Meeting of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Time: 10:30am – 11::30am

Location: Teams and BOCLA Office

Chair: Christopher Wendt

Board Members: Tarryl Clark (remote), Jerry Lane, Katy Drahos, John Gordon, Ana Pottratz Acosta, Summra Shariff, John Murphy, Korey Wahwassuck

Absent: Emily Cooper, Holley Horrell

Staff Members: Bridget Gernander, Colleen Kelly, Josh Pollock

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1: Approval of May 2026 Minutes

Discussion:

The board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes for May 2026.

Jerry Lane moved approval of the May meeting minutes, Second by Katy Drahos. Voted to approve.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of Direct Service Provider Standards

Discussion:

Colleen Kelly provided an overview of the first BOCLA standards and requested the board approve the standards with an effective date of September 1, 2026. BOCLA board members suggested edits which were incorporated into the final draft during the meeting.

John Gordon moved approval of the standards with an effective date of September 1, 2026. Second, by John Murphy. Voted to approve.

Agenda Item 3: July 15 Legislative Report

Discussion:

Bridget Gernander provided the status of the statutorily required July 15 legislative report. This report is written to respond to the language in the statute and specific to grants made from the legislative funding. BOCLA will also have an annual report which will provide a broader overview of all funding streams and grants made in FY26.

Agenda Item 4: Prep for Meeting with Grantees

Discussion:

Bridget Gernander provided an overview of the afternoon meeting with grantees. The focus of the afternoon meeting will be to discuss the 2027 legislative request. Board members should help facilitate the conversation and BOCLA staff will take notes.

Agenda Item 5: Emergency Funding Request

Discussion:

SMRLS submitted a letter to the Board asking about the availability of emergency funding grants. The executive committee of the BOCLA board will meet with the grantee's board leadership and executive director to learn more about the situation. The board will meet again on July 27th to decide next steps.

Agenda Item 6: BOCLA Board Meeting Schedule

Discussion:

The board discussed the future meeting schedule and having meetings every other month. Board members agreed the goal is to move toward meetings every other month but will keep the monthly board meetings on the calendar in case of need.

Next Board Meetings: July 27, 2026 and September 11, 2026