**Tier Group 2 Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET**

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| PRESENT | Debra Jackson  Ernise Singleton  Steven Bullard  Dale Brungardt  Brian Henry  Will Jones  Pete LuPiba  Tremekia Priester  Deanna McLaughlin  Douglas Ragland  Eileen Huck | New York Commissioner  Louisiana Commissioner  Kentucky Commissioner  Kansas Commissioner  Missouri Commissioner  Oklahoma Commissioner  Ohio Commissioner  South Carolina Commissioner  Tennessee Commissioner  Alabama Commissioner  National Military Family Association | | Tier Group 2 Facilitator  Commission Vice Chair  Ex-officio Representative | |
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| EXCUSED | John Price  Vacant  Vacant | Illinois Interim Commissioner  Alaska Commissioner  Arizona Commissioner | |  |
| STAFF | Cherise Imai | Executive Director | |  |
|  | Christina King | Communications Associate | |  |
|  | Lindsey Dablow | Training & Operations Associate | |  |
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**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM ET by Tier Group 2 Facilitator and New York Commissioner Debra Jackson.

**ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL**

1. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow conducted roll call. As this is not a formal committee of the Commission, per Robert’s Rules, a quorum is not necessary.
2. Ms. Dablow recognized NMFA Ex-officio Representative Eileen Huck and asked her to introduce herself to the group.
3. Commissioner Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting several new commissioners in attendance.

**ITEM 3 – AGENDA**

1. Commissioner Jackson reviewed the agenda.

**ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Commission Data Collection Discussion –** The discussion related to the Commission’s reporting and data collection methods was continued from the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), according to Commissioner Jackson. She stated the objective was to study and determine whether to repeal Compact Rule, Chapter 200 General Provisions, SEC. 2.102 Data Collection and Reporting, or go forward with any wording adjustments to the rule to adopt a flexible data gathering approach within the Commission. Members were asked by Commissioner Jackson to provide an update on the situation as it relates to their State Councils as well as their opinions on future data gathering.
2. Commissioner Steven Bullard (KY) stated that the Fort Knox and Fort Campbell School Advocates are fully in favor of having the data-collecting process be as accurate as is feasible without interfering with how MIC3 and the education departments conduct business. In Kentucky, he said, self-identification is required (as part of the Military Identifier under the Every Student Succeeds Act), but fewer than two-thirds of the state's military families actually report. This leads to incomplete data. Additionally, Commissioner Bullard noted that he thinks there needs to be a better way to gather and handle this data with the potential need for federal assistance.
3. Vice Chair, Commissioner Ernise Singleton (LA) informed the group this is a sensitive topic for Louisiana as the state has very strict rules regarding data collection making it very difficult to collect.
4. Commissioner Deana McLaughlin (TN) commented that the issue was covered by the Finance Committee at their most recent meeting. After pointing out the difficulty of collecting data, she questioned how the information would be used to further the Commission's objective.
5. According to Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH), the US Department of Education mandated the development of a state data collection plan in 2015. He also advised that they include the National Guard and Reserve in their data collection process at the time. He went on to note that, while Ohio now gathers data on National Guard and Reserve students, he believes the majority of other states only include individuals in active-duty branches. He also mentioned that there are numerous exit points for scenarios where good data would be difficult to acquire without a proper process in place. Commissioner Jackson agreed thedata collected must be consistent.
6. Commissioner Jackson indicated New York also struggles with data collecting as not everyone self-reports. New York has attempted to target locations with Coast Guard and Navy families, as they typically only hear from parents when problems arise. The problem is determining how to assure the data is correct. She went on to answer Commissioner McLaughlin's earlier concern about how the data might be used. Commissioner Jackson noted if statistics were consistent and accurate, states would be able to better target school districts in need of assistance.
7. Commissioner Jackson requested Commissioner McLaughlin to elaborate on how Tennessee would use this data. Commissioner McLaughlin expressed it would mainly be utilized for reporting to state council and the National Office.
8. Commissioner Jackson asked Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai to explain the data used to calculate dues to the group. According to ED Imai, the Commission requests an annual number of school-age children ages five (5) to 18 from the Department of Defense (DoD). She added that while National Guard and Reserve data has been requested in the past, this annual report normally only includes active-duty forces, including the US Public Health Service. ED Imai went on to say that the National Office does not collect any data and that this information must come from individual states.
9. NMFA Ex-officio Representative Eileen Huck asked if it is correct to assume data collected only reflects the total number of military students assigned to a state but does not include information specific to individual school districts. Commissioner Jackson replied that she is unable to answer that question and asked Commissioner Bullard if he had an answer. Commissioner Bullard stated the data he receives is state-wide and he was unsure if it could be broken down into individual counties but knew it could not be broken down into school districts.
10. Commissioner Jackson concluded the discussion stating without a way to collect specific data it is beyond the purview of MIC3. ED Imai confirmed comments from this meeting mirror the concerns of other groups, MIC3 committees, and various Commissioners have expressed. ED Imai also informed the group of a proposed rule language amendment submitted by the state of Washington, to allow flexibility within the data collection process.
11. **ABM Cost Analysis: In-Person vs. Virtual Meeting –** Commissioner Jackson asked Ms. Dablow to review the actual costs of the 2022 ABM in Baton Rouge, LA compared to the estimated costs for the 2023 ABM in Richmond, VA. She explained costs have increased since the pandemic and is affected by rising inflation. Ms. Dablow reported the overall cost of the 2022 ABM was $146,481.18compared to the current estimate for the 2023 ABM of $210,850.85.
12. Commissioner LuPiba interjected, asking for clarification as he thought the discussion was meant to be a comparison between in-person and virtual, not Baton Rouge compared to Richmond. Ms. Dablow and Commissioner Jackson both advised that this comparison is to give a background of in-person rising costs before moving on to the in-person versus virtual discussion. Ms. Dablow continued her report.
13. Commissioner Jackson noted that she does not expect ABM costs to be less than $200,000 in the future. She informed the gathering that the virtual alternative is not as simple as a Zoom conference hosted by MIC3 staff and requires a tech team to properly host. ED Imai described how the location is chosen, with an emphasis on choosing a location that is conveniently accessible to all guests.
14. Ms. Dablow discussed the cost differences between in-person and virtual ABM. She indicated that the 2019 in-person ABM cost was $111,566.60, the 2020 virtual ABM was $5,881.01,noting if avirtual ABM was scheduled in the future, the cost would be approximately $13,000-15,000 with the addition of tech services.
15. Commissioner Jackson clarified the estimated cost of a virtual ABM with a company hosting it virtually would be around $13,000 to $15,000. Ms. Dablow confirmed those figures were correct.
16. Commissioner Jackson opened the discussion to the group. Commissioner Singleton stated she doesn’t feel a virtual meeting is conducive to the type of work the Commission does. She stated she believes it is important to meet in person.
17. Commissioner McLaughlin added that she feels a viable option is to try alternating every other year. Commissioner LuPiba agreed.
18. Commissioner Ragland stated his first choice was in-person as well, but he could understand the alternating of in person and virtual and would support the overall decision.
19. Commissioner Henry suggested the Commission consider more centralized cities or airline hub cities that may be less expensive. From a financial standpoint, he stated alternating is more responsible.
20. Commissioner Tremekia Priester (SC) stated she does not want the group to make the decision based solely on cost, as costs will not be reduced, but rather on what the commission believes is best.
21. Commissioner Jackson noted the commission will continue to minimize costs and fine-tune its operations. She stated meeting in person is far better for the Commission and the work it undertakes. Commissioner Jackson asked how the Commission would train new commissioners virtually compared to in person at the ABM. She questioned if the meeting is hosted virtually every other year, does the Commission host another in-person meeting for incoming commissioners? She concluded she would support the group's decision, but her personal choice is the in-person option.
22. **DSLO Space Force State Statute Inclusion (Update) –** ED Imai reported that the representatives from DoD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) met today with MIC3 staff. They are working on an initiative to add Space Force to the list of service branches included in the state statutes and laws as covered under the Compact. They will provide an update at the ABM. They did report today that 13 states have added Space Force at this time. The Commission will be asked to add Space Force to the Rules.
23. Commissioner McLaughlin asked, “if the DoD is trying to get Space Force added, might that also be an appropriate time to make the citation correction for the states that have not already done so?” Commissioner Jackson answered that many states may choose that course of action. She added every state will handle this differently. Commissioner Bullard and Commissioner McLaughlin voiced their agreement with Commissioner Jackson.

**ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Commissioner Jackson reviewed the upcoming end-of-year deadline with the group. She asked for any new topics, questions, or comments. There were no additional comments.

**ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT**

1. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM ET.