Meeting of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid

Date: Monday, July 27, 2026

Time: 8:00am – 9:00am

Location: BOCLA, Teams Meeting

Chair: Christopher Wendt

Board Members: Jerry Lane, Katy Drahos, John Gordon, Holley Horrell, Ana Pottratz Acosta, Korey Wahwassuck, John Murphy

Absent: Tarryl Clark, Emily Cooper, Summra Shariff

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

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1: Availability of Emergency Grant Funds

Chris Wendt opened the meeting by noting that SMRLS has withdrawn its inquiry about availability of emergency funding. The board then turned to whether BOCLA should establish a formal process for handling emergency funding requests in the future.

Staff research showed only two IOLTA programs around the country with emergency funding processes. The Board discussed the following options: 1) an emergency grant application limited to cuts in federal funding 2) a more general grant process allowing for any unexpected need and 3) no formal process, but discretion to respond to extraordinary circumstances (status quo). The board consensus was that no formal mechanism for emergency grants should be created at this time because of the difficulty in creating grant criteria that anticipates future needs. Noted that the grant contracts provide for 30-day cancellation for any reason so if there was a big change mid-grant cycle (e.g., all LSC funding was cut) BOCLA could revisit grants from a systemic perspective.

Holley Horrell made a motion to maintain the current approach and to not establish a formal emergency grant process at this time. Second, by Jerry Lane. Voted to approve. All were in favor, with no opposition.

Closed Session

BOCLA bylaws state that "The Board may close part or all of a meeting to conduct confidential business (for example, discussing allegations or charges against an individual subject to the authority of the Board, to evaluate the performance of an individual subject to the authority of the Board, or to seek or receive legal advice). Prior to closing part or all of any meeting, the Chair will state on the record the specific grounds permitting the meeting to be closed, consistent with the Board's commitment to transparency." The Chair stated that the remainder of the meeting would be closed to both to discuss allegations against an individual subject to the authority of the Board and to discuss the performance of an individual subject to the authority of the Board.

Next Board Meeting: September 11, 2026