

Counseling Compact 2025 Full Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2025, 12:00 p.m. ET

Meeting held virtually via Zoom and in person at Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach, SC.

Delegates Attending Onsite

Tobi Zavala, Arizona
Justin Moore, Arkansas
Kimble Richardson, Indiana
Andrea Brooks, Kentucky
Jamie Doming, Louisiana
Samantha Strehlo, Minnesota
LeeAnn Mordecai, Mississippi
Dr. Susan Meyerle, Nebraska
Dr. Denauvo Robinson, North Carolina
Lisa Holter, North Dakota
Brian Carnahan, Ohio
Dr. Johnie Fredman, Oklahoma
Dr. Jennifer Jordan, South Carolina
Amy Hartman, South Dakota
Kim Speakman, Tennessee
Charlotte Lenart, Virginia
Tony Onorato, West Virginia
Dr. Tim Strait, Wisconsin

Delegates Attending Virtually

Dr. Latofia Parker, Alabama
Ashleigh Irving, Florida
Angie Smith, Georgia
Dr. Amy Mooney, Iowa
Laura Shaughnessy, Kansas
Ellen Grunblatt, Maine
Dr. Lisa Connors, Maryland
Carol Staben Burroughs, Montana
Bethany Cottrell, New Hampshire
Milagros Collazo, New Jersey
Donna Valletta, Rhode Island
Jennifer Colin, Vermont
Lana Crawford, Washington
Carlos Gomez, Wyoming

Ex-Officio Members Present

Dr. Lynn Linde
Matt Grayson
Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake

Legal Counsel Present:

Nahale Kalfas

CCC Staff Present:

Greg Searls
Veronica Givens

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Dr. Beverly Smith

Delegates Absent:

Reina Sbarbaro-Gordon, Colorado
Christian D. Andresen, Connecticut
Alison Warren, Delaware
Gloria Lindsey, Missouri
Jana Johansen, Utah

Jurisdictions with no delegate appointed:

DC

Members of the public were present

Welcome/Call to Order

- J. Doming called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. ET.

Roll Call

- Director Searls did a roll call vote. A Quorum was established with 32 out of 37 Compact Commissioners present during the roll call (see list above).

Adoption of the Agenda

- Chair J. Doming called for a motion to adopt the agendas as amended to include the annual report as a voting item.
- **Motion:** Dr. Fredman made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Dr. Strait seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

- Chair J. Doming reviewed and called for a motion to adopt the minutes.
- **Motion:** Dr. Strait made the motion to adopt the minutes as presented. K. Richardson seconded the motion. Director Greg Searls conducted a roll-call vote. 24 out of 32 commissioners voted in favor of the motion, 0 commissioners opposed the motion, and 7 commissioners abstained due to their absence from the previous full commission meeting. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report

- Chair Doming explained that the information provided is from FY 23-24. Chair Doming reviewed the executive committee report, noting that during this period the executive committee hired an executive director, legal counsel, and a secretariat, and contracted with a website and database vendor.

Compliance Committee Report

- Compliance Committee Chair Dr. Johnie Fredman presented the Compliance Committee's report. He explained that the committee's focus has been on developing a clear understanding of the Compliance Committee's role and responsibilities. He noted that the committee had several guest speakers from other commissions, including people with experience in establishing and operating compliance committees.

Finance Committee Report

- Finance Committee Chair K. Speakman presented the Finance Committee's report. She explained that the committee meets regularly to monitor the Commission's financial status and to ensure transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability.
- K. Speakman outlined the Compact's funding sources and expenses. She noted that the Compact receives funding through two key partners, ACA and NBCC.

Rules Committee Report

- Rules Committee Chair Dr. Brooks gave the Rules Committee's report. In the past fiscal year, the Rules Committee drafted rules on data systems, reporting requirements, criminal background checks, and legacy licensing. All drafted rules were forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval, then to the full Commission for consideration, and were all adopted.

Executive Director Report

- Director Searls was hired during the latter half of FY 23-24.
- He reported that over the past year he handled approximately 600 phone calls and responded to more than 1,000 emails sent to the general information inbox, as well as approximately 4,000 emails from his individual inbox.
- He delivered nine in-person presentations and 20 virtual presentations and participated in 32 committee meetings.
- Director Searls established weekly office hours for delegates, alternates, and executive directors to ask questions related to the Compact and implementation.
- He noted that the Compact is currently active in 38 jurisdictions and that efforts to expand membership are ongoing.
- He emphasized the importance of delegate engagement and encouraged delegates to participate in committees.

Annual Report

- Chair Doming explained that all Commissioners received the annual report before the meeting. The report will be publicly available on the website once approved. She noted that the report is a compilation of the Executive Committee, the Rules Committee, the Finance Committee, the Compliance Committee reports, information from CAMS, and the budget.
- **Motion:** A. Irving made the motion to approve the annual report as presented. Dr. Strait seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Governance Training Presented by Legal Counsel Nahale Kalfas

- Legal Counsel Kalfas led governance training, which clarified the Compact and the commission's role.

Rule on Fees

- Dr. Brooks gave an overview of the rule on fees, which sets the administrative fee for the commission at \$30, and defines state fees, which are assessed independently by member states. The licensee is responsible for paying both fees, and the Commission will forward payment to the state.
- Dr. Brooks noted that the rule had completed the public comment period, during which two comments were received; neither resulted in substantive changes to the rule.
- **Motion:** Dr. Strait made the motion to adopt the Rule on Fees as presented. A. Smith seconded the motion. Chair Doming invited discussion and, hearing none, called for a roll-call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Bylaw Revisions

- Dr. Brooks gave an overview of the proposed amendments to the bylaws, which were approved by the rules committee and executive, and were provided to the delegates with more than the required 30-day notice.
- She highlighted the following proposed amendments to the bylaws:
 - The term commissioner was replaced with the term “delegate ” to be consistent with the law.
 - Defined commissioner terms as running from April 1 through March 31, with dates selected to align with the timing of the Annual Business Meeting.
 - Added a provision that allows both delegates and alternate delegates to be voting members of committees. A delegate and their alternate cannot be voting members of the same committee. Each State will still only get one vote in the full Commission meetings and the annual business meetings.
- Dr. Brooks called for a motion to approve the amendments to the bylaws as presented. J. Doming called for a motion to approve.
- **Motion:** K. Speakman made the motion approve the bylaw amendments as presented. A. Irving seconded the motion. Chair Doming invited discussion and, hearing none, called for a roll-call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Travel Policy

- Dr. Brooks gave an overview of the Travel policy, which has guidance for what will be approved, for travel, for staff, and for delegates.
- The finance committee created the policy, sent it to the rules committee for approval, and then forwarded it to the executive committee for approval.
- **Motion:** Dr. Strait made the motion to accept the Travel Policy as presented. Dr. Parker seconded the motion. Chair Doming invited discussion and, hearing none, called for a roll-call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Database and Website Update

- Isabel Eliassen (Council of State Governments) gave an update on the database and website. She explained that the goal is to have CompactConnect ready to launch in August 2025, but don't expect all states to be ready by then. The system is prepared to have states to start testing, using real state data to ensure everything works properly. In the next few months, they hope to have states on board. Onboarding is typically two meetings with the states. One focuses more on administrative tasks, and the other focuses more on the technical side of things. Ms. Eliassen encouraged states to start reaching out as soon as they have the availability.
- InspiringApps CEO Brad Weber joined the meeting to give a brief update on CompactConnect.
- Delegates expressed disappointment that videos or demonstrations of CompactConnect were not available at the meeting. Several delegates also noted that InspiringApps staff appeared unprepared and expressed frustration. Some committee members noted that

InspiringApps has continued to meet established benchmarks despite the perceived lack of preparedness.

Overview of Election Procedure and Introduction of Nominees and Nominee Presentations.

- Director Searls explained that the timeline for the elections is based on the current bylaws.
- Executive Committee Nominees gave speeches regarding their interest in the committee.
 - Commission Chair Candidate(s) Kim Speakman, Tennessee
 - Secretary Candidate(s)- Tobi Zavala, Arizona
 - Member-at-large Candidate(s): Dr. Jennifer Jordan (North Carolina), Dr. Denauvo Robinson (North Carolina), Carol Staben Burroughs (Montana)

Delegate Questions and Public Comments

- A. Irving inquired which states have started onboarding with the database.
- Dr. Parker requested that the commission provide an FAQ regarding where things stand with insurance billing.

Public Questions and Comments

- Carol Berger from Montana addressed the commission. Carol thanked the commission for their work. She requested clarification on the definition of licensure encumbrances and how they apply when a licensee is under investigation. Legal Counsel Kalfas explained that an encumbrance exists when an action limits a licensee's ability to practice independently.
- L. Pfaff of Michigan requested clarification on how home state residency will be verified by the Compact or by the states.
- Sarah from Florida inquired about how her eligibility for the compact would be impacted because she is licensed in two states already.

Adjournment

- Seeing no further questions, J. Doming declared adjournment of the meeting at 12:56 p.m.