Meeting of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid

Date: Friday, April 10, 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, Ana Pottratz Acosta, Summra Shariff, John Murphy

Absent: Korey Wahwassuck

Staff Members: Susan Beaudet, Bridget Gernander, Colleen Kelly, Josh Pollock

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Client Story

Discussion:

The meeting opened with Chris Wendt welcoming board members and staff.

Tarryl Clark shared a client story from her work in Stearns County describing how legal aid helps change systems to work better for people in communities.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of March 2026 Minutes

Discussion:

The board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes for March 2026. It was documented that the finalized bylaws were attached to the March minutes and are posted on the website.

John Gordon moved approval of the March meeting minutes. Second, by Jerry Lane. Voted to approve. Summra Shariff abstained from voting.

Agenda Item 3: Review and Vote on Identity Statement and Board Values

Discussion:

Bridget Gernander shared the BOCLA Identity Statement with the board for discussion. The board reviewed the proposed statement that was developed through board discussions in January and refined by the Operations Working Group. The board discussed the overall structure of the document and made live edits to the context section, specifically under paragraph 2, that addressed both the narrative statement and the summary of components.

The board reviewed the narrative statement section and agreed to retain the language as written.

The board then moved to discuss the values document and reviewed all six values outlined in the document. In paragraph 1, Access to Justice, the board added the word “meaningful” before “access to justice” and live edits were made to include a geographic description of services. The board also discussed replacing the language referencing “trade-offs” with the term “balancing priorities.”

John Murphy moved to approve the Identity Statement and Board Values with edited changes. Second, by Holley Horrell. Voted to approve.

Agenda Item 4: 2025 Case Data Presentation

Discussion:

Bridget Gernander presented an update on the 2025 case closed data, followed by a board discussion on data trends and next steps. The board discussed the case data collected by staff, identified key trends and discussed limitations related to service models and case complexities.

Staff reported that BOCLA is required by statute to submit an annual data report to the Legislature by July 15 and will continue preparing the required data report.

Agenda Item 5: Working Group Updates

Discussion:

Standards Working Group:

Colleen Kelly presented on the work that has been done on the intake and referral standards. Discussed the 2020 and 2022 policies that had been adopted by LSAC and provided a timeline for two phases of intake and referral standards. The first phase will focus on all direct service grantees updating LOON, the statewide client referral database that powers both LawHelpMN and coordinated phone intake. The second phase will focus on all grantees on LegalServer being part of coordinated intake, which will align with the timeline BOCLA has set for coordinated intake for immigration legal services organizations. In both cases, there will be opportunities for grantee comment before bringing to the Board for a final vote. This approach has general Board support.

Legislative Working Group:

No update was provided due to time constraints

Operations Working Group:

No update was provided due to time constraints

Next Board Meeting: May 8, 2026