



**KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC
Board of Directors' Meeting
Saturday, May 1, 2021
Via Zoom**

Minutes

Present: Alta Fenton, Audrey Achneepineskum, Mary Day, Michael Deschamps, Robyn Medicine, Sally Colquhoun, Beth Ponka.

1. Opening and Welcome

Alta welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Alta asked if there were any conflicts of interest. None declared.

3. Agenda

MOTION #1

TO accept the agenda, as presented.

MOVED BY: Michael Deschamps

SECONDED BY: Robyn Medicine

CARRIED.

4. Minutes

4.1 January 23, 2021

MOTION #2

TO accept the minutes of the January 23, 2021 as presented.

MOVED BY: Audrey Achneepineskum

SECONDED BY: Robyn Medicine

CARRIED.

5. Reports

5.1 Statistical Report for the period ended March 31, 2021

For the period January 1 – March 31, 2021, we opened 57 retained matters and 339 summary advice. This is lower than usual, approximately half of what we would have opened under normal circumstances, but understandable since we've been in lockdown since January. We've done a fair bit of Tenant Duty Counsel. There were 64 tribunal appearances.

5.2 Coordinator of Legal Services

Sally's report was sent in advance and is attached to the minutes of the meeting. There were no questions.

MOTION #3

TO accept Sally Colquhoun's Coordinator of Legal Services report.

MOVED BY: Michael Deschamps

SECONDED BY: Audrey Achneepineskum

CARRIED.

5.3 Financial Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021

Beth presented the financial report for the period ended March 31, 2021. It was previously reviewed by the Treasurer and President in detail. We are finishing the year with a surplus of approximately \$22,621. The vacation accrual will result in an adjustment to our unaudited funds balance of approximately \$4,000.

MOTION #3

TO approve the financial report for the period ended March 31, 2021.

MOVED BY: Michael Deschamps

SECONDED BY: Mary Day

CARRIED.

5.4 Director of Administration Report

Beth's report was sent in advance and is attached to the minutes of the meeting. Diane Walker has offered to be involved with the Board of Directors as an ex-officio and without remuneration. She would be a great resource and could help us with various projects. She might be able to help us set up a framework for setting up committees, reviewing policies, etc. It was decided that the executive will meet to discuss how to utilize Diane's offer effectively.

MOTION #4

TO accept Beth Ponka's Director of Administration report.

MOVED BY: Audrey Achneepineskum

SECONDED BY: Robyn Medicine

CARRIED.

5.5 Executive Meeting Report

The executive met on March 16 and April 13 and a mini executive/financial meeting on April 19. Any items to report are on the agenda already.

5.6 Staff Reports

Caycie Soke and Esma Haider provided reports and Ann McGuire, who was a placement student through the Confederation College's Aboriginal community Advocacy Program, did a poster on Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's commitment to reconciliation. The Board appreciates the reports that the staff submitted and the project that the student completed.

6. **Business Arising**

6.1 Management Team Evaluations

The evaluations are completed however we are in lockdown and unable to meet in person. Alta would like to meet with Sally and Beth to discuss their evaluations in person. If the lockdown continues we may consider having the meetings by Zoom.

6.2 Board & Staff Annual Strategic Planning Session

Beth sent out the summary report and Board work plan to all Board members.

This could be a good starting point for extending Diane's involvement in the legal clinic.

We would like the medicine wheel of the clinic's strategic plan to be updated and shared with everyone. Beth will follow-up with Diane.

6.3 Board Supports

We have laptop computers for all Board members and they are in the Thunder Bay office, available for pick up.

6.4 Clinic Modernization Update

LASA 2020 is new legislation that requires an update of the funding agreements between legal clinics and Legal Aid Ontario. LAO is developing rules to govern the funding relationship and there have been a series of meetings with ACLCO and LAO for clinic managers and board members. Alta, Sally and Beth have all attended several of those meetings. Alta noted some concerns that the Board would have including potential increased liabilities for board members.

ACLCO has done a comprehensive review of the draft rules and provided an analysis. They want each clinic to respond individually to LAO to share our concerns. The

deadline to provide feedback is May 21. Sally plans to have a draft by the end of this upcoming week and will send it to all Board members.

Robyn asked if letters of support would be helpful; that's an excellent suggestion and will be part of the next step of the process. We will send out information to our community partners when that time comes.

7. **New Business**

7.1 ACLCO AGM

The ACLCO will be held on May 14 and 15. All board members are encouraged to participate in the plenary session on Friday, May 14, starting at 12:30. The agenda and registration package was sent to all Board members. If anyone is interested in signing up for any of the workshops please let Beth know asap.

7.2 2021-22 Clinic Budget

The Clinic Budget was distributed in the board packages and was previously reviewed in detail by the Treasurer, President, and Director of Administration prior to the meeting. The budget is based on the funding we expect to receive from Legal Aid Ontario and our forecasted expenditures.

MOTION #8

TO approve the proposed budget for 2021-22 showing budgeted receipts and expenses of \$1,887,864.

MOVED BY: Mary Day

SECONDED BY: Robyn Medicine

CARRIED.

7.3 Community Updates

This is a new addition to the Board agenda, to provide Board members with an opportunity to provide insight to their own communities.

Geraldton

- Audrey shared that there isn't sufficient funding available for non-profit housing to repair all of the damaged units, resulting in longer wait lists and more homelessness because vacated units can't be properly repaired and re-rented. The wait list for Geraldton is two to three years.
- Audrey would like more information on the services Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic provides and will invite Chantal to do a public legal education workshop for PACE. A lot of kids are getting in trouble because of COVID; we don't provide criminal law assistance but Chantal can help people access appropriate referrals. She gets requests about wills and powers of attorney; CLEO has a web-site for powers of attorney.

Marathon

- COVID cases in Marathon have settled down, there is only 1 active case right now.

Thunder Bay

- A security guard was taking pictures of Indigenous people instead of helping them. It was really upsetting. The response from City Hall has been disappointing.

Armstrong/Whitesand

- Mary's son is taking a class in civics and Mary discussed governance issues with him referencing KZA/Gull Bay and the exercise of BCRs as an example.
- The election for Gull Bay was supposed to be in November but it keeps getting delayed due to COVID.
- There aren't any cases of COVID in Whitesand at the present time.

Alta checked in about Saturday meetings. Everyone present agreed that Saturdays work best. We have traditionally met on Saturdays because the board members from outlying communities have to drive in to Thunder Bay. We hope to go back to in-person meetings as soon as public health guidelines allow. Several Board members have jobs Monday to Friday 9 – 5.

If a Board member isn't able to attend the Board meetings they should let Beth know in advance with as much notice as possible. If a Board member isn't able to participate on a regular basis then they should consider stepping down and allowing someone else to sit on the Board. Members are always welcome to re-join when they have more availability.

7.4 Reconciliation in Education certificate program

This certificate program is offered by the First Nations University of Canada and is available for all staff and Board members. Beth will send the link to the Board members who indicated that they are interested.

Additional Items Discussed:

ACMs and AGM – dates have been scheduled and are on the clinic calendars. The dates are as follows:

Armstrong	Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Geraldton	Tuesday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m.
Marathon*	Monday, September 20 at 12 noon
Nipigon*	Wednesday, September 22 at 12 noon

Thunder Bay* Friday, September 24 at 12 noon

*Michael, Candace and Alta's terms are up for re-election this year.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Thunder Bay on Saturday, October 23.

Pat's retirement party will be on Thursday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. Everyone is invited to participate.

8. **Correspondence**

Most of our Board correspondence is received by Legal Aid Ontario via email. Beth is forwarding the emails upon receipt.

9. **Next Meeting**

Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.