
 - Rep Stephens seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried unanimously.

❖ **Compact Rule 2.111 and COVID-19**

- Director Thompson explained that early in the COVID-19 crisis, the Interstate Commission approved Compact Rule 2.111, which specifically did not suspend any of the rules of the Compact, only the timeframes associated with the rules. Director Thompson noted that Rule 2.111 was expected to be rescinded on April 1, 2021.
- Director Thompson outlined the practical ramifications of COVID-19 on Interstate Services operations, especially noting an initial increase in the rate of rejected interstate transfers, and that there was a “lull” in the number of transfers (comparatively speaking) particularly in April – July, 2020, but that the number of transfers is gradually returning to normal.

❖ **Dashboards and Compliance**

- Commissioner Rosenberg opened the floor to Parole Manager Reed, who reviewed PA’s compliance rate for audited Interstate Compact activities via “dashboard reports,” explaining for all audited activities states and territories are required to achieve a minimum rate of 80%. The only area in which PA’s compliance rate during the COVID-19 crisis declined below the minimum level of compliance was that of requested Progress Reports, 76.67%. By comparison, the national average is 92.15%. Parole Manager Eckert provided background concerning Violation Reports.
- Parole Manager Reed went on to discuss the mechanics of the “dashboard reports” and their utility for the sake of identifying strengths and targeting weaknesses in operations.

❖ **Rule Proposal, 2021 Annual Business Meeting**

- Director Thompson discussed her role as an ex-officio member of the Interstate Commission’s Rules Committee, and reviewed a draft of a proposed rule concerning revised warrant timeframes.

❖ **DNA Legislation Update**

- Parole Manager Reed briefly reviewed the history of PA’s Act 147-2018 and associated PA legislation concerning DNA collection for supervised offenders, and explained the new

protocol for determination of DNA collection for Interstate offenders. Field Services staff were trained to take over the majority of this task with the assistance of Field Training Agents.

- Parole Manager Reed elaborated on the mechanics of statutory equivalencies between state criminal codes, and briefly described the history and ongoing challenges of achieving compliance with PA's DNA laws.
- Director Billet-Barclay sympathized, noting that due to COVID-19, her own office could not achieve compliance per the timeframes stipulated in PA's DNA laws. Parole Manager Reed further concurred, especially concerning the mandated timeframes of the laws.

❖ **Training**

- Director Thompson discussed the advantages and challenges of "Virtual" Basic Training Academies (BTA), commenting on the ability now to arrange trainings, as needed, at any time.
- Director Thompson also discussed the upcoming Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference, arranged by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, to be held virtually on April 20-22, 2021.

❖ **At 2:39 PM, Judge Marsico joined the meeting.**

❖ **New and Old Business**

- Commissioner Rosenberg opened the floor for new and old business. No new or old business was brought before the Council.

❖ **Adjournment**

- Commissioner Rosenberg entertained a motion by Director Billet-Barclay to adjourn.
 - DA Charo seconded the motion.
 - The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 2:45 PM.