



# The State Bar of California

---

## Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes  
Friday, December 8, 2023  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Time Meeting Commenced:** The Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee meeting commenced in open session at 11:03 a.m.  
The Committee moved to break at 12:29 p.m.  
The Committee returned to open session at 12:51 p.m.

**Time Meeting Adjourned:** 1:55 p.m.

**Chair:** Justin Delacruz

**Committee Coordinator:** Matt Adams

**Members Present:** Heather Benton, Justin Delacruz, James Heiting, Tracy LeSage, Diedre Nguyen, Philip Spiegel, Martin Williams, Elise Yenne

**Members Absent:** None

### OPEN SESSION

#### ROLL CALL

The Lawyer Assistance Program Oversight Committee was called to order by Chair Delacruz. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Delacruz called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. There were no public comments.

#### I. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Delacruz provided an oral report.

#### II. STAFF REPORT

Staff members Catherine Ongiri, Bridget Gramme, and Michelle Harmon provided oral reports.

### **III. BUSINESS**

#### **A. Approval of Minutes**

Approval of Open Session Minutes: April 28, 2023

The committee approved the April 28, 2023 open session minutes as posted.

*Moved by Benton, seconded by Spiegel*

*Ayes – (7) Benton, Heiting, LeSage, Spiegel, Williams, Yenne, Delacruz*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (1) Nguyen*

*Minutes adopted.*

#### **B. Discussion and Possible Action on Successful Completion and Benchmarks for Success Working Group Report & Recommendation**

The following motion was proposed:

Obtain input from outside stakeholders, especially the State Bar Court, on the idea of abolishing the successful completion concept altogether in favor of only monitoring for the length of time that the participant, or referral source, desires. Continue work to add a process for participants to obtain a determination of “successful participation” that is personalized to the individual with input from outside stakeholders.

*Moved by Heiting, seconded by Williams*

*Ayes – (8) Benton, Heiting, LeSage, Nguyen, Spiegel, Williams, Yenne, Delacruz*

*Noes – (0)*

*Abstain – (0)*

*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries*

#### **C. Discussion and Possible Action on Financial Assistance Working Group Report & Recommendation**

A motion was made to adopt the recommendations of the working group as follows:

1. Adopt the Growth Grant
2. Delegate administration of the Grant to staff
3. If feasible, create an endowment to ensure stable funding year over year

*Moved by Heiting, seconded by Benton*

*Ayes – (8) Benton, Heiting, LeSage, Nguyen, Spiegel, Williams, Yenne, Delacruz*  
*Noes – (0)*  
*Abstain – (0)*  
*Absent – (0)*

*Motion carries*

**D. Introduction and Discussion of the Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Commission on the Discipline System Regarding the Alternative Discipline Program**

Presentation and discussion.

The following working groups were created to conduct stakeholder interviews:

- State Bar Court (Delacruz and Spiegel)
- Association of Discipline Defense Counsel (Heiting and LeSage)
- Office of Chief Trial Counsel (Benton and Heiting)

**ADJOURN**