

Meeting of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid

Date: Friday, November 14, 2025

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Location: Remote via Teams

Chair: Christopher Wendt

Board Members: John Gordon, Ana Pottratz Acosta, Tarryl Clark, Holley Horrell, Emily Cooper, Katy Drahos, Jerry Lane, John Murphy, Summra Shariff

Absent: Korey Wahwassuck

Staff: Bridget Gernander, Susan Beaudet

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Client Story

Jerry Lane opened the discussion by sharing a client story that illustrates the long-term impact of legal aid services on clients and their families.

Agenda Item 2: Approve Minutes from October

A motion was raised to approve the October minutes with a small revision to the approval section to read “Voted to approve” from “Vote to approve.”

Holley Horrell moved approval of the October minutes with the revision change. Seconded by John Gordon. Voted to approve.

Agenda Item 3: Background on Coordinated Intake and How to Move Forward with the Standards Working Group

Katy Drahos provided an overview of the Coordinated Intake Project, which originated from a Supreme Court mandate that requires centralized intake for grantees receiving state funds. BOCLA reviewed and discussed the current status of the project, identified key challenges, and discussed the future direction of the coordinated intake processes.

The Board has reached a consensus to have the Standards Working Group begin with intake standards and present their recommendations at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Update from Legislative Working Group

Bridget Gernander noted that the Legislative Working Group has met once and is scheduled to meet again soon. Their next meeting will focus on reviewing the lobbying strategy that has been in place over the past few years.

Agenda Item 5: Update from Operations Working Group

Discussion: Bridget Gernander noted that the working group is developing a process for defining board values and vision, which will guide future policy and procedure reviews. Work has started on drafting bylaws and governance documents, with plans to facilitate a full Board discussion at the January board meeting with support from facilitator, Kelly Tautges.

Agenda Item 6: Administrative Updates and Next Steps

Discussion: Bridget shared an update on the Finance and Grants Manager job postings. Due to fewer than expected applications, the deadline has been extended to December 5. Paid postings will be added on the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, in addition to existing free postings on university boards and affinity bar sites. Board members were encouraged to share these postings widely within their networks. Bridget made it known that the new interactive data dashboard is available .