



State of Connecticut

JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
ADULT PROBATION AND BAIL SERVICES
936 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision State Council Meeting Minutes July 20, 2016

Present: Gary Roberge IC Commissioner & Director of Adult Services/Judicial- CSSD; Natalie Latulippe Deputy Compact Administrator & Chief Probation Officer II/Judicial - CSSD; Tami Ford Interstate Compact Coordinator/Judicial - CSSD; Rich Sparaco Executive Director Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP); Fred Watton Deputy Compact Administrator & Manager BOPP; Timothy Diakon Parole Officer, BOPP; Sherrie Lubinski Parole Officer, BOPP; Steve Strom Assistant Attorney General-Office of Attorney General; Brian Austin Executive Assistant State's Attorney- Office of Chief State's Attorney; Linda Cimino Director- Office of Victim Services; Eric Ellison Parole Deputy Director- Department of Correction; Jaclyn Osden Counselor Supervisor IC Unit- Department of Correction.

Minutes Taken by: Sarah Puzzo- Intake Assistant/ Judicial- CSSD

Welcome and Introductions:

Commissioner Roberge called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. Consideration of Agenda for July 20, 2016 State Council meeting:

Fred Watton moved to approve the agenda. Brian Austin seconded. Motion passed.

2. Consideration of minutes from November 18, 2015 State Council Meeting

Rich Sparaco moved to approve the minutes. Fred Watton seconded. Motion passed.

3. Commissioner/ Executive Committee/ Technology Committee Update:

Technology Committee:

Commissioner Roberge introduced the topic of the \$90,000 budget that had been allocated for enhancements to the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS) and that the Technology Committee worked on prioritizing 60-70 recommended enhancements. Commissioner Roberge also mentioned this would normally be an off year to vote on rule amendments, however, states will be voting on an emergency rule change proposal regarding violations and retakings at the 2016 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). If those rule changes pass, some of the budget originally allocated for ICOTS enhancements will be used to cover the cost of those changes.

A survey was distributed by the Technology Committee, asking states for input regarding the recommendation to add a field in the Wanted Person File in NCIC, which would allow users to enter a bond amount, with an option for no bond. A recommendation was also made that an option for an Interstate Compact offender indicator be added as well. All of the feedback received was in favor of these recommendations.

CSSD continues to receive a daily feed of CT ICOTS data directly from Appriss. CSSD is in the process of enhancing CT's Case Management Information System (CMIS) and simultaneously working on incorporating the data to assist field staff with managing their Interstate Compact (IC) cases. Commissioner Roberge indicated other states are interested in this project. The Technology Committee is maintaining a catalog of CT's work on this project.

Executive Committee:

Commissioner Roberge explained that the Executive Committee meets every month and one of the topics discussed during the last meeting was about the Virgin Islands and the fact that they may be fined for not appointing a Commissioner.

Commissioner Roberge mentioned PA has had issues with MD releasing their offenders who were to be held for retaking. On two different occasions, MD allowed a PA offender to bond out of jail before PA had the opportunity to retake. The Compliance Committee intended on fining MD for not complying with the compact rules. However, MD requested the Compliance Committee hold off on imposing the fine to allow them time to prepare a plan of action and conduct training with their judges in order to avoid these problems in the future. The Compliance Committee agreed to give MD time to resolve this issue.

Commissioner Roberge took a moment to thank DCA Latulippe and DCA Watton for working with other states to resolve issues that are often very complicated.

Commissioner Roberge inquired about the state-funded travel restriction to North Carolina that was imposed by Governor Malloy and whether or not that would impede CT's ability to conduct retakings from that state. Parole Deputy Director Eric Ellison indicated CT Parole has been performing extraditions to North Carolina as the travel restriction does not apply to criminal justice matters. Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom confirmed there is an exemption for law enforcement.

4. Victim Notification Process Update (VINE):

Since the last State Council meeting, Director of the Office of Victim Services Linda Cimino met with the Board of Pardon and Parole to develop a process for implementing VINEWatch for parole cases.

Linda Cimino had recommended the VINEWatch system be tested to have an understanding of how it works before implementation. IC Coordinator Ford had registered to receive VINEWatch notifications through text, email and phone on approximately 10 outgoing CT cases and how she discovered the information provided in these notifications was at times inaccurate. A summary of these issues was submitted to Xavier at the National Office and in turn, to Appriss for their review. Appriss is currently working on identifying and rectifying these issues. Although it is important to provide victims with this service, CT would like to ensure victims will receive accurate information prior to implementing the system in CT.

DCA Latulippe mentioned VINEWatch will be discussed at the 2016 ABM and it is anticipated that representatives from Appriss will attend and be available to answer any questions states may have about the system.

Commissioner Roberge thanked everyone for their involvement in testing the VINEWatch system.

5. 2016 Annual Business Meeting:

DCA Latulippe discussed the upcoming ABM which will consist of three days; with the first day being dedicated to DCAs which will include opportunities for various trainings. She indicated this is a great training opportunity and to meet and speak with other DCAs to discuss issues going on in their respective states, exchange ideas on various processes states have found to be successful, etc.

An ad hoc committee was formed to review the reporting of violations as well as the retaking process. The result was the proposal for an emergency rule change which will be voted on at the 2016 ABM. The new rule will require states to offer incentives and impose graduated sanctions when working with IC offenders, just as they would their own offenders. IC Coordinator Ford added that if this rule amendment passes, the Offender Violation Report will be changed and will now require the supervising officer to indicate specific incentives and/or graduated sanctions that were utilized during the offender's supervision prior to submitting the Offender Violation Report.

Once the final version of the rule proposal is available, DCA Latulippe will email it to each State Council Member for their review and input. Commissioner Roberge mentioned the Eastern Region will meet at the upcoming ABM to discuss the proposed rule changes before casting a vote for CT and that if approved, all rule changes will go into effect March 2017.

6. Audits:

DCA Latulippe informed State Council members that the National Office made the decision to review acceptance and rejection rates for discretionary transfers during FY2016 rather than conducting compliance audits. There were a number of states concerned their discretionary cases were, at times rejected for invalid reasons. CT received a positive review regarding our acceptance rate of incoming discretionary cases. In regards to CT's outgoing discretionary transfers, although the information CT provides is thorough it was noted CT may be able to increase the amount of acceptances received by more consistently verifying the information provided in Transfer Requests to ensure the offender truly has a solid plan of supervision.

Beginning 7/1/2016, the National Office will begin conducting quarterly audits of each state's compliance in regards to the timeframes associated with submitting activities in ICOTS. States can monitor their own compliance by reviewing the Performance Dashboards on the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) website. DCA Latulippe indicated that CT's dashboard reports are consistently above the national average.

The National Office will be auditing each state's ICOTS offender demographics to ensure good data is entered into the system, including offender photos. Commissioner Roberge indicated the ICOTS system sends information to fusion centers where other agencies such as the state police receive notice of transferring offenders so it is important that states ensure the information being entered is accurate and that there is at least one quality photo of the offender. He also mentioned the Technology Committee had a discussion regarding the recommendation to create a standard for offender photos uploaded into ICOTS. DCA Latulippe indicated that CT will continue to review and clean up demographic information when needed.

7. Parole Update:

No new business

8. Probation Update:

Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom mentioned a case where a CT offender, who had transferred his supervision to VA, was given a pardon by CT. The offender remained in VA after receiving the pardon and subsequently applied for an insurance license but was denied due to his previous CT conviction. Although the offender received a pardon in CT, VA still had his criminal conviction information in their database which resulted in the offender being denied the license. VA was unwilling to honor CT's pardon as VA requires an offender to meet different criteria than CT in order to receive a pardon. Assistant Attorney General Strom indicated that even though the offender received a pardon in CT, it appears CT cannot compel VA to "erase" the offender's record in their state. He then explained that when an offender's record is expunged, it does not guarantee that all records related to the conviction have been erased. He also mentioned speaking with the Judicial Branch's attorney, Martin Libbin, who confirmed the Federal Government as well as the United States Military do not honor state pardons.

9. Old Business:

DCA Latulippe provided an update regarding CT's progress on the form titled "Interstate Compact & the Courts" and indicated she would continue working with IC Coordinator Ford to finalize the document. Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom expressed his support of having such a form but suggested that CT General Statute [54-133](#) be added. A draft of the document was provided to each State Council member for their review and feedback. Executive Assistant State's Attorney Brian Austin requested an electronic version be sent to state council members as well. Commissioner Roberge stated he would like to have the document finalized by the end of August so it can be distributed at the Judges Institute in September. Once the document is finalized, it will be placed on both the Probation and Parole Judicial websites.

State Council members were provided a copy of the memo sent from MA DCA Michael Coelho to all ICAOS Commissioners regarding the outcome of the Goe decision. Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom discussed the outcome and how it would affect the handling of IC cases for offenders who transfer their supervision to MA. He mentioned that ICAOS Legal Counsel Rick Masters thought it was a win for the compact because the IC rules played a large part in the decision. Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom said Rick Masters would likely discuss the outcome of the case at the ABM.

10. New Business

Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom requested a presentation of the retaking process at the next State Council meeting. It was noted that the BOPP IC Unit conducts all the retakings of IC parole offenders.

Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom made a motion to amend the State Council Membership due to Lynn Millings retirement. DCA Watton seconded the motion. The motion passed as all members were in favor to change the Department of Correction, Director of Interstate Compact from Lynn Milling to Dave Maiga who will be represented by Jaclyn Osden when he is not in attendance.

11. Adjourn- Next Meeting: December 14, 2016 at 9:00am

DCA Watton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am which was seconded by Assistant Attorney General Steve Strom.