

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Those in attendance in Cheyenne were: Pat Day, Ray Fleming Dinneen, Stuart Day and Ronda Munger. Mark Aronowitz, Jennifer Hanft, Mary Johnson, Stacey Obrecht, Rae Lynn Job and Jacquelyn Bridgeman joined by phone.

Approval of March and May 12, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. Pat requested approval of the March and May 12, 2015 meeting minutes. Mary moved for approval. Rae Lynn seconded. All in attendance approved and no one opposed.

Discussion of 2016 Grant Proposals.

University of Wyoming, College of Law–Fellowship-Family & Child Legal Advocacy Clinic

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
Pat	How is this fellowship different from a faculty member? Will additional funds be shifted later?	Angie	This is a less expensive model to provide additional direct services as the college is covering all overhead. The fellow will provide direct representation to clients and this is different than a faculty member.
	Is this the best way to provide services as there are already two paid student directors? Should we consider funding next year when the funds from the student directors could be utilized?	Jacquelyn	This is a new model that we are unsure if it will work. We would like to try it while the student directors are in place. If it works, then those funds could be shifted to the fellowship program.
	This is an opportunity to create a culture within the student body at large of making pro bono work a priority and also sees how this model would provide additional direct services.	Jacquelyn	The college is hoping to build a family advocacy program. This would be a large part of that program. They are revamping the

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			family law class to better prepare attorneys to take pro bono work. The fellow would also assist with additional projects. Putting language in the grant requiring the fellow to also do help coordinate student pro bono would be helpful.
		Angie	Equal Justice Wyoming would like to do more pro bono work with the students and it would be helpful to have someone to work with directly at the college as the student leadership changes frequently.
		Jennifer	Appreciated Dona Playton's comment to provide continuity with change in leadership. Feels this would be a great opportunity to increase number of cases represented.
		Angie	This program would provide services during times when the college cannot accept cases due to student schedules.

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Laramie County Community Partnership Medical-Legal Partnership

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
	Question was raised at previous meeting if there would be matching funds for this program.	Angie	There could possibly be matching funding but, not until July 2015. There could be a possibility to shave 7K from this proposal and they will continue to investigate other funding opportunities.

Legal Aid of Wyoming – Cody Office

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
Pat	Do we know the need in Cody? It has been a priority of this board to service the Cody area. If he had to choose one between the Legal Aid and the Coalition program, he would choose the Coalition.	Angie	Definitely high need in this area. Per statistics provided by Legal Aid of Wyoming there were a total of 192 qualified applicants and of those only 9 received extended services, more than advice or brief service from LAWyoming.

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			<p>Additionally, there are substantial clients in need in safe houses. Reviewed the statistics we received from Crisis Intervention Services in Park County. We would like to continue to work to have a legal aid attorney in Cody as well as a domestic violence attorney advocate.</p>
Jennifer	<p>Is the board looking to fund either the Legal Aid of Wyoming Cody attorney or the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Coalition) attorney in Cody?</p>	Pat	<p>Assumption from the last board meeting that only one would be funded but, no definite decision.</p>
Rae Lynn	<p>If a Coalition attorney is funded in Cody would they have time to handle other types of cases? Were domestic violence victims a priority from the board retreat?</p>	Angie	<p>Since Legal Aid of Wyoming is the LSC funded entity, they are to provide services across the state because the entire state is their service area under the LSC grant; therefore they would continue to take the other types of cases. The Coalition attorney would handle all services for victims. This is a high priority group</p>

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			because of the danger posed to DV victims and their children. It will not take long for the attorney to have a full case load. This priority was not specific from the retreat. These are high priority cases because of the high risk the clients are in and the need to get victims and their children out of dangerous situations. These cases are too lengthy and complex to place with pro bono attorneys.
		Stacey	This group does fit with the board's priorities from the retreat also, as providing services for the difficult family law cases were made a priority by this board.

Poverty Resistance

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
Angie	The grant application is for Poverty Resistance, through Mary Ann Budenske to		

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
	provide legal services.		
Pat	If this board funds Poverty Resistance would Mary Ann be paid for PAI work through Poverty Resistance and relying on their 501(c) status to request our funding? Would these services be primarily in the Casper area? Would Mary Ann consider other models that she could provide services besides the contract attorney model?	Angie	The request is from Poverty Resistance so yes, Mary Ann is relying on their 501(c)(3) status to apply for the grant. The grant is for statewide services, however, according to the application, Mary Ann would provide the majority of the cases at least initially. According to the proposal, she would also try to recruit other attorneys to contract with at \$80/hour.
Rae Lynn	Is Casper a high need area?	Pat	He would rather spend the funding in Cody where there is no presence. He asked Angie to prepare a model economic analysis. The PAI model is not an economically wise way to utilize funds. It is very expensive. What he is hearing is that in our experience to date with hourly rate contract attorney model, the only effective way it works is if they are not capped. If they

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			are capped, they are taking cases where 10 hours or less are spent which would be good cases to place pro bono.
Stacey	The staff attorney model is a better structure and better supervised. She feels it is time to make a decision that the contract attorney model does not work and we will not fund these programs.		
Pat	Would it be the staff's recommendation not to fund PAI model?	Angie	Yes
Rae Lynn	Will this cause any problems with the bar?	Pat	He will discuss with Cathy however, does not believe there will be any issues. The limited scope representation has been successful and the bar has been extremely cooperative but, it is worth following up.
		Angie	The bar is working on a moderate means program also. The bar has also been very supportive of the pro bono program as has the Access to Justice Commission.
Pat	Recommends not funding PAI contract models. Would recommend we impose now	Rae Lynn	Would this be effective immediately or

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
	<p>but give them a wind down period. It would be easier to take action now to no longer fund PAI model and make it across the board. Agrees not to make it a policy but to make decisions based on the board's priorities and to utilize the funds appropriately. The board needs to consider getting out in front of the media and perhaps doing a press release regarding why the decisions were made and how decisions are framed. We should consider the fact that TCATJ is getting funding from others. Consider going back to them again to change to the staff attorney model.</p>		<p>would we continue with the Wyoming Children's Law Center and Teton County Access to Justice. If we impose now would we would deny and require something different? Cost effectiveness is not as simple as how much we are paying an attorney. The TCATJ program is getting funds from others, are we going to consider this?</p>
		Angie	<p>We do want to continue with TCATJ as we need a presence there and they are providing for needs. Would be difficult to change the WCLC because of the private aspect of her practice. Perhaps not make it a policy to not fund PAI because at some point a program may be proposed that would work.</p>
		Jacquelyn	<p>This board has to make decisions to use this money the best way we can. She is fine with</p>

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			going back to requestors for changes to the proposals.
		Mary	RFP states it is at this board's sole discretion as to what will be funded.

Grants we will fund at full amounts.

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
Angie	Should we move to some proposals we can get a consensus that we should fund. Discussed the Legal Aid of Wyoming Hotline grant and funding it for full amount. The Rock Springs and Gillette grants would be reduced to \$66,050., with stipulation that they will be billing to our grant and will provide more extended service.	Pat	Is there a board consensus? There were no objections
Stuart	Does this board have a responsibility to help them staff their board? He has concerns with funding when their board has problems. Since they are the LSC funded program they do have some standing.	Pat	Is there someone at LSC to speak with the see if there is support to help Legal Aid of Wyoming?
		Ray	Are we taking a risk granting funds to a program with problems?
		Angie	She will speak with contacts that are familiar with LSC to determine what

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

			help could be provided by LSC.
--	--	--	--------------------------------

Consensus for funding.

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
Angie	Is there a consensus regarding the Cody area.	Pat	He is not in favor of funding anything else for Legal Aid of Wyoming, but would support the Coalition request. Ray, Stuart and Mary agreed.
Pat	What is a realistic amount for the Coalition in Angie's opinion? What percentage is reasonable for the indirect costs? There current funding is 220K	Angie	It is roughly 310K in direct costs and get to a dollar figures for indirect. She suggested 15-20% for indirect costs. Still working to get donated space in Cody so that cost would be eliminated and it is promising. 15% would be reasonable which could bring the amount to 356K.
		Stuart	He is not concerned with the figure as it seems reasonable.
		Stacey	It sounds right on to her for what we're getting.
	Tentatively enter 343K for the Coalition and fund the Hotline, Rock Springs and Gillette at levels mentioned previously.		
	Consensus to decide the grants	Angie	How do others feel

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
	which will not be funded.		about taking the Self –Help Center out as these are duplicative services that the Coalition provides and they are a member of the Coalition?
			Consensus by board to not fund the Self-Help Center.
			Consensus by board to not fund Poverty Resistance due to the contract attorney problems.
Angie	How to handle TCATJ.	Stacey	Tell them the funding will be for a staff attorney.
Pat	Tentatively enter 95K for TCATJ.	Mark	Pointed out that the TCATJ program is not just contracting with attorneys. They host clinics, have the library and are conducting other outreaches.
		Angie	We want to continue to support TCATJ. She stated that there will be conservatively 40K unspent funding from this grant cycle and asked for a board consensus to utilize these funds as well if possible.
			Consensus from the board to utilize any unspent funds. This

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			brings the total of funds to be granted to 890K.
Pat	The Laramie County Partnership, Wyoming Children's Law Center and the UW fellowship programs require further discussion.	Stacey	She would rather fund other two programs and not the Wyoming Children's Law Center. Stuart agreed.
		Rae Lynn	Concerned about a gap in services for the Special Education piece if the Children's Law Center is not funded.
		Angie	There would be a gap in these important and needed services. Since the Children's Law Center has stopped doing GAL work under our grant they have been providing more special education services. Equal Justice Wyoming also refers some family law cases to the Children's Law Center.
Pat	Recommends 45K for the Children's Law Center. Would like to suggest changing to a staff attorney model.		She would prefer to fund the LCCP and UW rather than the Children's Law Center but, feels they would need 20-

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
			25K to finish the cases they currently have under our grant.
	He is a fan of the LCCP and UW grants as they are good quality grantees and fit our strategic plan goals.	Rae Lynn	Would the fellowship be able to fill the gap for special education cases?
		Angie	The fellowship may be able to assist with the special education cases.
Angie	The UW fellowship grant is bare minimum as presented and cannot be cut further if we want to fund it. She will ask the LCCP to see if they can reduce their request to 70K. May be able to reduce the Coalition and LCCP to 10% for indirect costs.		
Pat	At this point it seems like we need to choose which grant, the LCCP or the fellowship that we would grant if trimming in other programs does not give us the ability to fund both.	Jennifer	Why can't the TCATJ program be reduced?
		Pat	If we cut their funds they will not have the option of moving to the staff attorney model and the ground that has been gained there will be lost.
Jacquelyn	Abstains from any voting pertaining to the UW fellowship grant.		
Stuart	The Children's Law Center will	Angie	Suggested utilizing

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
	need funds to finish the cases. He supports the LCCP more than UW. Though he appreciates UW he feels the fellowship is being covered.		some of our contract services funding to try to cover both LCCP and UW, however, not sure that would be sustainable for the next grant cycle.
Rae Lynn	Perhaps the costs of the Cody office could be brought in line with the other offices we grant funds for.		
Pat	Prioritize which new grant we would support with understanding that Angie will work with the grantees to trim down as much as possible.	Mark	He would vote for the fellowship but, never feels compelled to give the grantees all they ask for.
Jennifer	Can the LCCP be reduced?	Angie	Entered for 69K which seems like bare minimum.
Rae Lynn	What if we gave 50% to the UW fellowship, could they come up with the other 50%.	Jacquelyn	This would not be possible for this year.
Stacey	It would be worth it to ask the Children's Law Center how much they would need to complete the cases we are now funding.		
Jacquelyn	Perhaps reduce the salary for the UW fellowship from 45K to 40K. If the special education cases become a part of the fellowship grant it needs to be specific in the grant for continuity purposes.	Angie	She does not feel this should be reduced. We want them to attract a good candidate.
Rae Lynn	She is concerned about the gap that would be left if the Children's Law Center is not taking the special education cases.		

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
Pat	To summarize the decisions made; If we can find a way to fund the LCCP and the fellowship that will be completed.	Angie	What conversation will she need to have with the Children's Law Center?
		Pat	Consensus of the board that we are willing to consider models for providing services for the special education case, however; we cannot afford to fund the hourly rate model. It is our strategic priority to fund the best grantees and now need to follow that plan.
Pat	If we cannot fund the LCCP this year let them know that we like the idea and please resubmit next year.		
A vote was taken regarding the priority of the board to fund the LCCP or the UW fellowship if funding cannot be found for both.	Mark – Fellowship Stuart – LCCP Stacey – Fellowship Mary – Fellowship Rae Lynn – LCCP Ray – Fellowship Pat – Fellowship Tim – LCCP Jennifer – Fellowship	6-Fellowship 3-LCCP	If funding cannot be found for both the fellowship and LCCP Medical-Legal Partnership, the fellowship will be funded.
Pat	We are at mid-point for the biennium and will be seeking additional appropriation authority from the Legislature during the next session.	Angie	Perhaps we should move to a 2 year grant cycle.
	Just so all is clear, Angie will see if we can fund LCCP also.		

**Equal Justice Wyoming
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2015 2-5pm*****

Summary

Board Member	Questions, Comments and/or Concerns	Responder	Response
	Pat and Angie will compare notes. Requests will be sent via email for voting purposes.		

Funds were tentatively set aside for the following amounts:

Hotline – \$200K

Rock Springs-\$66,050

Gillette-\$66,050

LCCP-69K

UW Fellowship\$66K

Coalition-\$343K

Children’s Law Center-\$20K

TCATJ-\$95K

A meeting will be scheduled for June to complete normal business.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.