

Equal Justice Authority Board
Minutes Board Meeting
February 18, 2025

The meeting was convened at 4:00 pm

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Lauren Peach, Matt Baca, Toni-Anne Nunez, Cesar Jimenez, Charlie Willman and Elisa Overall (Emo) were present. AJ Esser and Renzo Reategui were unable to attend.

No members of the public were present.

The minutes of the February 3, 2025 Board meeting were approved with no changes. Toni moved and Cesar second - approved

Finance update: Charlie has been working on setting up a bank account and has made preliminary inquiry to Alpine Bank. Charlie and Matt have discussed other banks and Matt recommended based on research he has done for Colorado Legal Services the following:

Ent Credit Union: Your Partner in Personal & Business Banking
Accounts, Mortgages, Loans and Banking Services | FirstBank
Who We Are | InBank

Each Judicial District is to send directly to the authority a check each month.

Charlie and Lauren met today with Janna Fischer of the Attorney General's office whose duties include advising boards similar to ours.

Charlie has obtained an EIN number but it appears that the Authority must instead get a PDPA number and Janna has sent us the contact information for this and Charlie will reach out this week. Once Charlie has that then he will begin contacting the above banks and continue work with Alpine Bank

The other issue discussed with Janna was liability (fiduciary duty) of the authority to make sure the authority receives all funds from each court that the authority is entitled to receive. This may become part of the duties of the Commission once we reach a final contract with them.

So far the Authority has received checks from most of the Districts and the total for January is almost \$285,000.

Staffing agreement update (Lauren and Renzo): Lauren reported that we close to a draft with the agreement - should be able to circulate a draft at next meeting. Emo said they just interviewed an

internal commission candidate that may work as the person who could do the work for the authority. This may be a shared position within the commission. Emo has a job description ready to go once the agreement is signed.

Legislative update (Matt and Emo): Not much change from last meeting. Sense of capital - sounds like the two judicial funds may be moved to the authority. Emo says the move to the Authority would maintain the current mode of operation. Emo and Matt will work with the Legislature on this as much as possible. \$1.0 billion shortfall is current understanding of status.

License plates - were are still about 400 short of 3000 signatures we need. It still appears that this is more likely to be deferred until next year.

Stakeholder input (Emo): Trying to move quickly to get stakeholder feedback. She showed the Board a survey on this which included a common grant application and reporting requirements, whether it is better to provide reliability funds or more competitive at higher amount. Toni- Anne thinks highly competitive may discourage entities from applying. I noted two different types of requests (1) time funding and/or (2) regular funding.

Grant time line (Toni-Anne and Cesar): On July 1st we need to make the distribution - do we cut this off as of May 31st? Matt said the statute requires all money received up to July 1st to be disbursed. Charlie suggested that we distribute by July 1 for dollars through a certain date and then do a supplemental grant to the same entities based prorated on the funds disbursed on June 30th. Discussion as to who from the Board reviews the applications – the full board or a smaller group with a recommendation to full board. Need to make some decisions as soon as possible

When do we release application? Emo said a more general application this year and the discussion to possibly modify next year. We do need a formula and rubric before we send out the application. Common application may be okay but the needs to be conformed to statutory requirements.

Next week extra meeting give the time line. Matt suggested Tuesday at 1 next week and Matt will coordinate with others to see if that works. Matt also needs to change the March 3rd meeting to start at 3 and not 4 and will send that out as well.

Board needs to agree on calendar and dates. Those generally suggested by Toni-Anne and Cesar are okay with group.

Issue is committees - groups of 1 or 2 to avoid need for notice under Tabor. Toni-Anne will send out a list of committees and other information from today and Board members will commit by next week's meeting.

Matt noted os the Rubic/Formula that will need this asap and will need full committee to agree on this as this is tied to application itself.

Application out maybe April 15th this year. Next year likely earlier when we have more lead time.

Toni-Anne and Cesar will send out a time line calendar by meeting next week.

Cesar asked as to where are we going to host the application etc? Right now the Equal Access Commission website is Matt's thought and Emo said that would work for the Commission. It has site has security we probably need.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be next Tuesday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m.



Charles H. Willman, Secretary/Treasurer