



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Eligibility & Budget Review Committee Meeting Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Wednesday, April 26, 2023
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC EBR Committee meeting commenced in open session at 10:04 a.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 11:33 a.m.

Chair: Catherine Blakemore

Committee Coordinator: Erica Carroll

Members Present: Comm. Louise Bayles-Fightmaster, Angie King, James Meeker, and Xavier Vargas

Members Absent: Banafsheh Akhlaghi, Hon. Clifford Klein

Advisor Non-Voting Absent: Hon. Brad Seligman

Liaisons Present: Salena Copeland, LAAC
Laura Brown, Judicial Council

Liaisons Absent: Melanie Snider, Judicial Council

OPEN SESSION

1. Roll Call

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Eligibility & Budget Review Committee meeting was called to order by Catherine Blakemore. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

2. Call for Public Comment

Catherine Blakemore called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there was person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item.

A. Betsy Butler

- Betsy Butler, Executive Director of California Women's Law Center, reported that they are be available for questions during the sections of the agenda that pertain to California Women's Law Center.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Open Session Minutes: March 10, 2023

- 3.2 **RESOLVED**, that the Eligibility & Budget Review Committee approves all meeting minutes and action item drafts as posted.

Moved by King, seconded by Meeker.

Ayes – (5) Bayles-Fightmaster, Blakemore, King, Meeker, Vargas

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (2) Akhlaghi, Klein

Motion carries.

4. **Administrative Updates**

4.1 **Update on IEP Collaborative, Inc. 2023 IOLTA/EAF Grant Status**

Presenter: Erica Carroll, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Discussion only.

Lead Program Analyst Carroll provided an update on IEP Collaborative. The grantee was first found eligible for LSTFC funding in 2021 (for the 2022 grant year). Signed grant agreement but declined the 2023 award due to operational challenges they are facing. Funding will be redistributed in 2024 grant cycle.

There were no questions or comments from any of the Committee members.

4.2 **Update on California Women’s Law Center 2022 Monitoring Visit Findings**

Presenter: Erica Carroll, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Discussion only.

Lead Program Analyst Carroll presented the California Women’s Law Center (CWLC) 2022 monitoring visit findings to the committee. There were program and fiscal findings. State Bar staff is planning to do a follow-up monitoring visit in 2023.

CWLC Executive Director Betsy Butler commented on the findings and provided an update on corrective action plans to resolve the outstanding issues.

There were not questions or comments from any of the Committee members.

4.3 **Approval of California Women’s Law Center Unreported 2020 and 2021 IOLTA & EAF Carryover and Budget Deviation**

RESOLVED, that the Eligibility & Budget Review Committee recommends that the Legal Services Trust Funds Commission (commission) approve the unreported 2020 and 2021 IOLTA/EAF carryover amounts and budget deviations from California Women’s Law Center.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee recommends that the commission provide a formal warning to California Women’s Law Center that future unreported budget deviations will not be approved, and the commission will pursue any of the remedies available to it under the General Grant Provisions.

Moved by Meeker, seconded by King.

Ayes – (5) Bayles-Fightmaster, Blakemore, King, Meeker, Vargas

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (2) Akhlaghi, Klein

Motion carries.

4.4 Approval of 2022 Impact Litigation and Advocacy (ILAW) Reports

RESOLVED, that the Eligibility & Budget Review Committee (committee) finds the following activities qualifying for purposes of the 2024 IOLTA/EAF application:

- All activities marked as approved based on staff review
- Activity categories where the nexus to indigency is presumed
- Activities that demonstrated disproportionate impact on indigent persons
- Support Center direct services to indigent persons with no Qualified Legal Services Project (QLSP) co-counsel when the case was undertaken at the request/encouragement of a QLSP

Moved by Meeker, seconded by Bayles-Fightmaster.

Ayes – (5) Bayles-Fightmaster, Blakemore, King, Meeker, Vargas

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (2) Akhlaghi, Klein

Motion carries.

The committee will review one additional activity from Public Counsel at its next meeting based on a request for more information.

ADJOURN