**New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission**

Via Google Meets

April 21, 2025

New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Mark Fidel called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm, Wednesday, April 21, 2025. Commissioners present: Commissioner John Arango, Commissioner Mary Smith, Commissioner Liz McGrath, Commissioner Julio Romero and Chairman Mark Fidel. A quorum was established.

1. **Approval of Agenda:**

Commissioner John Arango made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Liz McGrath seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Report from Commission Counsel on awarding Emergency Funding to existing Civil Legal Service Providers:**

Report from the CLS Commission’s Counsel Zachary Shandler on awarding emergency funding**.** In review of the statute and the rules, the commission has the power under its statute NMSA 34-14-1(D)(1): pursuant to the procurement code to solicit proposals for disbursements from the civil legal services fund. Counsel says there are three options, number 1 is the commission could wait until fiscal year 2026 to award additional monies to all providers and base it on the percentage tied to RFP 2022. Number 2, the commission may award additional fiscal year 2025 monies at this meeting but base it on the same percentages from the 2022 RFP. Number 3 is the commission award additional monies to only a few providers. The commission rules do have a waiver provision under the rule 2.40.3.17 NMAC as long as it’s not seen as favoring or penalizing any one provider.

Noting that she had been absent at the April 16, 2025, meeting, Commissioner Liz McGrath asked Commissioner Mary Smith what she had said then about the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center’s request for additional funding in FY 2025. Smith expressed her concern about how the request had come before the Commission, noting that the contractor approached one commissioner outside of a public Commission meeting, and the other commissioners did not know about the request until they were asked to vote on it on April 16. Smith felt blindsided.

Commissioner Arango leaves the meeting.

1. **Action item on Commission Awarding Emergency Funding to existing Civil Legal Service Providers:**

Commissioner Liz McGrath made the motion to authorize the additional funding to New Mexico Immigrant Law Center in the amount of 150,000.00. Chairman Mark Fidel seconded the motion. Chairman Mark Fidel called for the vote: Chairman Mark Fidel, Commissioner, Liz McGrath and Commissioner Julio Romero voted ~~i~~n the affirmative, Commissioner Smith voted against. So, in a vote three to one, this motion passes.

1. **Adjournment:**

Chairman Mark Fidel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.