

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

PRESENT	Steven Bullard	Kentucky Commissioner	Chair
	Kathy Berg	Hawaii Commissioner	
	Will Jones	Oklahoma Commissioner Designee	
	John "Don" Kaminar	Arkansas Commissioner	
	Michael Price	Michigan Commissioner	
	Douglas Ragland	Alabama Commissioner	
	Brooke Bhaalid	Blue Star Families	Ex-officio
EXCUSED	Daniel Dunham	Virginia Commissioner	
	Ray Shaw	Montana Commissioner	
	Shelley Joan Weiss	Wisconsin Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai	Executive Director	
	Lindsey Dablow	Training & Operations Associate	
	Allie Thomas	Operations Coordinator	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM ET by Compliance Chair Steven Bullard (KY).

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow conducted roll call. Quorum was established at 2:09PM EST with the addition of Commissioner Kathy Berg (HI.) Chair Bullard introduced Brooke Bhaalid sitting in for Tom Porter as ex-officio representative from Blue Star Families.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. **Commissioner Michael Price (MI) motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John "Don" Kaminar (AR.) Motion carried.**

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. **Commissioner Will Jones (OK) motioned to approve the minutes from January 9, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Kaminar seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – Chair Bullard announced the addition of two new staff to the national office, Monique Smith as Communications Associate and Allie Thomas as Operations Coordinator.
6. Chair Bullard reported the annual Finance Committee audit came back clear with no findings. The audit has had no significant findings for the last three years running.
7. Ms. Dablow reported the national office had scheduled 37 trainings for FY24, five held in-person and thirty-seven virtual, with the addition of four requests that she had received this week to total forty-one.

8. Chair Bullard reported the Ex-officio Representatives met in January 2024 and reported their organizations' activities. MCEC is to hold their Global Training Summit in Washington, DC on July 29-31. The Department of Defense is undergoing an analysis of programs and services provided by the various departments under the Military Community and Family Policy.

9. Chair Bullard reported a reminder for the Communications & Outreach Committee's toolkit for Month of the Military Child has been sent out ahead of April.

10. Chair Bullard reported the EXCOM is working with congressional representatives from Hawaii and Connecticut to secure a Congressional Resolution recognizing the Compact and Commission. More information will be provided to the members as released.

ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

11. **FY23-25 Strategic Plan** – Chair Bullard reviewed the Case Resolution Process and advised that this task is assigned to both the Compliance and Rules committees. Rules had requested some edits to the graphic reviewed by Compliance during the January meeting. The draft will be sent back to Compliance once the edits have been approved.

12. **FY23 State Compliance** – Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai has emailed, texted, and called both New Jersey and Mississippi as directed by the EXCOM, with neither state having responded to these communications or provided a plan to bring their states back into compliance. The next steps for each state will be determined at the EXCOM meeting to be held on March 21, 2024.

13. **FY24 State Compliance** – Ms. Dablow presented an infographic showing which states are compliant for submitting their dues payments and holding state council meetings and which states are non-compliant. This infographic will become part of the Commission's monthly newsletter and mic3.net communications and will allow commissioners and stakeholders the ability to review their state's compliance under the Compact.

14. Ms. Dablow reported the fiscal year ends on June 30, 2024, with nine states still needing to submit their FY24 dues payments. These nine states were emailed on March 6, 2024, with reminder invoices. Initial invoices went out to all states on May 1, 2023.

15. Ms. Dablow reported thirty states need to hold at least one state council meeting before June 30, 2024, and End-Of-Year Reports for FY24 are due on June 30 as well.

16. Ms. Dablow reported six states have not submitted their Code of Conduct or Conflict of Interest forms. Vermont and Mississippi are delinquent. Forms had been provided to Members at ABM and can be accessed online, with reminders sent out on 12/11/2023, 12/14/2023, 1/15/2024, and 1/24/2024. **Chair Bullard called to have ED Imai initiate two forms of contact with Mississippi since she is already addressing Mississippi's FY23 compliance. Commissioner Price motioned, seconded by Commissioner Kaminar. Motion carried.**

17. **Chair Bullard called to elevate Vermont to Level Three for noncompliance. Commissioner Kaminar motioned for approval and Commissioner Jones seconded. Motion carried.** The Compliance Chair would remind Vermont that the state will be referred to the EXCOM if no action is taken to come back into compliance.

18. **Commissioner Vacancies and Appointments** – Chair Bullard reported the national office had obtained an appointment letter for Indiana. The national office has received names for Alaska and

California and is waiting for official letters. The national office has been in contact with representatives in Arizona and has a point of contact in the Governor's Office working with DSLO to fill the vacancy.

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

19. **Compact Rules** – Chair Bullard reviewed the Compact Rules, Section 7.105 – Escalation and Reporting of Disputes Process, which provides a summary of Chapter 700 that outlines the Commission's compliance process and proposed process for escalation. It was agreed upon to have members review the compliance process and submit comments in writing to Chair Bullard by March 26, 2024, before electing to adopt the process.

20. **New Commissioner Manual** – Chair Bullard reported the Commissioner Manual is used to onboard newly appointed members to the Commission and asked for feedback on adding the Escalation Process as an addendum to the updated manual. Feedback is to be submitted in writing to Chair Bullard, and the vote will be added to the Compliance meeting agenda for March 26, 2024.

21. **Process for Public Comment** – Chair Bullard reported the request by Commissioner Daniel Dunham (VA) to review the process for public comment in the Compact Model Language, by-laws, and public notice. The committee will need to decide if the current practices are sufficient, or if a formalized process document will need to be created. The vote will be held at a meeting where Commissioner Dunham is able to attend and can address specific instances.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

22. **Items for the Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – There being no feedback from the Members, Chair Bullard moved to the next agenda item.

23. **Compact 101 Training** – Chair Bullard reminded the members that the next Compact 101 Training will be held on March 20, 2024, at 8:00 PM EST.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

24. With no further business to conduct, Chair Bullard called for adjournment. **Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Douglas Ragland (AL.) Meeting adjourned at 2:25PM EST.**