Meeting of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid

Date: Friday, March 13, 2026

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Location: BOCLA, Teams Meeting

Chair: Christopher Wendt

Board Members: Tarryl Clark, Jerry Lane, Katy Drahos, Emily Cooper, Holley Horrell, John Gordon, Korey Wahwassuck, Ana Pottratz Acosta

Absent: Summra Shariff, John Murphy

Staff Members: Susan Beaudet, Bridget Gernander, Colleen Kelly

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Client Story

Discussion: The meeting opened with Chris Wendt welcoming board members and staff. Holley Horrell shared a client story from when she volunteered at Tubman.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of February 2026 Minutes

Discussion: The board approved the meeting minutes for February 2026.

Jerry Lane moved approval of the February meeting minutes. Second by John Gordon. Voted to approve (abstention by Holley Horrell).

Agenda Item 3: Review and Vote on Bylaws

Discussion: Bridget Gernander provided an overview of the bylaws document drafted by the Operations Working Group, which included adding equity and inclusion language, formatting updates, creation of term limits, clarification of board and appointing authority roles, and updated procedures for committees, quorums, and virtual meetings. Edits during the discussion included word corrections, minor grammar fixes, and typo adjustments.

John Gordon moved to adopt the bylaws with the final clerical changes. The final approved document will be attached to the official minutes. Second, by Holley Horrell. Voted to approve.

Agenda Item 4: Review Identity Statement and Discuss Next Steps

Discussion: Due to time constraints, the Identity Statement will be addressed at the next BOCLA meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Working Group Updates

Discussion:

<u>Standards Working Group:</u>

The Standards Working Group met in February 27 and reviewed survey results from the current coordinated intake hub structures (SMRLS, MMLA, and Justice North). The survey results and all of the background materials for the working group are available on the OneNote. Next steps will

be moving forward the policy changes that were started under the Governance Committee that has sunset and transferred their work to BOCLA.

Legislative Working Group:

The next meeting for the legislative working group is scheduled to meet on March 20. Their discussion will be focused on preparing for the next fiscal year budget request which will go to the Governor's office in August.

Operations Working Group:

After the bylaws, identity statement, and values are finalized and approved by the Board, then the Operations Group will continue its policy review work using those foundational documents to guide the work. Next meeting is scheduled for March 27.

Agenda Item 6: Update from March 10th Meeting with Immigration Grantees

Discussion:

Bridget Gernander provided an overview of the meeting attended by board members and grantees about the centralized immigration intake model. When BOCLA asked how to support the project, the grantees expressed interest in having a project manager. BOCLA will amend the The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota grant contract to support a consultant to provide project management services.

Agenda Item 7: Justice for All Project Grants (Pro Hac Vice) Update

Discussion:

Bridget Gernander announced that the Justice for All Project Grant (formally known as pro hac vice because that is the funding source) is now open on the website. This is a rolling grant application so there is not a specific deadline. The goal is to review any applications that come in within 60 days of receipt. Once available funds have been granted, then the application will be closed.

Bridget asked for a group of Board members to score any Justice for All applications that are received. Katy Drahos, Jerry Lane, and Korey Wahwassuck volunteered . All board members will receive invites to the Submittable account to be ready for future grant cycles.

Next Board Meeting: April 10, 2026