As Chair of the Commission, my goal this year is to preserve the traditions that continue to advance the mission of the Compact while improving and expanding services to the states within the confines of the current budget.

As I reflect on this past year, I am pleased to report the Commission’s accomplishments. The Commission continues to improve its operations and services and promotes effective supervision strategies consistent with public safety, offender accountability, and victims’ rights.

This year, several committees shifted focus to Justice Reinvestment and Evidence-Based Practices, exploring how they impact the Interstate Compact Rules. The Commission is also evaluating practices and trends regarding the acceptance of discretionary transfers. Now that the states are consistently using the dashboard to monitor compliance, the Commission postponed the traditional compliance audit in favor of a review of discretionary transfers. The national office is in the process of conducting the review and will be reporting the results to the states in the upcoming months.

Each year the Commission looks to its resources with current program and service offerings. With costly annual ICOTS enhancements, additional professional development at the annual business meetings, new on-demand training software etc., the Commission’s expenses have exceeded its revenue for the last several years. After conducting a detailed review of the Commission’s financial situation, the finance committee is pleased to report that even though it is necessary at times to expend from the cash reserves to meet the Commission’s needs, the Commission is financially sound with a substantial cash reserve and a healthy long term investment fund. In the future, to minimize cash reserve withdrawals, the executive committee reduced the monthly contribution to the long-term fund; the balance of cash reserve withdrawals, the executive committee reduced the monthly contribution to the long-term fund; the balance of the cash reserves that we are trying to keep in the Commission’s needs, the Commission is financially sound with a substantial cash reserve and a healthy long term investment fund. In the future, to minimize cash reserve withdrawals, the executive committee reduced the monthly contribution to the long-term fund; the balance of the cash reserves.

The committee is researching the issues and benchmarking our policy and standards with established models in use by other professions.

The standing committees each provided updates and highlighted new programs and activities as well as plans for the upcoming year. The programs discussed included applications for sharing offender data with other criminal justice agencies, electronic dashboards for measuring rule compliance, the implementation of VINelatch, the development of interactive online training, ICOTS updates, etc.

Following the committee reports, Vice-Chair Sara Andrews, OH moderated a Justice Reinvestment panel and Commissioner Jeremiah Stromberg, OR moderated the Legalization of Marijuana panel. Both panels discussed program development and implementation in their states and answered questions regarding the impact on offender supervision.

Toward the close of the meeting, the Commission elected and swore in new officers: Commissioner Andrews, OH as Chair, Commissioner Norman, AL as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Lauterbach, IA as Treasurer.

Next meeting: October 7, 2015 in Portland, OR.

Sincerely,
Sara Andrews, Chair
Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

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**VICTIM NOTIFICATION**

After several years of planning and surveying the victims’ services community and allied criminal justice professionals, the ICOTS VINEWatch application for interstate compact offenders became a reality in 2014. During 2015 the focus has been for states across the country to implement the system. It is a victim notification system enabling crime victims to obtain timely and reliable information 24 hours a day about the status of offenders who are under supervision and are relocating from one state to another. There is no cost to states to implement the ICOTS VINEWatch and each state can implement the system in cooperation with their respective notification authority. The system provides real-time email and telephone notification to victims.

The ICOTS VINEWatch is available to the notification authorities in all states and territories to inform victims and assist them in registering for the service. Victims can register anonymously. The use of a PIN verifies a successful phone notification. Victims who opt-in for notification may choose to receive notification of significant compact events involving the offender, including information about the offender’s movement and violations of compact supervision. Victims may choose which notifications they want to receive from the following notifications and disable any of them at any time: 1. Approval of offenders requested transfer 2. Offender change in address 3. Notice of departure from the sending state 4. Notice of arrival or failure to arrive in destination state 5. Violation that may result in revocation, including absconding 6. Termination/revocation of supervision

Currently nineteen states established ICOTS VINEWatch accounts with 605 registrations. Many states are in the process of acquiring training and working with the national office to learn how to establish the system in their state. Outreach will continue with state victim notification authorities and state council victim representatives to assist them in understanding how to implement the system. The national office will also continue to offer technical assistance as requested.

The implementation of VINEWatch ushered in a new era of accessibility and information for victims when offenders move across state borders. A victim’s right to remain informed is essential for their safety and to reduce their fear.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

You can now get a copy of the ICAOS Bench Book on an iPhone and on a Kindle? Users on mobile or tablet devices accounted for more than 30% of the visits to the ICAOS website in fiscal year 2015.

If you have someone in your state that’s an ICOTS super user and familiar with the ICAOS rules the training committee would be interested in hearing about it. Please contact Mindy Spring at the national office.

In FY 2015 all states and territories were audited on thirteen standards. If a state failed four or more of the thirteen standards it was considered a failed audit. As has been the case every year since the audit process began in 2010, the top failed audit standard was the completion of annual progress reports. FY2015 saw 34% states fail this notification however this was a dramatic improvement from just two years ago in FY2013 when 77% of states failed this standard. The national office attributes this to the launch of the dashboards in FY2014 allowing everyone to easily identify and fix compliance issues.

During the FY2015 audit only three states failed four or more standards and were required to submit a corrective action plan. All three were reassessed at the end of FY2015. All showed improvement and were in satisfactory compliance. Historically, 20-25% of states fail the audit, so three out of fifty-three is a huge improvement!

Looking at the last four years, all of the audit standards requiring action by all states show an improvement with the national average now over 80% in all of them. Because the states and territories are doing a good job of monitoring and correcting problems, the Commission decided to switch gears in FY2016 and will review discretionary transfer rejection rates and the reasons for rejection.

The lowest acceptance rates are typically for discretionary transfers. Obviously, as the name says, the receiving state has discretion in deciding to allow the offender move into their jurisdiction. But, are there other factors that cause these numbers to be lower? Are states and territories providing enough information to make those decisions? Are receiving states taking the time to consider all the factors? Is the transfer in the best interest of rehabilitation and public safety? The answers to these and other questions will be examined during the reviews by the national office.

**Duplicate Offenders: Not the Problem it Once Was**

In the first 10 months of FY2015 the average number of monthly requests to remove duplicate offenders- to move, delete, or merge cases in ICOTS- was a whopping 559. That changed significantly with the release of a system enhancement on April 29, 2015. In May the total number of requests submitted dropped to 199, a 64% decrease from the monthly average! In June, the total number of requests dropped even further to 132, a 76% plunge from the monthly average. That’s a wonderful timesaving, and therefore cost saving, measure!

**Technology making our lives easier**

In addition to the ICOTS enhancement limiting the number of duplicate offenders created, did you know there were seven other major ICOTS code releases during this past fiscal year? Thanks to those changes, the user experience is improved in a number of ways. Fiscal year 2015 marks the first time ICOTS functionality changes were made solely for the improvement of user experience. First, compact activities and their associated replies now...
more people to use the training modules 24 hours a day and the Commission has enhanced the internal connections to allow And to make sure this training is available when you have time, the related activity for the request. The “notice of failure to arrive” activity was also redesigned to more quickly and accurately notify users an offender did or did not arrive in the receiving state, necessitating further action or investigation.

The technology committee is also looking to the future to keep ICTS relevant to community corrections and adult parole. In FY2015 the committee reviewed 37 requested enhancements from a list dating all the way back to 2008. The enhancements were grouped and prioritized according to their impact on the system and their relationship to similar functional areas of ICTS. This prioritized list of functional upgrades will allow the Commission to plan and budget what changes to make in FY2017, the next non-rule making year.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

As FY 2016 approaches the financial outlook for the Commission continues to be positive. Without question, maintaining funding for the various programs that are important to the Commission presents challenges to the budget. Foremost among these spending priorities is the ICTS system. Updates and enhancements to ICTS typically cost between $50,000 and $250,000 per year. Other programmatic such as victim notification, the compliance dashboard, on demand training, and the Web-metrics ICTS performance monitor also place increasing pressure on the Commission’s budget.

The current balance of the Commission’s reserve fund is $1,463,455.86. Although adequate, this represents the lowest level for the reserve fund since the 2006 fiscal year. The Commission also maintains a separate legal reserve of $50,000 to cover litigation expenses. Since 2011 the Commission maintained monthly contributions to a long-term investment portfolio managed by the Council of State Governments that has generated an increased rate of return on the investment portfolio of $1,298,989.22. In July 2015, in light of the declining reserve fund balance the executive committee, at the recommendation of the finance committee, voted to cease the monthly contributions to the long-term investment portfolio with those funds allocated to ICTS enhancements as recommended by the technol-

BUDGET ISSUES KEEPING YOUR STATE FROM PROVIDING THE TRAINING NEEDED TO KEEP UP WITH COMPLIANCE?

The training committee and national office continue to offer a variety of trainings requiring no travel, no preparation, and no cost! The Commission is in the process of expanding the number of interactive OnDemand modules. Future modules will be interactive and will offer additional reporting features.

OnDemand training is not just for probation and parole officers. Jail, law enforcement, the judiciary, and others can access modules with information relevant to their duties. All from the comfort of your own computer!

To make sure this training is available when you have time, the Commission has enhanced the internal connections to allow more people to use the training modules 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

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OFFENDERS ON COMPACT SUPERVISION AS OF THE CLOSE OF FY 2015

Dupe late removals are now linked to specific activities on a case, making it easier to determine the related activity for the request. The “notice of failure to arrive” activity was also redesigned to more quickly and accurately notify users an offender did or did not arrive in the receiving state, necessitating further action or investigation.

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ICAOS MISSION: TO GUIDE THE TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION STRATEGIES CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND VICTIM’S RIGHTS.