INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR ADULT OFFENDER SUPERVISION

Mid-West Region Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2006
11:00 a.m. (EST)

Members in Attendance
1. Ken Merz (MN)
2. Michelle Buscher (IL)
3. Warren Emmer (ND)
4. Ken Pellant (KS)
5. John Rubitschun (MI)
6. Ed Ligtenberg (SD)
7. William Rankin (WI)
8. Jane Seigel (IN)
9. James McKenzie (NE)
10. Wanda LaCour (MO)

Guests
1. Jenny Bauer
2. David Hitchcock
3. Cynthia Johnson
4. Rose Ann Bisch
5. Carrie Rumbaugh
6. Charles Placek
7. Chris Richter
8. Mary Kay Branden

• K. Merz called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Ten members were present, establishing a quorum.

Executive Committee Report
• K. Merz updated the region on the November Executive Committee meeting. He indicated that the major discussion topics were Committee assignments, the arbitration proceedings with Softscape, Inc., and expanding the role of the regions.
• W. Emmer added that the Finance Committee wanted to have one representative from each region so that each can discuss the budget at region meetings.
• K. Merz also gave an overview of the new permanent DCA Liason Committee and the Sex Offender Ad Hoc Committee. W. Emmer indicated that the Ad Hoc Committee would be contributing to a white paper to be written by CSOM and NIC.
• W. Emmer added that Commissioners should forward ideas for topics of discussion to Robert Guy. J. Seigel asked if the Commission would make a rule regarding lifetime supervision of sex offenders to supersede state laws. J. McKenzie asked how states could avoid offenders shopping around for states without lifetime supervision, and indicated that he would forward his concern to R. Guy.
• E. Ligtenburg made a motion to approve the minutes from October 3, 2006. J. McKenzie seconded. Motion approved.

NACIS Update
• H. Hageman stated that the Technology Committee was preparing to send out a solicitation for new vendors by the first of the year. He added that the Committee was looking at vendors who expressed interest in the first round of vendor evaluations.

Committee Participation
• There was discussion of the new Committee membership. J. Siegel stated that she wanted her DCA (Jenny Bauer) to be a part of the Sex Offender Ad Hoc Committee. W. Emmer directed her to contact R. Guy. D. Blackburn added that any interested Commissioner or DCA could join WebEx conferences for Committee meetings.

State Updates

Indiana
• J. Seigel discussed the press the Compact office has received due to a murder by an offender transferred from Kansas. She indicated that her state would have a state council meeting the following week to discuss possible rule changes.

Kansas
• J. Bauer stated that his Commissioner was interested in creating a potential rule regarding people that go on detainer to other states and then are bonded out.

Minnesota
• K. Merz stated that his state council met the week before. He noted that the results of the 2006 election would turn over the membership of the council and stated that he was sending letters to the new administration to solicit new names.
• He also mentioned that he was involved in a report regarding sex offenders, specifically dealing with recidivism and housing restrictions. He indicated that he would forward the report to the Region members once completed.

Nebraska
• J. McKenzie stated that Nebraska was going to begin GPS tracking for lifetime supervision sex offenders, and that it was taking a high priority.
Wisconsin

- W. Rankin stated that his state council met in November but was unable to realize a quorum. He discussed the Compact office’s new email addresses and vacancy.
- He added that he had been contacted by Fox News Milwaukee requesting information about offenders transferred by the compact related to a sex offender released in Wisconsin.
- J. Seigel asked what information a Compact Office can give to media requests, and suggested that some uniformity be agreed upon. K. Merz asked if she would like to send a request for a legal opinion as to what should be reported. D. Blackburn stated that the National Office would be open to taking a position, but that the issue involved the Open Records Act, which is different in every state. He encouraged every state to be careful that all numbers reported to the National Office are accurate.

Missouri

- W. LaCour stated that her state would be conducting training for Interstate specialists in January.

New Business

- K. Merz asked W. Rankin if there was any flexibility to the Rules Committee’s proposal deadline of February 1, 2007. W. Rankin stated that any proposal received after that date may not be ready to present at the 2007 Annual Business Meeting.
- K. Merz asked if the Region members wanted to meet more often than quarterly. J. McKenzie suggested continuing to meet quarterly and call extra meetings if they are needed. W. Emmer stated that he preferred setting the meeting times for the entire year. K. Merz stated that the Region would continue to meet quarterly, but that an extra meeting may be necessary in light of the Rules Committee proposal deadline.
- W. Emmer stated that he wanted to make the ABM shorter to make it more dynamic, and discussed the new schedule of Monday to Thursday. He also discussed the new Advisory Opinion policy and the DCA link and website.
- D. Blackburn further discussed the blog to be on the DCA website and stated that it would be launched in the spring.
- C. Rumbaugh asked if probation officers were permitted to watch the new rules training. D. Blackburn stated that he anticipated DCAs conducting training of their officers after receiving the new rules training.
- D. Blackburn discussed the issues raised by Rule 5.108 and 4.109-1 and stated that the Legal Advisory Group would meet next week to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding these issues.
- E. Ligtenberg made a motion to adjourn. W. Emmer seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.