



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

Midwest Region Meeting MINUTES

September 10, 2020
Teleconference

Members in Attendance:

1. Rebecca Walton (IL)
2. Sally Kreamer (IA)
3. Allen Godfrey (MN)
4. Jacey Rader (NE)
5. Amy Vorachek (ND)
6. Katrina Ransom (OH)
7. Bradley Lewandowski (SD)
8. Joselyn Lopez (WI)
9. Mary Kay Hudson (IN)
10. Hope Cooper (KS)

Members not in Attendance:

1. Russell Marlan (MI), Chair

Guests:

1. Simona Hammond (IA)
2. Holly Kassube (IL)
3. Matt Billinger (KS)
4. Daryn Cobb (MI)
5. Tracy Hudrlik (MN)
6. Sally Reinhardt-Stewart (NE)
7. Sarah Ball (SD)

Staff:

1. Allen Eskridge, Policy and Operations Director
2. Mindy Spring, Administrative and Training Coordinator
3. Kelsey Cole, Web Applications and Tech Support Manager

Call to Order

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm ET. Ten out of eleven voting members were present, a quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Commissioner A. Vorachek (ND) moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner J. Rader (NE) seconded. Agenda approved.

Commissioner J. Rader (NE) moved to approve the minutes from July 23, 2020 meeting as drafted. Commissioner J. Lopez (WI) seconded. Minutes approved.

Discussion

Warrant timelines: Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) introduced the discussion of warrant timeframes noting the current rules had varying timeframes for issuing a compact compliant warrant from ‘upon receipt’ to ‘30 days’ and some rules requiring a warrant do not have a timeframe at all. The Rules Committee established a workgroup to address whether the Commission should consider a consistent timeframe in the interest of training stakeholders and public safety and was requesting regional feedback. Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) noted the conversation should not get ‘in the weeds’ over specific rules or processes at this time, but would like the discussion for today to remain at a high level in order to provide the workgroup the feedback it needs to move forward.

Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) followed up stating that while the intention of the varying timeframes may be the result of perceived seriousness or gravity of when a warrant was required, the Rules Committee thought there would be benefit of the Commission moving to a consistent timeframe.

DCA T. Hudrlik (WI) provided background on the workgroup and noted its recommendation to move to a 15 business day timeframe for obtaining warrants based on information learned in last year’s audit. She added that in terms of public safety, this should be doable and reasonable for most states to comply with. In addition, the workgroup recognized there was not a standard for tracking warrants and would like to know whether an enhancement to ICOTS for warrant tracking would benefit states.

Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) indicated states should consider this issue with a prevailing concern over public safety and the intention was not to make it impossible for states to comply.

Commissioners H. Cooper, J. Lopez, K. Ransom, J. Rader and A. Godfrey agreed and acknowledged having a consistent timeframe for issuing warrants would make training stakeholders involved in the different layers of the process easier and consistent.

Commissioner A. Vorachek (ND) supported the idea of a consistent timeframe. She expressed her concerns that 15 business days (21 calendar days) was too long, adding that North Dakota would likely require a shorter timeframe in their state.

Commissioner H. Cooper (KS) noted at last year’s annual business meeting, Kansas voted against a 15 business day timeframe over fear of its inability to comply due.

Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) indicated the Commission could consider this two ways: 1) move to a 15 business day timeframe across the board realizing some states would need to do some work to comply or 2) move to a 30 day timeframe with the notion to expect states would institute a shorter timeframe internally.

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) noted states should be self-auditing their processes to recognize problem areas and ensure compliance enforcement via Commission was only utilized when needed.

Commissioner J. Lopez (WI) reminded the region that if states have problems complying with the set timeframes, they need to submit a request for technical and training assistance.

DCA H. Kassube (IL) recommended leveraging the Commission's ex-officio members and provide joint trainings or webinars similar to legal trainings the Commission provided at the beginning of the pandemic.

DCAs M Billinger, T. Hudrlik, and S. Hammonds agreed having new data fields in ICOTS to assist with warrant tracking would be beneficial.

Proposed ICOTS enhancements for full Commission vote at the 2020 ABM: Training Coordinator M. Spring presented the ICOTS enhancements the Commission would vote on at the general session. Although seven were approved by the Technology Committee, due to the \$50k annual budget for enhancements, Enhancement #3 related to compact action request workflow functionality would not be considered this year.

COVID-19 State Updates: Policy and Operations Director A. Eskridge presented information related to acceptance rates during COVID. Although case activity appears to be increasing as states no longer have restrictions or suspensions, the acceptance rates for discretionary cases are declining.

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) noticed that Minnesota had an increase in rejection rates and was evaluating the situation. He added that Minnesota ensured they were considering cases not based on whether it was an ideal plan, but rather if it was the best plan for the offender.

Commissioner A. Godfrey (MN) stated while courts in Minnesota were open, virtual challenges existed such as getting applications signed, sex offenders who lived in and were in the receiving state at the time of sentencing and DNA collection.

Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) noted in Indiana they were having remote hearings and had not run into any major challenges. Indiana did not institute any suspensions of compact activities during the pandemic.

DCA M. Billinger (KS) noted while challenges exist, they had been able to work through them.

DCA D. Cobb indicated Michigan Governor's ban on extraditions was still in place.

Commissioner J. Rader (NE) stated that in Nebraska there was a micro focus on returns to prevent displacing offenders.

New Business

2021 Rule Amendment Deadline: Commissioner M. Hudson (IN) announced the rule proposal deadline was set for February 1st, 2021. She added that a guide to assist in drafting proposals was located on the ICAOS website.

Nomination of Officers: Policy and Operations Director A. Eskridge noted that all current officers were running for re-election. Current officers are Jeremiah Stromberg (OR), chairman; Hope Cooper (KS), vice chair; and Gary Roberge (CT), treasurer.

Commissioner J. Rader (NE) moved to nominate Hope Cooper as Commission Vice Chair. Commissioner S. Creamer (IA) seconded. Motion passed.

No other nominations were received.

Adjourn

Commissioner H. Cooper (KS) moved to adjourn. Commissioner K. Ransom (OH) seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm ET.