Members in Attendance:

1. Chris Norman  Alabama
2. Sheila Sharp    Arkansas
3. Jenny Nimer    Florida
4. Chris Moore    Georgia
5. Patricia Vale  Maryland
6. Milt Gilliam   Oklahoma
7. Nancy Ware     District of Columbia
8. Roberto Rodriguez  Kentucky
9. Genie Powers   Louisiana
10. Anne Precythe North Carolina
11. Ellis McSwain Missouri
12. Kela Thomas   South Carolina
13. Bobby Straughter Tennessee
14. Stuart Jenkins Texas
15. James Parks   Virginia
16. Karen Nichols West Virginia

Members not in Attendance

1. Jerry Williams  Mississippi

Guests:

1. Lee Ishman     Alabama
2. Linda Mustafa  Arkansas
3. Karen Tucker   Florida
4. Amy Kirk      West Virginia

Approved on 10/02/2014. B.S.
Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by C. Norman at 2:03 pm CT. 16 of 17 members present establishing quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda made by E. McSwain, seconded by A. Precythe. Minutes approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve April 16, 2014 minutes made by A. Precythe, seconded by C. Moore. Minutes approved unanimously.

Discussion

State Budget Issues & Legislature Impact:

Approved on 10/02/2014. B.S.
C. Norman indicated Alabama continues to have issues with appropriation of funds and will be merging departments as a possible solution. Interstate compact may be affected with respect to continuing with training efforts but goal is to continue to work on keeping in compliance.

J. Parks indicated Virginia is looking at a 20 million cut in DOC. Probably will have some cuts in the interstate office.

A. Precythe indicated due to justice reinvestments, agency will have a 2% cut. Facilities have closed to ensure funds are maintained in community supervision and programming. North Carolina is looking at how much of the justice reinvestment tools can be used with respect to interstate compact. Closed prisons within the state (16 closed since 2008) are being retooled for reinvestment purposes.

P. Vale indicated Maryland has abolished positions. Prisons are closing, although prison population continues to rise. Interstate Compact office is looking to staff a position from the field.

G Powers noted Louisiana has experienced cuts over the last several years but upon analysis is funds are returning to probation and parole. Justice reinvestment has brought new and expanding programming in efforts to decrease recidivism.

S. Sharp noted Arkansas has a balance budget law so no deficient is allowed in state government. Arkansas has 2500 state inmates in county jails which are separate agencies although work for same board of correction. Priority currently is to build a new 1000 bed prison. A reentry push is going on. Currently short staffed by 200 parole officers.

J. James indicated Georgia parole board is going to virtual offices and work from home. New technologies in supervisory tools, GPS, smartphone, etc. are being used to help in financial crunch.

S. Jenkins indicated deficits turned around due to fracking tax money and Texas is in process of hiring officers. Heavy focus on reentry in training efforts. Texas recently received money for vehicles and in the upcoming legislative session they will be asking for raises.

J. Nimer noted last year Florida Department of Corrections was 95 million in the hole. By March deficit was lowered to 45 million and by the fiscal year end the department carried over 25. Currently probation and parole is leasing 143 offices and trying to consolidate offices but experiencing efficiency and landlord issues. Goal during the next legislative session is to get funds to hire new staff.

M. Gilliam noted the department received 13 million last year that was subsequently taken back. Staff have not received raises in 7 years until last year receiving 5% raises. Currently there is a hiring freeze and the department is losing officers because of pay. Training new officers takes 8-12 months so the department is reallocating resources and pulling officers off drug caseload using those officers for active caseload.

E. Mc Swain department had to give funds back to the state due to balance budget law. Focus is currently on importance of reentry.

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R. Rodríguez noted Kentucky has unfunded mandates. In 2012, House Bill 463 analyzed offender services in facilities and now offenders are qualifying for community supervision. 80 staff and 10,000 offenders gained in last 2 years. Private prisons are closing and being used as half way houses. Department was able to give back 6.8 mill this year. Staff currently has a high turnover rate due to low pay no raise in 8 years. Reentry mandate is unfunded. Creating probation and parole therapists to assist in supervision.

B. Straughter Tennessee moved probation and parole to DOC 18 months ago. Department was able to give back 32 million last year due to isolated cuts. Maintaining facilities and jobs and returning resources. There are initiatives to go virtual but is currently delayed.

K. Thomas indicated South Carolina probation and parole are not a part of DOC. Budget has not grown but only 40% of their budget comes from state. Remainder comes from grants and offender fees. Using funds to reinvest in the department and assisting the state rethink incarceration. Recent Clemson University study concluded there is a $51 million economic impact when offenders do not go back to prison. Currently the department has 600 officers with high caseloads. Elected officials will have to look at ratio due to high caseload, replacing vehicles and sentencing reform. Initiatives to introduce interlock are to be implemented. Currently reviewing Jessica’s law, reentry and recently opened 3 centers to help offenders find jobs. 800 people showed up to the initial job fair.

N. Ware acknowledged Jody Tracy as she is retiring. District of Columbia is working on strengthening its State Council and doing more training. District of Columbia does not experience the same state issues, because they are federal. Offender population is decreasing which is hopeful in efforts to equalize staffing.

**Region Chair’s goals**

C. Norman asked states what they would like to accomplish.

A. Precythe suggested the region increase attendance at meetings to ensure quorum. Commissioners showing up for meetings will reinforce the work the entire commission including the work of the DCAs.

M. Gilliam mentioned increasing South representation on committees, encouraging volunteering for committee chair and membership.

C. Norman noted members should continue cooperation between the states to work out issues and focus on the primary purpose of the compact which is public safety.

**Standing Committee Membership**

*Rules Committee:* J. Nimer stated her appreciation of the work involved regarding interpretation and drafting language. The Rules Committee continues to focus on ensure rule proposals clearly state the intent and purpose for new language. C. Moore noted participation on the committee has been a learning experience. Interpretation and the purpose of some of the rules embrace Evidence Based

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Practices. It was noticed during the Monday DCA institute that some rules do not match up with Evidence Based Practices. There are interpretation differences between states.

*Compliance Committee:* G. Powers noted it is sometimes difficult dealing with complaints and making decisions regarding sanctions. The committee deal with state disputes as well as nonpayment of dues. C. Norman indicated the compliance committee was the first committee he was involved in. One main goal is to ensure a state involved is given opportunity to become more aware of the compact and give opportunity for training, etc.

*Finance Committee:* B. Straughter indicated there have been no major decisions made recently. The committee basically reviews financials.

*Technology Committee:* A. Precythe indicates the national office make it easy for committee chairs and to be on the committee. The committee offers users a chance to be heard in efforts to assist with enhancement prioritization. J. Loman noted it is interesting how new modules are developed and enhancements are prioritized. C. Norman in pleased with the accountability factor and glad to be a part of project.

*Training Committee:* K. Tucker noted the committee is always busy improving presentations and the committee currently presents 5 training sessions a month and is an opportunity to learn more about the rules. Members of the committee can assist with training questions on the sessions even if not comfortable presenting.

*DCA Liaison:* C. Moore indicated chairing the committee has allowed him to learn more about compact from DCAs ensuring mission of the commission is met by their work. K. Thomas noted the committee works to ensure policies are into day to day tools and commissioners are responsive and listening to information that needs to be shared. R. Grimes, southern region representative, noted she was impressed with participation in the DCA Institute. K. Tucker encouraged DCA and commissioners to be involved and focus on sharing information regarding each state’s operational differences.

**New Ideas/Suggestions for Training**

J. Lohman suggested more push for national organization trainings such as NSA, extradition. To reach out to different audiences

A. Precythe indicated her state developed several simple trifolds for distribution.

K. Thomas noted she presents at the criminal justice academy each year where all agencies have representation, sends representatives to region meetings locally, sent legal team to Sherriff’s association meetings and police chiefs as well as secured slots to talk with judges in South Carolina.

C. Norman coordinated review sessions with interested agencies (judges, attorneys, jail admin, etc.) together and focused on how cooperation between the groups benefits the process.

**New issues to address or programs commission should pursue**

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C. Norman indicated retaking issues continue due to funding.

A. Precythe suggested the commissioner training focus on different ideas to fund retaking.

J. James suggested proposing a national effort for retaking.

**Compliance Audit**

C. Norman indicated Alabama recently was audited for FY2015. Their office continues to work on improvement by running reports regularly and identify officers who are not doing their jobs moving them into a disciplinary stage.

J. James suggested an automatic annual progress report due date as a future ICOTS enhancements.

C. Norman works on making interstate compact a priority in Alabama and keeping it in the spotlight for training.

K. Thomas presented South Carolina’s VINEWatch brochure.

**Call for Rule Proposals**

No rule proposals were presented.

**Sharing Compliance Dashboard Information**

J. James indicated Georgia would like to be able to see other similar states.

K. Thomas agreed sharing could be beneficial when reviewing numbers with similar size.

G. Smith noted states could simply call another states if interested in knowing how another state is doing.

A. Precythe encouraged commissioners to express their opinions for Wednesday’s discussion at the general session.

The region decided to table several topics for the next meeting due to time constraints:

- Technical and Training Assistance
- Mentoring Program
- State council

**New Business**

**Nomination of officers**

There were no nominations for Chairman.

**Nomination for Chris Norman as Vice-chair made by M. Gilliam seconded by K. Thomas.**

Approved on 10/02/2014. B.S.
K. Thomas moved to close nomination, seconded by G. powers.

There were no nominations for Treasurer

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by A. Precythe, seconded by S. Sharp. Meeting adjourn 3:02 pm CT