

Commission on Child Online Protection
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2000

Present: Commissioners Telage (chair), Rice Hughes, Vradenburg, Berman, Parker, Horowitz, Ganier, Flores, Bastian, Balkam, Schmidt, Talbert, Peeler, DeRosier and Srinivasan.

Sallianne Fortunato sat in for Commissioner Greg Rohde.

Meeting began at 12:10 p.m. PST

Chairman Don Telage discussed the methodology for writing the report to Congress. He explained the evaluation criteria. Chairman Telage asked all the Commissioners to fill out the questionnaire and score it against the technology and methods document. As part of the questionnaire, Commissioners will have the opportunity to make recommendations to Congress.

He also asked each Commissioner to write a personal statement about their observations and recommendations.

Chairman Telage said that this first round of data will serve as a straw man poll so that Commissioners will know where each Commissioner is coming from at the September report writing meeting.

Commissioner Rice Hughes suggested adding several additional technologies and methods to the list to be evaluated. Chairman Telage agreed to revise the document.

Commissioner Berman suggested ways to fill out the questionnaire, saying it is easier if you write the reasons for answering question the way that you did next to each question.

Commissioner Vradenburg asked if the Commission's recommendations should only focus on "harmful to minor" material. He said that issues such as predation, pornography and obscenity bear relationship to but don't directly fall beneath harmful to minor's materials.

Chairman Telage answered that the Commission should stick to its original mission and fulfill our mandate. He said that some panels in hearing 3 did go beyond our scope and that these issues can be included as peripheral in our report.

Chairman Telage noted that once the original statute is met, the Commission could include more in its report to Congress.

Commissioner Berman questioned if limited resources are diverted from most hard-core cases to harmful to minor's material then are we really hurting the overall issue.

Commissioner Flores said that individual Commissioners could include observations that the Commission as a whole does not agree on in the personal statement

Questionnaire

Chairman Telage advised the Commissioners how to answer the questionnaire. He said to fill out the ratings matrix as they are reading the questionnaire. He also stressed the importance of including comments because they will help later with the discussion of why commissioners assigned the values they did.

The data is due to Kristin Litterst by August 18.

Chairman Telage also asked Commissioners to begin working on personal statements so that each commissioner understands the differences in position.

Commissioner Flores stated that Commissioners have the right to withhold personal statements until they are ready to submit.

Chairman Telage committed to making changes to the outline and questionnaire and resending the materials to the Commission on Monday, August 7. He also announced that Rocky Mountain College will serve as the Commission's fiscal agent.

Chairman Telage said the Commission must assume that we will not receive congressional funding. If the Commission is extended and funded then the Commission could issue an interim report in October. If the Commission was granted an extension, then the Commission would continue work on the report and resubmit it.

Commissioner Rice Hughes suggested keeping a running list of what the Commission would like to do if granted more time.

Commissioner Berman suggests giving this list to Congress as an example of why the Commission needs funding and more time to fulfill its mission.

Commissioners Schmidt and Berman believe further consideration should be taken before issuing an interim report.

Meeting September 12-13 in the Washington, DC area. (*meeting date confirmed for September 18-19 pursuant to a vote by the Commission*).

Commissioner Berman asked each Commissioner to take assignments to contact House and Senate conferees. He discussed presenting a unified message to each congressional staffer.

Several questions were asked about the Commission's funding.

Commissioner Flores said that gifts to the Commission are tax deductible, but only if the money is not returned if the Commission receives funding.

Chairman Telage asked that the letters be sent to Members of Congress the week of August 7. He also said that he is making a list of companies from whom to ask for donations to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. PST