



## **Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision**

### **Compliance Committee Meeting MINUTES**

**April 13, 2020 · 11:00 am ET  
Teleconference**

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#### **Members in Attendance:**

1. Allen Godfrey (MN), Chair
2. Merideth McGrath (CO)
3. Amy Vorachek (ND)
4. Jacey Rader (NE)
5. Dale Crook (VT)
6. Diann Skiles (WV)
7. Tina Balandran (TX), Ex-officio

#### **Members Not in Attendance:**

1. Hope Cooper (KS)
2. Cathy Gordon (MT)
3. Suzanne Brooks (OH), Ex-officio

#### **Guests:**

1. Jeremiah Stromberg (OR)
2. Brandon Watts (TX)

#### **Staff:**

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

#### **Call to Order**

Chair A. Godfrey (MN) called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. ET. Executive Director A. Lippert called the roll. Six out of eight voting members were present; a quorum was established.

#### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

**Commissioner J. Rader (NE) moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner M. McGrath (CO) seconded. Agenda approved as presented.**

**Commissioner D. Crook (VT) moved to approve the minutes from January 13, 2020 as drafted. Commissioner D. Skiles (WV) seconded. Minutes approved as written.**

#### **Discussion**

*COVID-19 & States' Compliance:* Commission Chair J. Stromberg (OR) stated that the declarations of emergency from the federal and state governments impacted Compact members ability to comply with timelines and procedural requirements as outlined in the Commission's Rules. After consultation with legal counsel and the national office, Commission Chair J. Stromberg charged the Rules Committee with drafting a rule granting the Executive Committee emergency discretion to suspend enforcement of Commission rules or parts thereof. The new rule should require states to define the authority for their suspensions and should promote a return to normalcy as quickly as possible. He plans to call an emergency full Commission meeting to officially vote on the proposed emergency rule.

The new rule will allow the Commission to act in advance when a crisis occurs. Should the Commission not pass this rule, enforcement as outlined by the Commission prevails and states will be held accountable regardless of the crisis at hand.

The committee discussed how important it was for states to be flexible and work with each other when they deal with meeting compliance timeframes.

Further, the committee discussed the compliance dashboard indicators. The committee always takes into consideration a state's emergency situation before making their decision and did not want to see an influx of complaints given the crisis situation.

When reviewing compliance issues, Commissioner J. Rader (NE) suggested looking at the first two quarters only, before states started imposing the COVID-19 restrictions in the U.S.

Commissioner D. Crook (VT) noted that it was difficult to think about compliance during the COVID-19 crisis. He added that currently, his biggest priority was safety of his staff and inmates.

Commission Chair J. Stromberg (OR) noted the importance of documenting and tracking the data, even if a transfer request cannot be completed.

**Commissioner J. Rader (NE) moved to temporarily suspend enforcement of compliance dashboard indicators. Commissioner M. McGrath (CO) seconded. Motion passed.**

*01-2020 Emergency Guidelines Policy:* Executive Director A. Lippert announced that the Executive Committee made more revisions to AP 01-2020 Emergency Guidelines. The changes extend the 30 day timeline to 60 days as well as requires states to provide the authority imposing restrictions and the specific Commission related duties affected.

Executive Director A. Lippert added that the national office delivered an *Interstate Compact Response to COVID-19* webinar. The webinar provided information on AP 01-2020 Emergency Guidelines Policy, expectations during the pandemic, compliance concerns, rule timeframes, and state actions impacting the Compact. She noted that the national office posted a copy of the webinar's recording on the Commission's website.

*FY21 Audit Update:* Chair A. Godfrey (MN) stated that the Warrant Audit workgroup met two times to finalize questions for the FY21 audit. The workgroup decided that the FY20 audit

collected information about states' warrant tracking processes, and the FY21 audit should focus on where the states were in their journey toward compliance and steps taken since the previous audit. The workgroup also explored ways to collect states' data on the national level to ensure accurate information.

Chair A. Godfrey (MN) noted that taking into consideration the current COVID-19 nationwide health crisis, the Executive Committee voted to postpone the FY21 compliance audit until the next year.

**Old/New Business**

*The U.S. Virgin Islands Compliance:* Chair A. Godfrey (MN) stated that per the Compliance Committee recommendation, the Executive Committee approved the Virgin Islands corrective action plan (CAP) on March 24. The national office received the Virgin Islands' dues payment and CAP on March 19, 2020. They were in the process of submitting the interest fee.

**Adjourn**

**Commissioner D. Crook (VT) moved to adjourn. Commissioner D. Skiles (WV) seconded.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m. ET.