

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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| PRESENT | Brian Henry Tyler Backus Darcy Benway Bob Buehn Rosemarie Kraeger Debra Jackson Greg Lynch Craig Neuenswander J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland | Missouri Commissioner Maine Commissioner Illinois Commissioner Florida Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner New York Commissioner Washington Commissioner Kansas Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner | Committee Chair |
| EXCUSED | Brian Halstead Kyle Fairbairn | Nebraska Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association | |
| STAFF | Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Stephanie Ramsey | Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Communications Associate, MIC3 | |

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM ET by Committee Chair Brian Henry (MO). Roll call was taken by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tyler Backus (ME). Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

3. Commissioner Buehn moved to approve the minutes from September 28, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS). Motion carried.

ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

4. Chair Henry reported the Executive Committee (EXCOM) met in December for two days, and on January 20. The focus of discussion was primarily on planning for the upcoming year and committee meetings. Topics discussed included: approving the committee meeting calendar; the goals and action items for the 3rd year of the strategic plan; and a review of the recent virtual Annual Business Meeting and way ahead on the National Guard and Reserve. He reported the EXCOM will meet in-person in April with the consultant to develop the 3rd strategic plan.

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **FY2021 Outstanding Dues** – Chair Henry reported total dues for Fiscal Year 2021 was \$654,843. As of December 1, 2021, 50 of 51 members (94%) have paid \$649,615 (99.2%). New Jersey

owes \$5,228. Commissioner Tony Trongone provided an update on January 13 that he contacted the Governor's office and they responded they would work on processing the payment.

6. **FY2022 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Henry noted 43 of the 51 member states have paid FY2022 dues, approximately 84%. Outstanding states: CA, GA, IL, LA, NJ, NM, NC, PA. Reminders will be sent in March if invoices have not been paid by then. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses Sheets, and the Vanguard Investment report. He noted everything looks favorable financially.

ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

7. **Strategic Plan Review** – ED Imai reviewed the strategic plan action items for year 3 that the committee will address over the next several months.

8. **Explore and communicate to the Commission the viability of outside funding sources for the Commission** – The committee discussed what type of funding is the Compact authorized to seek, given that it is a quasi-governmental agency, and questioned whether they could apply for or accept federal grants. A question regarding need was raised, as the Commission has a healthy reserve. ED Imai noted that when the strategic plan was developed, the finances were not at the level they are now, therefore there was interest in seeking grants and other funding to support our programming at that time. Members questioned if there was a need to seek federal funds and perhaps the Commission had a sufficient budget and reserve to support efforts. ED Imai was asked to seek General Counsel advisement on the eligibility of the Commission to apply for any type of funding. **(OPEN ITEM)**

ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

9. **Operations Audit** – Chair Henry yielded the floor to Consultant Brian Riggs to provide highlights of the recent Audit.

10. The also committee discussed concerns and feedback regarding the audit from an email dated January 24, expressed by Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI). They noted future audits by the Commission could seek feedback from other sources. Her email reads:

It appears that different viewpoints are not sought or welcome. The best example was the selection of interviewees by the consultant. He said he interviewed staff and EXCOM members. I question the reliability and validity of the results of interviews of folks who are paid by the Commission and/or are making decisions on behalf of the Commission. If all Commissioners were surveyed, it would have increased confidence in the results of his interviews. When respondents are handpicked or may personally benefit from the study, it screams of sycophancy. The results cannot and should not be trusted or used as they may be skewed and not representative of the spectrum of Commissioners. Basing future goals and actions of the organization on the input of a few handpicked individuals is not a reliable or valid approach. It would be helpful to know what the criteria was for selecting folks who were interviewed and how many folks from different groups (e.g. Commissioners of large, small, medium military states, Commissioners with short, medium, long terms of service) were involved in the sampling for responses. When information is presented to us with little or no "context" (e.g., who was interviewed and why were they chosen), it does not appear to be representative of the organization. Research protocols should follow and demonstrate ethical transparent practices that encourage trust and confidence in the process and results.

11. Commissioner Buehn moved to approve the report and to forward the information to the EXCOM to determine next steps. Seconded by Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI). Motion carried.

12. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact** – Chair Henry and the committee reviewed the second draft of the guidance. They agreed the guidance provided the information necessary for a commissioner to seek funding from the appropriate funding authority within their state, version of the FY2021 audit. He noted the audit was clean and there were no findings. He attributed the stability of commission finances and annual audit to the committee and national office staff.

13. Commissioner Kraeger moved to table the item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Backus. Motion carried. (OPEN ITEM)

ITEM 7 – OTHER BUSINESS

14. Chair Henry reminded members to submit their COC and COI forms by the end of the month.

15. He also reminded members to complete the [Vanderbilt Survey](#) on the Efficacy and Implementation of the Compact in States by Friday, February 4.

16. MIC3 Presents Webinar Series

- Wednesday, 1/26 at 2:00 PM ET, [NMFA: Military Teen Experience - Mental Health and Well-Being Report](#)
- Wednesday, 2/16 at 2:00pm ET, [MCEC: SchoolQuest](#)

ITEM 8 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17. No items were brought forth for the Executive Committee.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

18. With no further business to conduct, Commission Debra Jackson (NY) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM ET.