

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Summary and Action Items
Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
State Bar of California (Conference Call via Zoom)

Roll Call		
Members Present	Liaisons	Staff
Co-Chair Banafsheh Akhlaghi	Salena Copeland	Doan Nguyen
Co-Chair Eric Isken		Erica Carroll
Co-Vice Chair Rich Reinis	Public Members	Brady Dewar
Co-Vice Chair Kim Savage	Claire Solot, LSFN	

OPEN SESSION

Co-Chairs Akhlaghi and Isken called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Akhlaghi announced that this would be the last official meeting of 2021 Executive Committee before the change in leadership later this year, when the current co-vice chairs would be installed as co-chairs.

I. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, and quorum was established.

II. CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Co-Chair Akhlaghi invited members of the public to comment on any items on the agenda. Claire Solot introduced herself and said she was available to discuss Legal Services Funders Network's fellowship program, if desired.

III. CONSENT

A. Approval of Meeting Summary and Action Items from June 11, 2021 Meeting

The Executive Committee approved the June 11, 2021 meeting summary and action items by unanimous roll call vote (Akhlaghi moved, Isken seconded).

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Update on Provisionally Licensed Lawyer (PLL) Grants

Program Manager Nguyen provided an update on PLL Grants. She reported that all checks except three have been distributed: Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) was unable to hire a PLL in time and declined further extension; Community Legal Aid SoCal and Inner City Law Center have hired their PLLs but review of those PLL applications is still pending with the State Bar. Because FVLC declined its award, staff looked to other, currently unfunded applicants based on the scoring rubric, but five organizations are tied. Staff is taking a closer look at the rubric and distinguishing elements of these applications, such as serving rural areas, in order to determine which organization will receive the forfeited funding.

B. Staff Update on Grants Administration

Nguyen then reported on Office of Access & Inclusion (OA&I) updates. OA&I is still in the process of hiring Senior Program Analyst and Senior Financial Analyst backfill positions and looking at ways to incorporate additional Program Analysts or Senior Program Analysts to help with reporting requirements and data analysis. Nguyen provided some examples of increased reporting requirements with new funding opportunities, including an annual report to the Legislature regarding EAF funding and homelessness prevention funding that requires quarterly program and fiscal reporting. Committee members expressed a desire to see increased OA&I staffing long-term, and Nguyen responded that this is possible given increased administrative expenditure allowances. Nguyen shared some office priorities, including providing more technical assistance to grantees, understanding the single audit requirement and how it fits with State Bar grants, and putting together more resources and training for the legal aid community in general.

Claire Solot of the Legal Services Funders Network spoke in support of the commission advocating for a higher administrative expense allowance if the State Bar is to administer additional funds. She also spoke of the importance of effective evaluation in telling stories about the impact of this increased funding.

C. Preview of August 13, 2021 Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Meeting Agenda

Nguyen then provided an overview of the upcoming Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) meeting. She reported that staff anticipates many questions regarding recent legislative activities. Nguyen would provide an update on SB 498 (bill to increase IOLTA/EAF income eligibility threshold) and the budget bill; Chief of Programs Donna Hershkowitz will provide an update on SB 211, which relates to codifying the authority of the LSTFC.

Nguyen then turned to other items on the LSTFC agenda, including approval of distribution on a number of grants. This would include Partnership Grants, which are fairly straightforward, but the additional Partnership funding that was added may need more discussion based on the Partnership Committee proposal.

It would also include approval of eligibility on 2022 IOLTA/EAF funding. The Eligibility & Budget Review Committee has been actively addressing any eligibility issues, including through Eligibility Review Conferences for some new applicants with low qualified expenditures or questions about quality control.

Other items include distribution plan for Homelessness Prevention funding; IOLTA revenue update, which is going better than expected; update on expungement and infractions, for which a statutory change is proposed.

Salena Copeland of Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) provided an update on LAAC's work regarding the expungement statutory change. LAAC planned to convene its Directors of Legal Aid and Executive Directors within the following week to discuss the proposed edits to the statute. She reported that the Legislature can receive edits as late as August 16, meaning there can be robust discussion at the LSTFC meeting. Salena planned to investigate which organizations are

doing infraction defense prior to conviction and the impact that the current proposal to exclude this work might have.

D. Discuss 2021 Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Priorities

The committee discussed whether new commissioners are expected in the next term and were informed that new members would be appointed by September. There was also discussion of the anticipated impact of term changes through SB 211 and the need for additional recruitment, including possibly designating a recruitment committee.

The State Bar's Chief of Programs and LAAC recommended removing term limits on Judicial Council appointees, which was proposed in SB 211. It seemed the Legislature is amenable because this would otherwise impose a limitation that doesn't currently exist. They also proposed allowing the Judicial Council to appoint the LSTFC Chair/Vice-Chair since the State Bar's Board of Trustees no longer will.

The Committee also discussed and agreed that meetings will remain remote over Zoom for the time being.

V. ADJOURN

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.