

PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

November 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Althea Paulson, Christine Kuglin, David Weafer, Deborah Perluss, Michael Addams, Bonnie Rosinbum, Erin Fortney, Jacqui Martin, Matthew Dresden, Sandy Garcia, Lindy Laurence, Saleena Salango, Ritu Jain, Natalie Reber, Thuy Nguyen, Yuan Ting.

Meeting called to order 1:02 p.m.

October Meeting Minutes

October meeting minutes approved with no changes.

Co-Chair goals for 2021-2022

Bonnie Rosinbum and Michael Addams reported on the goals for 2021-2022 set forth by the co-chairs as reported in the FY 21 Annual Report. The first goal is to continue the work of the Strategic Planning Committee by implementing the mission, vision, and values into the day-to-day work of the committee and evaluating if there is anything to be changed in the mission, vision, and values. Michael urged committee members to reflect on mission vision and values in the work we do. The second goal is to improve communications between committee and justice-partner organizations, members, stakeholders. The third is to continue the work of the technology workgroup to fine-tune the probonowa.org portal and bring more traffic to the site from QLSPs/pro bono organizations and volunteers looking for opportunities. The fourth goal is to determine what “public service” means in the work that we do; Michael suggested the Strategic Planning Committee take on this body of work. The final goal related to recruitment is ongoing; Michael shared that we need to ensure we have the right people on the committee that are engaged in the work. Please help recruit and reach out to co-chairs with any suggestions.

Jacqui Merrill Martin asked if community members can be part of the committee. Matthew shared that all committees need to be comprised of WSBA members. However, other committees have changed structure to become a council. Saleena suggested finding alternate ways of getting community member engagement in the committee (for non-WSBA members).

Subcommittee Updates

Communications – Christine Kuglin shared that they haven’t yet met to get more direction from the group. October Bar News articles were recently published. Jacqui and Christine are working on foster youth articles. David Weafer and Christine Kuglin reported that they would like to write an article on IEPs. Jacqui Martin and Michael Addams will have an article published in Dec/Jan issue of the *Bar News* centered around New Years’ Resolutions to promote pro bono and advertise the Pro Bono WA portal. Jacqui Martin and Christine Kuglin reported that they have finished a draft of an article centered on foster youth needs, and are currently seeking approval from interviewees to ensure their



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article represented them accurately. Saleena will share the *Bar News* publication schedule and will connect the subcommittee with *Bar News* staff so they're aware of relevant deadlines.

Technology Workgroup— Jacqui Merrill Martin reported that the subcommittee met on October 28th, and opened up an invitation to all committee members to participate in this workgroup on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. The focus for the workgroup this year is to get more engagement with the site and fresh and new content. A top priority is reaching out to organizations that are willing to help launch the site. Jacqui shared that Legal Counsel for Youth & Children have launched their Pro Bono Champions program, and we will highlight and feature this program on our Pro Bono WA site. Ritu Jain is working to design a banner for the Pro Bono WA site for LCYC's program. Saleena reported that they are administering calendar; please send Saleena events related to pro bono, legal clinics, etc. Bonnie Rosinbum asked about challenges with QLSP engagement, and the utilization of the QLSP listserv to promote Pro Bono WA. Bonnie suggested asking about engagement and a directed communications plan when we discuss community liaison positions.

CLE – Erin Fortney reported that the CLE committee has not had a chance to meet. CLE subcommittee will meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Christine Kuglin shared that the Legal Lunchbox centered on changes to guardianship rules on 10/26/2021 had almost 1900 attendees and went very well. Christine reported an interest in foster youth CLE. Michael Addams shared that he is connected with juvenile law section, who might be a good partner. Erin suggested surveying QLSPs and other justice partner organizations to determine programming.

Rules & Policy – Yuan shared that they met on October 25th to discuss the humanitarian exception to 1.8e. Yuan shared that they will contact Jeanne-Marie Clavere from CPE to check on status of this. Yuan also suggested asking Jeanne-Marie if there is interest in the Committee supporting this effort. Yuan reported another project regarding expanding the definition of QLSP. Yuan is working to contact organizations who don't currently qualify for QLSP status under the current definitions to assess interest and what reasoning behind wanting QLSP status.

Strategic Planning – Bonnie Rosinbum reported that this subcommittee has not had a chance to meet. Saleena Salango will send out the Doodle poll to assess committee member availability. While not all members are required to attend, the hope is to make it at a time when most members are available so that anyone can participate in this subcommittee.

Community Liaison Position Discussion

Michael Addams shared that in previous years, each committee member was asked to pick an organization or entity from a list to conduct outreach and open lines of communication. Michael reported that there have been issues with receiving replies from entities. Michael suggested that The communications subcommittee can assist with these efforts by putting together draft emails with updates and opportunities to get involved. One proposal is to have a liaison assignment, but



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have a basic liaison role in the communications subcommittee that can send out mass communications to community lists.

Christine Kuglin agreed with the proposal to have a general email to go out to community list with a unified message is the best approach. Christine suggested determining who would sign the letter and how people can respond to the communications. Erin Fortney suggests that reaching out to individual liaisons was not the best use of time, as we didn't get additional engagements.

Deborah Perluss asked what the specific point of the community liaison role. A few suggestions to increase relationships are to work with the ATJ conference planning group. And/or have a specific assignment or assessment, if there isn't already a formal role, liaison, or connection.

Saleena shared that one of the values of the committee is community, and the community liaison roles are an important means of ensuring we're serving community and not siloing Committee work. Saleena suggested restructuring the position or working to create different avenues of engagement for community organizations.

Jacqui Merrill Martin shared that there is a tension of wanting to be helpful but not wanting to be a burden. Jacqui suggested getting in touch with various organizations and set aside 10 minutes in monthly meeting to bring people to our meetings. This could be a way we live up to the values and also organizations have an opportunity to share the work they're doing.

Erin Fortney suggested setting up a roundtable or convening of different community partners to talk through some of the challenges faced. Jacqui agreed, but encourages ensuring that people allocate enough time. Michael suggested another survey to determine what would be helpful. Natalie Reber participated in reviews for candidates as part of Minority Bar Associations. This opportunity allowed for all MBAs to be in one place. Natalie suggested going to meetings can be a good way to stay community informed and take advantage of other convenings to gather information.

Saleena suggested that going to community—attending other meetings, for example—could be good for community organizations/entities that have low capacity, if there are appropriate opportunities for us to be involved. Saleena also suggested opening up multiple avenues of engagement—if we want feedback, we should not just send out a survey. We should also make sure we're not encroaching on important spaces and ensure that we are transparent about what we can and can't do.

Jacqui mentioned that survey fatigue might reduce engagement. Suggested sending out a message of our mission, vision, and values that also says 'as part of our value to stay community-informed, these are the ways that we'd like to engage with community and list all the avenues of engagement that we want to create. – reach out to community liaison, attend our next meeting to share the work you're doing, instead of just asking people to fill out a survey.



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This topic will be brought up further at next Strategic Planning and Communications Subcommittee meetings. If any other thoughts, please email co-chairs.

Additional News/Updates

Lindy Laurence, ATJ Board Liaison. ATJ Board is looking at community involvement, community liaisons, staying informed by people impacted. The ATJ Board has meeting on Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. if you would like to participate or offer some insight. Some key topics are aligning priorities for upcoming year, reviewing this last year and conference, and continuing to be accountable to communities that we serve.

Matthew Dresden, WSBA BOG Liaison shared that the BOG will take up at a special meeting next month. There has been a lot of litigation re: integrated bar. A decision in the 5th circuit in Texas as an integrated state bar. In light of recent litigation, the BOG will put together a plan, reach out to stakeholders, and learn about what to do next. Matthew will share more information at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned 1:59 p.m.

