Counseling Compact Executive Committee Meeting

August 5, 2026, 1:00 p.m. ET

Committee Members Present
Kim Speakman, Chair
Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Vice Chair
Brian Carnahan
Tony Onorato
Tobi Zavala
Laura Shaughnessy

Committee Members Absent
Carol Staben Burroughs

Ex-Officio Committee Members Present
Joe Sapp, AMHCA
Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, NBCC
Matt Grayson, AASCB, joined at 1:08 pm
Dr. Linn Linde, ACA, joined at 1:59 pm

Ex-Officio Committee Members Absent

Legal Counsel Present
Nahale Kalfas

CSG and InspiringApps Staff Present

CAMS Staff Present
Greg Searls
Michelle Lynch

Members of the Public Were Present

Welcome & Call to Order

- Chair Speakman called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

- Director Searls conducted the roll call. Absences were as listed above. A quorum was established with 6 of 7 voting members present.

Review and Adoption of the Agenda

- Chair Speakman reviewed the agenda and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, she called for a motion to accept the agenda as presented.
- **Motion:** Treasurer Carnahan made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. T. Onorato seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and Adoption of Minutes

- Chair Speakman invited members to share any edits to the July meeting minutes. L. Shaughnessy requested that the spelling of her last name be corrected.
- **Motion:** L. Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the corrected minutes. Treasurer Carnahan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ex-Officio Updates

- **Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, NBCC**: The summer has been focused on program development, including conducting jurisprudence assessments for all member states and translating the clinical examination into Spanish.
- **Matt Grayson, AASCB:** The organization is currently engaged in strategic planning and a bylaws review. Research interns have been selected for the year and are being onboarded. A new Board of Directors, led by President Dr. Andrea Brooks, was seated on July 1. Registration for the fall workshop is now open
- **Joe Sapp, AMHCA:** The annual meeting was held in June, at which time the Board transitioned. AMHCA has also shifted its management structure and is now working with an association management company. They are working to relaunch their certification program.
- **Dr. Lynn Linde, ACA :** The organization is preparing for a governance transition to a smaller, elected Board of Directors, with the inaugural meeting scheduled for mid-September. Planning is also underway for the fall conference.

Trademark and Licensing Updates

- Legal Counsel Kalfas reported that the Member Services Agreement is now being referred to as the Collaborative Software Agreement. The three Joint Compact Commission executive directors and Legal Counsel Kalfas reviewed the draft agreement and provided comments. The draft has since been returned to CSG Legal for further review.

Committee Needs & Outreach

- There were no updates from the previous month

Requiring Committee Service

- The Committee discussed requiring delegates or their alternates to serve on a committee. The committee noted that this topic has come up several times, and despite efforts to recruit delegates to committee service voluntarily, participation is still an issue.

- At Legal Counsel Kalfas' advice, the committee determined the next step is to refer the matter to the Rules Committee for consideration through a bylaws revision.
- Director Searls suggested reviewing committee sizes, and Legal Counsel Kalfas noted that the Commission could consider establishing minimum committee membership requirements without setting maximums.
- **Motion:** Secretary Zavala moved to charge the Rules Committee with reviewing committee size and participation requirements used by other compact commissions and, based on that review, draft a proposed bylaw revision to require committee service. L. Shaughnessy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Update and budget discussion

- Treasurer Carnahan reported that the Finance Committee met the previous day to consider an amendment to the FY 2027 budget. During a review of the budget and funding agreements, the Committee determined that the full funding commitments from both funding partners had not been included. Specifically, ACA's contribution did not reflect the full amount committed.
- The proposed budget amendment increases ACA's contribution and establishes a reserve fund, as recommended and approved by the Finance Committee.
- Legal Counsel recommended earmarking some funds of the reserves for any litigation.
- **Motion:** T. Onorato made the motion to approve the amended budget. Vice Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

HR Work Group

- Chair Speakman explained that it is time to conduct the Executive Director's annual performance evaluation based on the performance metrics established by the Executive Committee last year.
- At the recommendation of Legal Counsel Kalfas, the Committee agreed to conduct the initial review through an HR Working Group consisting of Adam Parfit (CAMS), Chair Speakman, Treasurer Carnahan, and Vice Chair Robinson.
- The HR Working Group will review the performance metrics and bring recommendations to the next Executive Committee meeting, where the Executive Director's performance evaluation will be considered in closed session.

Rule on Consistent Credentialing – For Full Commission Consideration

- Director Searls reported that the rule on consistent credentialing has returned from its second round of public comment. No substantive changes were made in response to the comments, which were generally supportive.

- **Motion:** Secretary Zavala made the motion to approve the rule for Full Commission consideration. Treasurer Carnahan seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Rules for Public Comment

- The committee considered the following rules for Public Comment:
  - Military ID Audit Practices and Revocation Procedure
  - Definitions
  - Delegate Terms
  - Mediation and Binding Dispute Resolution
  - Joint Investigations
  - Grounds for Compact Privileges Termination
- Director Searls reviewed the proposed rules, drafts of which had been provided to the Committee prior to the meeting. He reminded the Committee members that they can add comments during the public comment period as well.
- Chair Speakman invited discussion. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the proposed rules for public comment.
- **Motion:** Vice Chair Robinson moved to approve the proposed rules for public comment. L. Shaughnessy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report/ Go Live Updates

- Director Searls reported that Arkansas successfully launched the previous week without issue.
- Director Searls shared that CSG has made $60,000 available to each Joint Compact Commission to support state onboarding efforts. He also noted that CSG is hiring an additional technical support staff member, which is expected to reduce reliance on InspiringApps and lower associated costs.
- Director Searls reported responding to approximately 400 inquiries received through the Commission's info email account and reviewed recent privilege statistics.
- The Committee discussed ongoing challenges with insurance companies not recognizing the Privilege to Practice. T. Onorato expressed concern that the Compact's effectiveness will remain limited if insurers do not begin accepting the privilege. Legal Counsel Kalfas stated that she expects the issue to improve as additional states implement the Compact.
- Director Searls reported receiving an inquiry from Rula, an online telehealth platform company, seeking a way to verify a licensee’s identity based on a privilege. Potential identifiers discussed included the practitioner's NPI number or home

state license number. The issue will be discussed further with the Joint Compact Commission and the InspringApps team to first determine options in CompactConnect.

Questions and Comments

- Chair Speakman invited questions and comments from those in attendance.
- Amanda Perry, Executive Director of the Occupational Therapy Compact and a member of the Joint Compact Commissions, shared information about her doctoral research on operationalization challenges affecting the implementation of the ASLP, Counseling, and Occupational Therapy Compacts. She invited Commission members and state administrators to participate in voluntary, confidential 20-minute interviews.
    - Legal Counsel Kalfas advised that she had no concerns with sharing publicly available contact information, as participation is voluntary. Secretary Zavala volunteered to participate in an interview and indicated she had no objection to Ms. Perry contacting state administrators using publicly available information.

Adjourn

- Hearing no further questions and having completed all the agenda items, Chair Speakman declared the meeting adjourned.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m. ET