Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

South Region Meeting MINUTES

July 28, 2020 · 2:00 pm ET
Teleconference

Members in Attendance:
1. Julie Kempker (MO), Chair
2. Tom Langer (AL)
3. Joe Winkler (FL)
4. Steve Turner (KY)
5. Martha Danner (MD)
6. James Rudek (OK)
7. David Gutierrez (TX)
8. Jim Parks (VA)
9. Diann Skiles (WV)

Members not in Attendance
1. Amber Schubert (AR)
2. Richard Tischner (DC)
3. Chris Moore (GA)
4. Pete Fremin (LA)
5. Christy Gutherz (MS)
6. Timothy Moose (NC)
7. Jerry Adger (SC)
8. Lisa Helton (TN)

Guests:
1. Lee Ishman (AL)
2. Linda Mustafa (AR)
3. Tim Strickland (FL)
4. Angela New (FL)
5. Miriam Dyson (GA)
6. Joe Kuebler (GA)
7. Lavon Hill (KY)
8. Don Werner (KY)
9. LaShonda Lee-Campbell (MD)
10. Ryan Halbert (MO)
11. Richie Spears (MS)
12. Betty Payton (NC)
13. Melanie Collins (NC)
14. Frank Mesarick (OK)
15. Chris Harris (SC)
16. Lloyd Turner (SC)
17. Deborah Duke (TN)
18. Rene Green (TN)

19. Brandon Watts (TX)
20. Tina Balandran (TX)
21. Julie Lohman (VA)

Staff

1. Ashley Lippert, Executive Director
2. Allen Eskridge, Policy and Operations Director
3. Barno Saturday, Logistics Coordinator
4. Mindy Spring, Administrative and Training Coordinator
5. Xavier Donnelly, ICOTS Project Manager
6. Kelsey Cole, Web Applications and Tech Support Manager

Call to Order

Chair J. Kempker (MO) called the meeting to order at 11:04 am ET. Executive Director A. Lippert called the roll. Nine out of seventeen voting members were present, establishing a quorum.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Commissioner D. Skiles (WV) moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner M. Danner (MD) seconded. Agenda approved.

Commissioner T. Langer (AL) moved to approve the minutes from May 13, 2020 as drafted. Commissioner M. Danner (MD) seconded. Minutes approved.

Discussion

FY22 Dues Reduction Proposal: Chair J. Kempker (MO) asked the national office to present the FY22 dues reduction proposal.

Executive Director A. Lippert stated that state budgets face significant pressure to cut their spending as a result of economic challenges presented by COVID-19. To help states navigate this uncertain time, the Executive Committee proposed that the Commission use reserve funds in fiscal year 2022 to provide one-time dues relief.

Coupled with operational changes, accessing reserves will allow for a manageable one-time 30% dues reduction for the FY22 without significant effect on the Commission's services or goals.

The full Commission will vote on the FY22 dues reduction proposal at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting (ABM) this fall.

Executive Director A. Lippert added that the Commission would see roughly $164K in savings in FY21 largely resulting from the 2020 ABM moving to a virtual platform.

She continued that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, national office staff had been working remotely since March. With no loss in productivity or efficiency, the Executive Committee approved the national office to transition to a virtual office environment long-term. The transition would generate sustainable ongoing savings for the Commission cutting the operational cost and realizing about $48K in savings in FY22. The remaining amount of $281K will be taken from the Commission's reserve fund.

Executive Director A. Lippert stated that all members would receive an official letter outlining the one-time dues reduction reasoning and process as well as the invoice with the original dues amount and the 30% reduction.

2020 Annual Business Meeting: Executive Director A. Lippert stated that the 2020 ABM was going virtual this year. The Executive Committee decided to keep the virtual business meeting agenda to a minimum, as people were fatigued from online meetings. The agenda's content includes the following sessions: region meetings, Executive Committee meeting, motivational session from Kirsten Lewis, empowerment and role of DCAs session, and the general session. This meeting would be held over two weeks instead of the standard three days and utilize webinar and virtual meeting tools.

The meeting registration opened on July 27 and she encouraged everyone to register for the meeting.

DCA South Region Chair Report: DCA T. Strickland (FL) stated that the South Region DCAs continued to cooperate and work well with each other. Most of South Region states had lifted their restrictions at this time. He added that extradition and retaking were the biggest challenges the states were currently facing.

Executive Director Update: Executive Director A. Lippert presented her report to the region:

- The Commission adopted a new process for ICOTS Enhancements that mirrored the rule making process. Seven proposed ICOTS enhancements were posted on the Commission's website for review and comments for thirty days. The Technology Committee reviewed the comments received and prepared the final draft for approval at the Annual Business Meeting this fall.

- The national office published a new legal PowerPoint presentation that states can use to train its legal community. The presentation was posted on the Commission's website.

- The national office along with Appriss had been working on the ICOTS Training Integration Project to provide access to help and training information directly in ICOTS screens. The first batch of Help Points went live in ICOTS on July 15, 2020.

- The national office published the first set of mini Dashboard Report trainings on the Commission's website. The trainings are short and easy to follow. She asked the region members to send the national office any new dashboard training recommendations to develop new trainings.

State update: Chair J. Kempker (MO) stated that Missouri had reopened much of its businesses and governments offices. However, once they started testing for COVID-19, their infection numbers skyrocketed. She noted that Missouri was going through challenging times.

She asked the members to share their state updates with the region.

Commissioner M. Danner (MD) stated that Maryland reopened their offices on June 17 with minimum foot traffic. She added that their compact office was keeping up with Compact required compliance timeframes.

DCA T. Balandran (TX) expressed her appreciation to all region members she had been working with on extradition, retaking, and warrants. She added that all TX parole offices were operational.

Commissioner D. Gutierrez (TX) stated that he was a new commissioner for Texas Interstate Compact and he also served as presiding officer and chair of the Texas board of pardons and paroles. He stated that they had to work closely with sheriff departments and administrators of detention facilities to conduct time sensitive violation revocation hearings.

Old/New Business

There was no old/new business to discuss.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 am ET.