

ATJC Policy & Resources Committee Meeting
By Teleconference, and at MLSA offices in Helena
March 25, 2015; 2:30 PM

In Attendance: Michelle Potts, Matt Dale, Janice Doggett, Amy Sings In The Timber. Also in attendance: Kate Kuykendall.

The Committee discussed whether to proceed without a quorum. The committee proceeded, and will send out minutes by email.

Janice suggested a minor amendment to the January minutes. There were no other suggested changes.

Janice moved to approve the minutes with the suggested change to the comment about bar issues.

Matt seconded. Those present voted affirmatively. Additional votes will be solicited by email.

Economic Impact Study Update

The Committee moved on to discussion of the Economic Impact Study. Given that it's gone out to the Commission in the current, draft form, what will be asked of the Commission on Friday? We could put it in front of people to approve with the changes that are there, but will people take time to read it and make suggestions if we delay it? Matt said that if we want approval on Friday, we should ask for it. Worst case scenario is that it comes back for revision, so be it.

The Committee determined that it should ask for approval from the Commission on Friday.

Matt asked whether if it's approved on Friday, that no other changes can be made. The Committee agreed that is the case.

Listening Sessions

Amy summarized the timeline for the listening tour. The cities we went to in the previous tour will likely be where we go for the current tour, and the format will be largely similar. The legislators have changed. The documents provided are the two that provided the most comprehensive overview of the previous tour.

Matt asked if it's safe to assume that those larger general parameters of the former tour worked. Is it safe to say we got the information we wanted, and people attended as desired? Amy shared that she went to all of them, and that they were all well attended and largely successful. The events served their purpose; if anything, we weren't able to address all of the questions and points on the floor of those who attended.

Matt mentioned that they were spread out across September through December. Amy said that as we get closer to implementing, we'll bring Patty Fain on a call because she is the person who developed much of the former tour, and booked venues, timeframes, etc. While we have a good template, we definitely want to go through things in detail to make changes in response to lessons learned.

Matt asked if we know whether Patty will take on that role this time, or if there will be a different hub. Amy said we will seek support from the Office of the Court Administrator. If that comes in the form of Patty's time, she may just pick it up. She might be happy to do this; it's the sort of thing she enjoys doing. Ann Gilke helped Patty last time, and may be happy to talk to us about it this time. That will be something to explore when we look at how to fund this effort.

Matt said that he assumes the "statewide sponsors" put money in, and asked if maybe they gave in kind support instead. Amy said that the State Bar may have contributed funds, but it was more likely Ann's time. The MJF put funds and Amy's time into the effort. The Law School probably didn't provide funding, but there were faculty members that participated in the sessions. The Court Help Program support came in the form of Patty's time.

Matt asked if we have an idea what the total budget was. Amy said the MJF essentially funded the effort. Patty secured public space wherever possible. Everybody covered their own travel, except where they were clients that needed assistance. It was done on the cheap, and otherwise with MJF support. Amy anticipates the MJF will be putting forward funds for this tour as well. Amy looks ahead at what the Commission might be doing, and budgets some dollars for projects for the Commission. We can't anticipate everything, and can't fund everything, but there will be some dollars budgeted of the tour. Matt said he expects his office to be able to help as well.

Janice said that Leslie Halligan was supportive of funding access to justice projects. She may be willing to enquire with other State Bar trustees about whether they would put forth funds. Matt mentioned that a minimal contribution might get people listed as sponsors. Janice said the Area Agency on Aging would be a good prospect; she will recommend sponsoring the tour to them. Amy agreed; each of us can think of several organizations that have an interest in the success of this tour.

A sponsorship structure might be a good idea; we could put together a program to use to solicit support. Matt said it will be good to use the former budget as a starting point, and decide whether to go up or down in various areas, like food and travel.

Matt asked what happens after we finish this call. Amy said we should schedule a call and invite Patty. Hopefully by that time Beth McLaughlin will be free and can join us as well, and let us know whether Patty's time is on the table. We need to identify the areas that were not covered or things we might want to be changing going in to the next tour. We should look at our own calendars and anticipate in our local communities to anticipate what sort of things might be obstacles. Regular community events, football games, etc. The known factors, and local representatives, need to be present if at all possible.

Matt asked if there are other materials we could look at. Amy said there are, but they're detailed things like nametags. It will be helpful as we work on details, but not so helpful now. Nothing addressed money. We have an example of the flier for one of the events, there's an overview of testimony from witnesses, some potential questions for panelists to ask of witnesses, a sample press release, a town hall meeting logistics document, nametags, lists of groups and members in the form of a roll call from the events, and a document called LSAT: Legal Services Awareness Test. It's like a trivia document.

Patty may have additional materials like a budget. Amy looked at MJF's budget from that year, and said that MJF contributed \$2,000 in cash support.

Amy asked if there were other questions or things to tackle today on this topic. Amy will call Ann and Patty and talk with them before our next meeting.

Other Business.

The Committee's next scheduled meeting is April 29th, which is a Wednesday, at 2:30 p.m. Matt mentioned that the Legislative session is supposed to end in April, so that may mean we don't have better attendance. We won't know that until we get close to the 29th. The Committee will proceed as scheduled. May is packed; the EJC is the first week in May; the State Bar of Montana has a retreat the second week in May, and the fourth week is MLSA's all-staff meeting. Amy suggested that if we learn we need to postpone the meeting, we do so until the week of May 18th.

Matt asked if there is anything Amy wants said or not said in bringing the Economic Impact Study. He asked Amy to send comments to him before Friday. Amy said she would NOT mention that they don't have to wrap it up until July. Matt agreed, noting that he also won't bring up the idea of approving it by email.

Amy will be in touch closer to April 29th to let the Committee know if we need to postpone the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:20 p.m.