



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) CARE Court Grants Committee Meeting Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Thursday, April 11, 2024
10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee meeting commenced in open session at 10:00 a.m.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 12:27 p.m.

Chair: Eric Isken

Committee Coordinator: Christopher McConkey

Members Present: Catherine Blakemore, Venetta Campbell, Eric Isken, Hon. Clifford Klein, Maria Morales, Jodi Prior

Liaisons Present: Laura Brown, Judicial Council of California
Melanie Snider, Judicial Council of California

Members Absent: Efrain Escobedo

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order

The LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee was called to order by Chair Isken.

2. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Open Session Minutes: March 14, 2024

Commissioner Blakemore moved to approve the March 14, 2024, minutes.

Moved by Blakemore, seconded by Isken.

Ayes – (6) Blakemore, Campbell, Klein, Morales, Prior, Isken

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Escobedo

Motion carried.

4. CARE Court Grants

4.1 Discuss CARE Court implementation with the Superior Court of California for the Counties of Los Angeles and/or San Francisco; Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco; Law Offices of the Public Defender, County of Riverside; Legal Assistance to the Elderly; and Stanislaus County Public Defender's Office

Senior Program Analyst Helen Yu facilitated a discussion with recipients of 2023–2024 CARE Court funds in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Francisco, and Stanislaus Counties. Representatives provided an overview of their experience participating in CARE Court and fielded questions from the Committee.

4.2 Update on 2023–2024 CARE Court Funds

Senior Program Analyst Helen Yu reported on the number of CARE Court cases since October 2023.

4.3 Approve the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grants Request for Proposals

Senior Program Analyst Helen Yu presented the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2024–2025 CARE funds including a timeline, eligibility requirements, estimated funding, and scoring rubric for making awards. The Budget Act of 2024 (Budget Act) will authorize the final amount and distribution parameters for these funds. In the meantime, the RFP uses the Governor’s January 2024 proposal of about \$51.7 million.

The Budget Act might provide for less funding. The Committee, therefore, discussed how the RFP should estimate each county’s funding to represent respondents. The Committee directed that the RFP note that the LSTFC will approve final funding levels after the Budget Act passes. It also directed that the RFP state that the LSTFC will consider if changes to the funding floor are necessary for counties of different population sizes.

The Committee also discussed how the RFP should describe the types of services that are likely to be permissible and helpful under the Budget Act. For the current fiscal year, respondents’ counsel must use their funds to “provide legal counsel pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5976 of the Welfare and Institutions Code for representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans.” The RFP for 2024–2025 funds maintains this requirement but clarifies that other civil legal services for CARE respondents qualify provided there is a nexus to the respondent’s CARE agreement or plan.

Following discussion, the committee heard the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) CARE Court Grants Committee, acting on behalf of the LSTFC under its delegated authority,

approves the request for proposals for 2024–2025 CARE Court grants as described in staff’s memo dated April 11, 2024, with the following changes:

- The RFP will specify that other civil legal services for CARE Court respondents qualify provided there is a nexus to a respondent’s CARE agreement or CARE plan;
- The tables in Attachment A which shows the impact if the funding is reduced. These tables are examples only, the Commission will approve final funding levels following the final budget numbers. The Commission will consider if adjustments to the funding floor are needed for counties of different populations size; and
- References to “severe mental illness” will be changed to “serious mental disorder.”

Moved by Blakemore, seconded by Isken.

Ayes – (6) Blakemore, Campbell, Klein, Morales, Prior, Isken

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Escobedo

Motion carried.

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Isken adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURN