

Massachusetts Council of Military Interstate Commerce Commission Agenda
Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021
2:00 pm –3:00 pm
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Members:

RADM Clarke Orzalli USN (ret), Commissioner, Massachusetts MIC3

Ken Gordon, Massachusetts State Representative, 21st District

Cheryl Poppe, Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Veteran’s Services

Becky McFall, Superintendent, Lincoln Public Schools

Tom Moreau, Assistant Secretary of Policy and Planning, Designee for Secretary of Education James Peyser, Massachusetts Executive Office of Education

Christine Cowen, Military Family Education Liaison to MIC3, Military Connected Student Specialist, Designee for Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Lt Col Sidney Squires, 66th Air Base Deputy Group Commander, Hanscom AFB, United States Air Force and DOD Representative

CAPT Sean Hannigan, Commander USCG Base Cape Cod.

Ex-Officio Members:

Susan LaFlame [Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator](#), Military & Family Support Center, MA National Guard Family Program

Other Guests:

Brooke Leahy, Chief of Staff, Department of Veteran’s Services

Agenda:

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. **New representatives announced:**
 1. DOD – LCol. Squires
 2. Tanya Rioux assumed a new position and now Susan LaFlame is the [Lead Child & Youth Program Coordinator.](#), Military & Family Support Center, MA National Guard Family Program
- II. **Vote to Approve Minutes from Nov. 20, 2020 Meeting**

Minutes were approved with corrections.
- III. **Discuss Activity since November 2020 Meeting**
 - a. **Annual Report to Compact**

Reported that the MA Governor issued a Proclamation designating April as the month of the Military Child. On the National level 30% of inquiries are MIC3 related and 70% are outside of MIC3.
 - b. **Cases – Christine Cowen**

Relatively quiet. Not necessarily cases but inquiries. Two in April; two in October; August had one inquiry; October had two inquiries; I offered to go into more detail if they wanted but not necessary; in June I connected with my family Engagement colleague to explain MIC3 and also connected Laurel to colleague; Mentioned IMEC (migrant council) and the fact that conversations were happening between MIC3 and Office of Migrant Education; In October, I attended the Webinar: Military Impacted School Association – learned that moves are happening as much; shared resources; and spoke about IDEA -Fed. Law supersedes state law and commission; mentioned that Master Service Agreement has been posted in November and military program is included; In the spring of 2022, may be contacting Laurel to do a joint training about MIC3 (virtual); and finally, I had an inquiry from Brooke Leahy and mentioned this meeting and she thus joined to learn more about MIC3 and to support Cheryl (Veteran’s Services).

IV. Ex-Officio Members

No Report

V. Review of MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) (virtual)

a. Election Results

At the Annual Business Meeting, elections were held and results as follows: Laura Anastasio (CT) became Chair; Ernie Singleton (LA) became Vice-Chair; and Brain Henry (MO) became Treasurer. RADM Orzalli was asked to run for run for treasurer but declined the invite. RADM Orzalli noted that he cannot run for position at MIC3 national level unless the state council approves him to do so.

b. New Policies

Recognition Awards as well as operations during COVID-19 Pandemic

c. New Training Materials

Training materials were updated. RADM Orzalli will send out the update after the meeting to each council member.

d. National Guard and Reserve Task Force

Commissioner Orzalli submitted input in August. There is a need for additional information/data. There is nothing at the national level and from the National Guard. Commissioner Orzalli shared that an update to all the state legislatures by individual states would have to take place. Twenty-four states submitted the required input by the 31 August Deadline. Legal council was consulted and there was some ambiguity on what options were viable to move forward. More research to move forward is required and if determination of financial impact from including the National Guard in compact needs to be worked out. The next meeting is in the Fall in Baton Rouge.

e. Purple Star Program

Thirty-four states have the Purple Star Program. Commissioner Orzalli would like the Massachusetts Department of Education consider MA having a program as well. If is not an initiative of MIC3 but initiative of individual states and a priority of the Department of Defense. Becky McFall commented that she did not any issue as why her district would not qualify for Purple Star status. She would like to see the initiative move forward. Commissioner Orzalli will forward information about the program to Tom Moreau and Christine Cowen for review. Tom Moreau commented that there is legislature that covers military/executive order about licensure. He will forward that information to the council. Commissioner Orzalli commented

that at the national meeting Secretary Miguel Cardona, who was a guest speaker, mentioned teacher licensure and military spouses' certification as a priority of the current administration.

f. Reciprocity of Certification

Licensed teachers of military connected spouses or with military background; Becky McFall commented that military spouses in the past would apply but fewer applications now; They apply as assistants perhaps because of military movement/deployments; Clark commented that the compact/MIC3 is not applicable here. There is a separate law which is explained in the training modules that will be send out; Clark wants to steer families to where they can get help; He is not an educator so depends on the council to lead him in the correct direction.

VI. Public Comment*

None.

VII. Other Issues

a. SPED and IEPs

Ken Gordon commented that his wife is a SPED teacher and thus familiar with IEPs. She is a teacher at Bedford where military connected students have been identified. He mentioned creating a memo of SPED needs faced by military students.

Becky McFall commented that about services, processes, and no notifications of significant IEPs given to service the student well. Commissioner Orzalli commented that there is a lot of conversation with DOD about this.

b. MISC.

1. Brooke Leahy joined the meeting to listen and learn about MIC3 and to support her boss Cheryl Poppe. Brooke is also a daughter of two Airforce officers.
2. Tom Moreau thanked Commissioner Orzalli for attending the Annual Business Meeting and sharing information and materials with the council.

c. Governor's Challenge

Cheryl Popper shared information about the suicide prevention initiative. Governor's Challenge. She is working with the Department of Mental Health. If anyone would like to engage with them on this initiative, an email can be sent to her.

d. Expenses

While Commissioner Orzalli has incurred insignificant incidental costs associated with the MIC3 position, a group of commissioners do have expenses and feel that the costs should be covered by their individual state governments. He is working with the finance committee within MIC3 to another commissioner on this issue to identify the types of expenses and estimated annual expenditures so state governments can adequately plan for these costs. He will and will let the council know when these guidelines are issued.

VIII. Discussion and Next Steps

RADM Orzalli will plan for the next annual meeting.

IX. Adjourn

3:00 pm