



Tier Group 4 Meeting Notes
June 5, 2023
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Clara Botstein Chad Delbridge Daron Korte Kathleen Murphy Ann Pettit Michael Rodriguez Shelley Joan Weiss	District of Columbia Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner Minnesota Commissioner New Hampshire Commissioner South Dakota Commissioner Delaware Commissioner Wisconsin Commissioner	Tier Group 4 Facilitator
EXCUSED	Phillip Cantrell Sarah Forster Laura Kacer Rosemarie Kraeger Ray Shaw Rene Sanchez	West Virginia Commissioner Maine Commissioner Iowa Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner Montana Commissioner Vermont Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director Training & Operations Associate	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM ET by Tier Group 4 Facilitator and District of Columbia (DC) Commissioner Clara Botstein.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai conducted roll call. As this is not a formal committee of the Commission, per Robert's Rules, a quorum is not necessary. Half of the Tier Group 4 states were present as established by the presence of seven state Compact Commissioners.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. The members reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Botstein noted time would be provided at the end of the meeting if Commissioners had topics they wanted to discuss.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

4. **Commission Data Collection Discussion** – Commissioner Botstein provided Members with the timeline and previous discussion highlights for this agenda item. For several years, the Commission reviewed the Data Collection clause in the Compact statute and the Compact Rules. In 2022, the Rules Committee completed a full review of the Compact Rules. That review prompted the Rules Committee to ask if states supported repealing Compact Rules, Chapter 200, SEC. 2.102. The consensus was to repeal the Rule. Commission's General Counsel agreed the Commission could repeal the Rule however due to the language being in the Compact statute the Commission would need to adopt some type of data collection model.

5. The group discussed the challenges associated with obtaining data from the US Department of Defense (DoD) using numbers generated from the Defense Manpower Data Center. Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI) explained data collection at the school level is voluntary. She noted connecting with the state's military liaison is helpful. However, does not guarantee access to the correct data and some data only includes the major branches of service.
6. Commissioner Botstein and Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) supported collecting case and inquiry information and how states educate their stakeholders. Commissioner Korte noted if the Commission is collecting additional data outside what is provided in the Compact statute, then the Commission needs to define the purpose and use of the data. Commissioner Weiss supported adding additional questions to the End-of-Year Report to assist the Commission in collecting state-specific information.
7. ED Imai asked Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow to explain a suggestion provided to headquarters by two seasoned Commissioners that were Members of the Commission when the current Rules language was developed. Ms. Dablow stated the suggestion was to edit SEC. 2.102 deleting the requirement to collect data on transfer and enrollment of students annually and amend the timeframe in the Rule to "in a manner and frequency as determined by the Commission." The Members expressed no opposition to this recommendation.
8. Commissioner Botstein noted Member's feedback would be shared with the Rules Committee to assist them as they determine a way forward.
9. **ABM Cost Analysis: In Person vs. Virtual Meeting** – Commissioner Botstein yielded the floor to Ms. Dablow who reminded Members following the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) official attendees were surveyed and asked if they supported alternating the ABM virtually or in person every other year. Out of those surveyed, 25 Commissioners and two (2) proxies responded to the survey. Twelve respondents supported alternating the ABM meeting between virtual and in person every other year. Eight (8) did not support alternating the ABM and seven (7) indicated they had no preference. A consensus was not reached. The Executive and Finance Committees requested Tier Groups discuss this item to provide Members with another opportunity to provide feedback.
10. Ms. Dablow reviewed the cost comparison between the 2022 ABM and 2023 ABM. She noted the Commission always requests the government room rate; however, location fees are subject to local and state taxes and service fees. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, facility and food and beverage costs have risen exponentially. Ms. Dablow highlighted the expense of breaks which are only liquid refreshments are \$3,000-\$5,000 and the Commission reception costs on average \$13,000-\$15,000. She informed the Members that the host Commissioner is proposing an off-site reception for the 2023 ABM and outlined how that could influence the cost of the reception. Ms. Dablow reviewed the cost of audio-visual services and noted the factors that can increase that expense, such as additional breakout rooms and microphones. She concluded the report stating the Council of Governments affiliates met recently and discussed the rising cost of holding in-person meetings and the budget figures presented are in line with what other organizations are reporting.
11. The group suggested providing the cost of a virtual meeting and Ms. Dablow responded the estimated cost for a 100% virtual meeting is \$3,000-\$5,000. Commissioner Weiss asked what the difference in time is, planning and participation time, for a virtual versus in-person meeting. ED Imai responded headquarters fully supports holding ABM virtually citing the time and cost savings of a virtual ABM. However, she noted the intangibles - the ability for new Commissioners to connect with colleagues and networking with stakeholders - was difficult to implement successfully in the virtual environment.

12. Commissioner Weiss asked if holding the ABM in 'airport hub' cities was discussed, and ED Imai confirmed it had been discussed. She noted the facility rates tend to be higher in those cities.

13. Based on the information presented the seven (7) Members present supported meeting virtually every other year. The Members agreed if cost were not a factor, they preferred in person. The consensus was the long-term financial health of the organization should be considered and if the cost of an in-person ABM factored into the need for an increase in the dues formula then the group did not support in person meetings.

14. For the record, members indicated their preference for the meeting format:

- Delaware – Every other year
- District of Columbia – Every other year
- Minnesota – In person or every other year
- New Hampshire – Every other
- South Dakota – Every other year
- Wisconsin – Virtual or every other year
- Wyoming – In person or every other year
- Not present: Iowa, Oregon, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont

15. **DSLO Space Force State Statute Inclusion** – Commissioner Botstein asked ED Imai to update the Members on the DoD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) initiative to update all state statutes defining or referencing the branches of service to include Space Force. She noted the Compact statute covers Space Force and the goal of the Commission is to educate the DSLO on the Commission's processes, so it is not circumvented. ED Imai asked Members to contact headquarters if they are informed their state's Compact statute is being amended or referenced to ensure there is no conflict. The Members had no questions following the report.

ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. **Commission Annual Deadlines** – Commissioner Botstein reminded Members June 30 was the end of fiscal year 2023 and each member state was required to have held a state council meeting, submit their End-of-Year Report, and submit their state dues payment. She noted headquarters would send out reminders as the deadline approached.

ITEM 5 – ADJOURNMENT

17. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Botstein adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM ET.