

**Equal Justice Authority Board**  
**Minutes Board Meeting**  
**March 10, 2025**

The meeting was convened at 4:02 p.m. by Board Chair, Matt Baca.

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

The following Board Members were present: Lauren Peach, Matt Baca, Toni-Anne Nunez, AJ Esser, Charlie Willman, Renzo Reategui, Elisa Overall (Emo), Elise Bechthold. Cesar Jimenez was unable to make the meeting.

No members of the public were present.

The minutes of the March 3, 2025 Board meeting were approved with no changes.

**Finance update** - Charlie asked if anyone is checking on new checks at CBA office. Noted it might make sense to get a PO Box for those courts that will not be able to use ACH. Emo will check this Friday.

**Banking update** - PDPA number was issued on Friday. Alpine Bank has reduced its rate and FirstBank is now higher - InBank was out and just got back to Charlie at the end of last week. Charlie asked for direction and noted a need to get checks in bank.

Matt - felt Alpine Bank was okay as they had been responsive. If InBank comes in at a significantly higher rate we can always move some of the funds there.

**Staffing agreement update** - Lauren sent out a draft and Charlie and Matt provided redlines on this. Lauren noted she had seen the redlines. Talked about whether or not we pay Commission monthly or one transaction. Emo would prefer twice annually. Quarterly is provide in the agreement and Charlie had no real objection to that. Charlie noted that quarterly reports once we get to mandated 4 times a year meetings. Lauren asked about effective date - Matt said this should start as of the first of this year as Commission already working on this. We will approved this at our next meeting with an effective date of January 1, 2025.

**Legislative update** - no change since last week. The bill to move the two funds to EJAB. Charlie noted that Emo and Charlie met with Judicial last week and we now have that formula. Emo said our formula may be more complicated.

**Grant timeline**

3/15 - develop evaluation criteria, including formula and rubric

3/15 - develop grant cycle timeline

3/31 - review stakeholder input and hold any townhall

4/8 - finalize application  
4/15 - release application  
5/15 - application deadline  
6/15 - make decisions on applications and notify applicants  
6/15 - make decisions on 1/1-5/31 grant amounts  
7/1 - distribute awards

Timeline was reviewed and no action on this.

## **Committees**

### **Rubric/formula/criteria**

Process for application review – any disqualifications

Elise sent an email earlier today and noted that a short meeting had been held on Friday and preliminary for this week's meeting on Wednesday. Discussion was held on those topics. Matt notes that the idea of statute is that places that were bigger and doing more work should get more money. Not start up funds but rather organizations that are already operating. Statute was brainstorming on how it would work. Toni- Anne noted that volunteer hours should be given consideration. Matt notes that attorneys do not need to be on staff which may cover part of this. Formula is for the non CLS organizations and CLS would not be getting any of this. Issue about what type of work and how it should be weighted. Matt said different levels of services. Reach out lower weight than actually providing services. Different organizations define categories separately so need to define each area for consistency. Issue is what is a disability on barriers. We should define this especially in rural areas. Need to be careful about how these impact. Let the organization tell the story about their clients. Meeting the needs in legal deserts in rural Colorado is important and the need to be innovative ways to do this. Need to make sure we are covering Colorado in an equitable way. This can add to the complexity. Communication with the stakeholders is going to be important. We are doing this in a certain way this year and it is an evolving process. Do we want to give funds to all the organizations? There are in the range of 20 to 30 qualified organizations in the state. Current feedback is some want competitive and others want it to be more formulaic. Question about how much are they asking for and what they need. Emo is not really sure that this will help us. Lauren agrees that how much they are requesting is not necessarily helpful given section 206 of the statute which talks of formula. Matt says maybe a 2 track formula for larger and smaller groups.

### **Specific Timeline approval**

Done

### **Application** – Colorado Common Grant Application - revised?

Not addressed but Toni-Anne sent out a draft just before the meeting. This was a quick draft.

**Employment agreement with ATJC** - See discussion above .

**Budget**

Not discussed although monthly cost of 14,620 to Commission was noted when discussing Agreement.

**Recusal process/capacity for others**

Not discussed.

The next meeting will be March 17, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.