

Legal Services of North Dakota

Executive Committee Meeting

June 22, 2016 Telephone Meeting from 5:55 pm – 6:40 pm

Board Members present on the call were:

Gary Ramsey, President  
Mary Kay Kelsch, Secretary/Treasurer  
Alan Lerberg

Staff present on the call: Richard LeMay, Executive Director; Kim Kramer, Chief Fiscal Officer

The first item on the agenda was to discuss a Legal Services Corporation (LSC) application for Migrant Funding. LSND's LSC Program Counsel, Grayce Wiggins, had encouraged LSND to apply for the Migrant Funding and an application was submitted on June 13, 2016. The funding for North Dakota migrants is currently being awarded to Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS). With the population increase in the entire state of North Dakota, it is questioned whether migrants are being represented properly throughout the entire state when the funding is going to another states legal aid program.

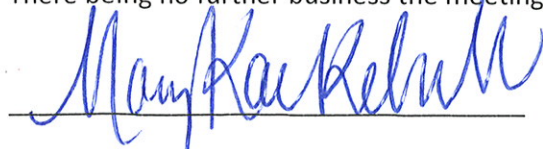
Discussion took place on who is considered a migrant worker. In North Dakota, typically migrant workers are Hispanic. Last year LSND had 272 applications from Hispanic persons and 189 of those applications were from areas of ND where migrant workers would typically be working. There were 42 cases were for divorce and 56 were for custody of children. LSND is doing family law for these cases but not receiving any funding currently. It is also questionable whether SMRLS has a licensed ND attorney on staff. It is also noted that more migrants are staying through the winter than before according to the data we have found. It was also noted that migrant workers are not only Hispanic migrant workers now include many refugee groups

Discussion took place on types of services that LSND would provide and the answer is any services we are already providing, with the only difference on immigration status. LSND recently hired an experienced immigration law attorney. Discussion also took place on any employment law issues with the migrant workers. LSND also has an experienced employee law attorney on staff that could advise on those cases.

LSC will be coming to North Dakota to monitor our program the week of July 18<sup>th</sup> and we have documents to upload to them by the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. LSC will possibly need to meet with some board members regarding this funding opportunity if they can make themselves available during that week.

The second item on the agenda that was discussed was the Bank of America settlement regarding mortgage foreclosures. Rich and Adele met with SBAND to discuss the funding in May and LSND will need to submit a request for proposal plan to SBAND and the IOLTA Board. The funding is limited to mortgage defense and community development. Discussion took place on the possibility of collaborating with High Plains Fair Housing regarding this funding opportunity.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Mary Kae Kelsch, Secretary/Treasurer