

**Alaska Rural Justice  
And Law Enforcement Commission  
Commission Meeting  
Friday, November 19, 2004  
Federal Building & Courthouse  
222 West Seventh Avenue, No. 9, Room 253  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7567**

**MINUTES**

The Alaska Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission met via teleconference on Friday, November 19, 2004 at the Federal Building & Courthouse, 222 West Seventh Avenue, No. 9, Room 253, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7567.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair, Mr. Tim Burgess called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was completed.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Timothy Burgess, Co-Chair  
Bruce Botelho  
Harold "Buddy" Brown  
Loretta Bullard

Gregg Renkes, Co-Chair  
Wilson Justin  
William Tandeske  
James Torgerson, Technical Advisor

**MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Gail Schubert

**ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER TECHNICAL STAFF PRESENT**

Denise R. Morris      Karen Bitzer      Karen Lee      Laurie Myers

**GUESTS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Shelly Wade, Richard Krause, Doug Wooliver, Carol Daniel, Donna Goldsmith, Toni Moras, Edward Deaux, Tom Begich, Aram Cone, Megan Baldino Channel 2 News, Doug Totten APRN, Dixie Hutchinson KNBA, Justin Freeman Channel 2 News.

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Co-Chair Burgess asked Commission members if they would like to make any additions or revisions to the agenda. No changes were requested. Buddy Brown moved, Gregg Renkes seconded. Agenda adopted as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioner Burgess suggested that the Commissioners consider moving agenda item 7 (Budget Review) before item 5 (Defining the Work Group Level of Involvement) to facilitate discussion of item 5. Bruce Botelho moved, Loretta Bullard seconded. Agenda approved as amended. **MOTION CARRIED**

10:10 a.m. Wilson Justin joined the meeting.

### **4. REVIEW OF FACILITATED WORK SESSION**

Tom Begich reviewed the discussion held by Commissioners at the November 10, 2004 meeting in Fairbanks regarding the primary tasks envisioned for the work groups. Those tasks were: the separation of the work groups into four divisions correlating to the protocols; the assignment of co-chairs to the work groups; the tasks or topic areas that each group will address; the proposed names of members and experts to be utilized by each work group. Mr. Begich confirmed that the composition of each work group would range from ten to twelve members including the co-chairs. Increasing the number would exponentially increase the cost of each group's meeting.

Mr. Burgess suggested that as many meetings as possible occur by teleconference in order to maximize the funds allocated to the Commission.

Co-Chair Renkes asked if work group decisions were reached in an open business meeting or in executive session. Co-Chair Burgess indicated that these arrangements were drafted by Ms. Morris, Ms. Goldsmith, Ms. Tennyson, and Ms. Daniel in a separate meeting while the Commissioners received testimony from members of the Alaska Municipal League. The recommendations were then considered by commission members during open session.

Co-Chair Renkes asked for a point of clarification in that he had understood prior to the Fairbanks meeting that the Commission had agreed that a designee could participate if a Commission member were absent. Mr. Begich indicated that when the Commission eliminated the discussion of proxies, the whole section was eliminated but that clarification was established in the minutes and the protocols. Discussion followed regarding the difference between alternates and representatives of the Commission, and Commissioners concluded that representatives may attend in place of an absent Commission member but may not vote in place of the Commission member he or she is representing.

Co-Chair Burgess then asked those in attendance to provide their names and the names of the organizations they were representing for the record.

Commissioner Bullard moved to convene an Executive Session, Commissioner seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Executive Session**

10:50 a.m. Co-Chair Burgess reconvened the general meeting with the budget review. Copies of the budget were distributed to the Commissioners. Denise Morris of the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) provided a brief history of the Commission's budget as an adjunct of the annual Bureau of Justice Assistance congressionally mandated award to ANJC. Ms. Morris explained the constraints of the budget. She then indicated that if the Commission were to request additional funds of Senator Stevens' Office, if approved, those funds would not be available until after the Commission's work was completed. Commissioner Bullard suggested exploring receiving additional funding through the compacting process.

The total projected budget for the Commission was \$333,000, which includes projections for work group and Commission travel, website development and maintenance, technical writer, etc. Co-Chair Renkes inquired if these budget projections included costs related to the proposed experts for each work group, and Ms. Morris said they did not.

Mr. Burgess indicated that several of the Commissioners will be funding their own travel, including himself, Gregg Renkes and William Tandeske. Commissioner Justin stated that he expected to fund at least part of his own travel.

Discussion followed regarding the parameters of the budget and the possibility of obtaining additional funding in a timely manner to enhance the work of the Commission. Co-Chair Renkes expressed a strong belief that the Commission should work within the congressionally designated budget and, if necessary, make a supplemental request if the Commission decided to expand its scope following its initial work.

Co-Chair Burgess requested that Ms. Morris review the list of experts and any other names the Commission has proposed and project a budget to accommodate them.

**5. DEFINING THE WORK GROUP LEVEL OF COMMITMENT**

Commissioner Bullard called the Commission's attention to the email from Carol Daniel of the Alaska Federation of Natives suggesting changes to the Work Group Recommendations document. Discussion followed regarding the email and as not all Commissioners had the document, Ms. Bullard summarized the contents.

Co-Chair Burgess offered to entertain a motion to adopt the work group recommendations. Commissioner Brown moved; Commissioner Botelho seconded. Work group recommendations adopted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioners discussed what they wanted the work groups to achieve as well as what to expect as a final product of the work groups. They also discussed the necessity of establishing a common baseline of data from which to build that product.

Ms. Antonia Moras addressed the Commission, stating that the University of Alaska, Anchorage Justice Center was working on a bibliography accompanied by an analytical essay regarding research completed in the last twelve years. This report is in draft form and will tentatively be available the second week of December for the Commission's review. Ms. Moras cautioned, however, hard and fast data does not exist in a number of the topic areas, especially on domestic violence and alcohol, and she wanted the Commissioners to keep that fact in mind.

Discussion followed regarding Carol Daniel's proposed amendments to the work group recommendations as per her email. Because Ms. Daniel's email was inaccessible to the Commission prior to the meeting, Commissioner Botelho moved to table the motion to amend the work group recommendations as per Ms. Daniel's suggestions until the December 9, 2004 meeting. Gregg Renkes seconded. A vote followed with no discussion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Commissioner Justin expressed his desire that the experts that appear before the work groups be capable of supplementing existing data in order to make sure the work groups have the most complete picture possible.

Co-Chair Burgess requested a meeting with Commissioners Botelho, Bullard and Renkes prior to the next full Commission meeting (December 9, 2004) in order to review and amend the protocols regarding former discussions. After this revision, the protocols are to be submitted to the full Commission for review and discussion.

Commissioner Brown stated if he were unable to attend the Anchorage meeting on December 9 and 10, 2004, Ethan Schutt would attend in his stead.

Ms. Morris requested clarification on time allotment for testimony at the December 10, 2004 meeting. Discussion followed regarding the logistics of inviting and arranging testimony. Co-Chair Renkes expressed his understanding that this opportunity for testimony would be offered solely to AI-TC conference participants. In answer to the concern that those tribes not affiliated with AI-TC would be excluded from testifying, Co-Chair Renkes stated that the Commission could schedule another time in Anchorage in order to meet that need. Co-Chair Burgess also reminded the Commissioners that written testimony does not have to coincide with oral testimony but could be submitted at any time by any one.

## **8. MEETING SCHEDULE DISCUSSION**

Co-Chair Burgess asked the Alaska Native Justice Center staff to ensure that there would be an opportunity for tribal participation and testimony in Anchorage outside of the AI-TC conference; he instructed ANJC staff to schedule another hearing in Anchorage to accommodate. Commissioner Burgess requested ANJC to make recommendations of dates for said meeting to the Commission at the next Commission meeting.

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed schedule for work groups, and Co-Chair Burgess proposed moving the initial work group meeting to January 2005. In reference to the remaining schedule he expressed his desire that staff confirm the tentative dates as soon as possible for the Commissioners to add those to their respective calendars. The Commissioners discussed the tour in Southeast Alaska wherein they would look at best practice models in rural communities. Co-Chair Burgess indicated the need to hear testimony while in Southeast, and the other Commissioners concurred. Several Commissioners indicated their inability to attend the Southeast tour as a result of schedule conflicts. Mr. Torgerson expressed his concern that the final June deadline for work product becomes more difficult to accomplish if any of the trips are postponed. Ms. Morris added that in previous meetings, the Commission had planned for this trip to include a panel, which would be a smaller representation of Commissioners; following this tour, the panel would report back to the entire Commission. Discussion continued about future meeting dates and the opportunities for testimony.

Commissioner Justin restated his request for a meeting in Mentasta in April and suggested April 6 or 7, 2005 as possible dates. Co-Chair Burgess asked ANJC staff to work on adding that date and destination to the Commission schedule and returning with a proposal at the next full meeting.

Co-Chair Renkes moved to adjourn. Commissioner Bullard seconded.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.