

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Small Town and Rural Committee

Small Town and Rural Committee Meeting I Virtual Only

Thursday, March 17, 2022 | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via [Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: **884 6080 9037** | Passcode: **047632** | Call-in: **888-788-0099**

AGENDA

1. Introductions, February Meeting Recap, and Approval of February Meeting Minutes (Gov. Abell)
2. WSBA Updates (Gov. Abell and Julianne)
3. Subcommittee Report Updates
 - a. Community, Education, and Outreach (Kari Petrusek, Chair)
 - b. Pipeline Placement Program (Laurie Powers, Chair)
 - c. Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse (Betsy Penoyar, Chair)
4. Ambassador Program Proposal (Betsy Penoyar)
5. Posting of Rural Job Opportunities by WSBA (Katie Burke)
6. Potential Subcommittee Reorganization (Gov. Abell)
7. STAR Committee Recruitment and Appointments (Julianne Unite)
8. Rural Justice Collaborative
9. Other Business
10. Next Steps/ Conclusion
11. Adjournment

2021 - 2022 STAR Committee Meeting Schedule

October 26, 2021	Meeting: 3 – 5:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
November 18, 2021	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
January 20, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
February 17, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
March 17, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
April 21, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
May 26, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
June 16, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
July 21, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
August 18, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
September 15, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Small Town and Rural Committee Charter

Effective: July 16, 2021
as approved by the
WSBA Board of
Governors

Purpose

The WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Committee is committed to strengthen and support the practice of law in the rural communities throughout Washington state. Members of the STAR Committee will work to ensure that the practice of law in rural communities is present, growing, and thriving.

Practitioners in rural communities are few and far between. Additionally, many of these practitioners are nearing retirement without a clear plan of succession for their clients, leaving a void of access to legal representation and counsel. The STAR Committee will guide policy & program development, serves as ambassadors between the WSBA and these communities, explore and advocate for creative and innovative solutions, and regularly assess the legal landscape in rural communities to determine if WSBA policy, advocacy and program development require further resource for sustainability and improvements.

The STAR Committee aligns with the authorized activities outlined in General Rule 12. More specifically, GR 12.1 (a) articulates the Washington Supreme Court’s regulatory objective to provide, in part, “meaningful access to justice. . .” while GR 12.1(d) strives for “affordable and accessible legal services.” In addition, the STAR Committee aligns with the authorized activities outlined in GR 12.2, in particular by providing “services to members and the public,” and “fostering collegiality among its members and goodwill between the legal profession and the public.”

Further, the STAR Committee furthers the WSBA mission to serve the public and the members of the Bar by providing focused attention on the unique needs of residents and members in rural areas both by improving access to legal practitioners in rural communities and outreach and development of a pipeline of younger rural residents to pursue a legal career and serve their communities.

Definition of “Rural”

For the purpose of the STAR Committee and reflective of Washington’s unique geographic and socio-geographic landscape, the definition of “rural” is as follows:

Based on the definitions produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) and an overview of Washington county population, we focused on counties with populations of less than 50,000 and more than 2,500. These areas are considered ‘urban non-metro areas not part of larger labor markets’ by ERS. As part of the working definition, and for ease, we have termed these counties as ‘rural.’ Based upon WA county population data, we’ve pursued a hypothesis that counties with 30,000 or more as rural, but likely more

adjacent to a labor market and perhaps have a varying set of circumstances that may differ from counties that are less than 30,000.

Composition

Members of the STAR Committee should have demonstrated experience and/or interest in a thriving legal practice in Washington's rural communities. The STAR Committee will consist of 13 members and are outlined as:

- Chair (voting member)
- 2 Current or Former WSBA Board of Governors Members (voting members)
- 1 Active WSBA Member At Large (voting member)
- 4 Active WSBA Members from rural communities - see above for definition of "rural" (voting members)
- 1 Active WSBA Young Lawyer Member, as defined in WSBA Bylaws (voting member)
- 3 Law School Representatives (voting members, must be currently employed with a WA Law School which is not currently represented on the Committee.)
- 1 Active WSBA Lawyer Member currently employed with a Qualified Legal Service Provider (QLSP)(voting member).

WSBA Staff Liaison: Member Services and Engagement Manager or staff member in the Advancement Department, non-voting

Board of Governor Liaison: as assigned annually, non-voting.

Terms

- Chair: two-year term
- Members: three-year term

Initial Committee Terms

The first appointments to the STAR Committee should effectuate a staggered rotation of STAR Committee members. Therefore, the following terms are in place for the first appointment cycle only. All subsequent terms should adhere to the term limits stated above. STAR Committee member serving an initial term less than three years, should be considered an incomplete term. Therefore, the member is eligible to serve two subsequent complete three-year terms in WSBA Bylaws.

- 2 Active WSBA Members
1 member with two-year term, 1 member with three-year term.
- 4 Active WSBA Members from rural communities (see above for definition)
1 member with one-year term, 1 member with two years term, 2 members with three-years term.
- 3 Law School Representatives (voting, must be currently employed with a WA Law School)
- *1 member with one-year term, 1 member with two-years term, 1 member with three-years term.*

The following positions will begin as a standard term as set forth in this charter.

- Chair
- 1 Active WSBA Young Lawyer Member

- 1 Active WSBA Lawyer Member currently employed with a Qualified Legal Service Provider (QLSP).

Scope of Work

The scope of the STAR Committee's work will focus on what the WSBA is uniquely positioned to do in supporting a sustaining and thriving environment for the practice of law in Washington's rural communities. The STAR Committee will work with all relevant and interested stakeholders to collaborate where needed. The provision of direct legal services and civil legal aid to the public is outside the scope of the STAR Committee.

Measures of Success

- Increased awareness of the issues and possible solutions to address any gap in practicing members in rural communities.
- A sustainable pipeline of legal practitioners in rural communities.
- Increased numbers of legal practitioners in rural communities.
- The establishment of funding for programs and initiatives for the practice of law in rural communities.

STAR Committee Roles

1. Community Education and Outreach

Coordinated efforts to educate members and potential members about the unique needs, opportunities and benefits of a rural practice. This can include, but should not be limited to, comprehensive information on WSBA's website, features in WSBA publications, presentations at high schools, law schools and community colleges. Meetings and events, such as a summit or symposium, to highlight the issue, convene interested stakeholders to share their concerns and strategize on possible solutions.

2. Pipeline and Placement Program(s)

Develop WSBA programming, or WSBA supported/partnered programming designed to build a pipeline of practitioners in rural areas as well as an incentive program to encourage members to explore a rural practice on a time-limited or multi-year timeframe. This role should explore a possible collaboration or strategic overlap with WSBA existing and future mentorship program(s). In particular, this role will require extensive strategic planning and identification of external stakeholder support and additional funding sources. Coordinate with law schools and other stakeholders regarding economic incentives to practice in rural areas.

3. Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse

Utilize existing and future WSBA resources to support and highlight job opportunities in rural communities. This role should include making it easier, and perhaps more cost-effective, to add job postings to WSBA's service. Develop a clearing house to assist retiring members with succession planning and the buying/selling of a practice.

Committee Evaluation

The STAR Committee should conduct an assessment within five years from the date of Board of Governors' approval by 1) conducting a survey of rural practitioners to provide stakeholder feedback regarding the impact of this Committee to effectuate change in these areas, 2) assessing the scope of work to reflect impact and progress in this area and align with trends in the greater legal community, and 3) earnestly examining if the Committee is necessary to continue the scope of work.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Small Town and Rural Committee

Small Town and Rural Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 17, 2022, | 12:03 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. *Virtual meeting via Zoom*

Committee Members Present: Allison Foreman, Cindy Yeung, Elizabeth Penoyar, Governor Hunter Abell (Chair), Kathryn Burke, Laurie Powers, Merf Ehman, Rusty McGuire, Sarah Cuellar, Governor Sunitha Anjilvel, Zachary Bryant

Committee Members Absent: P.J. Grabicki

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite – Member Services and Engagement Manager, Chelle Gegax – Member Services and Engagement Administrative Assistant, Kevin Plachy – Advancement Department Manager, Mike Kroner – Outreach Specialist, Salena Salagno – Equity & Justice Specialist, Colin Rigley – Communications Specialist

Public Attendees: Governor Francis Adwale, Justice Jane Smith, Kari Petrasek, Larry Jefferson, Lauren McElroy, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Leone Reinbold

Introductions, January Meeting Recap, and Approval of January Meeting Minutes

STAR Committee Chair, Governor Hunter Abell, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Governor Abell invited WSBA Staff and those in attendance for the first time to provide introductions. Public attendees Governor Francis Adewale (Access to Justice Board liaison) and Leone Reinbold gave short introductions, as well as WSBA Staff Member, Colin Rigley. STAR Committee member Laurie Powers requested to have the following amendments made to the January meeting minutes - remove Ann Spangler, did not attend; STAR Committee member Cindy Yeung should be listed as a Committee member, not public attendee. On motion by STAR Committee Member Kathryn “Katie” Burke, with amendments, seconded by Laurie, the STAR Committee by unanimous vote (11-0-0) approved the February 2022 meeting minutes.

WSBA Updates

Governor Abell provided an update on the Board of Governors (BOG) ETHOS Meeting. WSBA Staff Liaison, Julianne Unite advised that it is recruiting season for committees and leadership opportunities. She advised on BOG seats that are coming open for the upcoming fiscal year. Governor Abell added that filing deadline for at large seats is April 15. Governor Abell has decided not to run for re-election and encourages Committee members to consider applying and asked if Governor Francis Adewale would like to contribute anything regarding this topic. Governor Adewale commented that the APEX Award

Committee is now accepting nominations and encourages those in attendance to consider who they would nominate.

Subcommittee Report Updates

Community, Education, and Outreach (STAR Member Kari Petrusek, Chair)

The Community, Education and Outreach Subcommittee met, attended by Kari Petrusek, WSBA Staff Member Mike Kroner, STAR Committee Member Allison Foreman, and STAR Committee Member Kathryn Burke in attendance. The subcommittee felt that from an education and outreach standpoint, that there should be a stipend of at least of \$5,000 or more to be more lucrative and inclusive of cost of living. It was also discussed that it would be good for law schools to give a law school economics presentation about life in rural areas and Eastern Washington to give more detail and insight to potential applicants. Since most law firms in these areas do not recruit and interview, perhaps the introduction of a feeder interviewer to do this on behalf of the firm. It still needs to determine when to start offering this program to law students. The subcommittee also felt that out of state law students should also be eligible for this program; must show on program that they have a commitment to the state of Washington in a rural area upon returning. Julianne commented on how the WSBA Law Clerk program could be incorporated into this proposal. Kevin Plachy commented that the Practice Management Assistance Program could provide additional resources and may want to consider how to integrate that support as a resource for this program. There could be a possibility to include a package of free CLE's for fellows of this program relevant to their practice area and efforts in rural communities.

Pipeline Placement Program (STAR Committee Member Laurie Powers, Chair)

Laurie presented on the Pipeline Placement Program subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee agreed that there would need to be more involvement and oversight from WSBA. It was suggested that the STAR Committee use a shared drive to house editing documents and ease of review, if possible. The subcommittee also discussed a doing more to provide a loan repayment program and felt that we should be looking at two tracks, one being government, and the other being private and rural practice. It was suggested to review the greatest need by Moderate Means Program to see what counties need the most assistance by using existing data. Julianne commented on the ability to use a shared drive and needing to further research, due to the Open Public Meeting Act and public records requirements. She will research with Kevin's assistance and report back to Committee with findings as soon as available. Kevin commented that attracting attorneys to rural practice areas would be a way to solve some of the access to justice issues and agreed that we likely have data supporting where the needs are greatest.

Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse (STAR Committee Member Elizabeth (Betsy) Penoyar, Chair)

STAR Committee Member Elizabeth "Betsy" Penoyar commented that the subcommittee thought a list serve of practitioners who need help or have work available open for students would be beneficial, as well as a website for the STAR Committee with promotional videos. Betsy reviewed WSBA website for buying/selling a practice and commented that it hasn't been updated since 2017. She suggested updating and revision. The subcommittee members feel that the subcommittees overlap quite a bit and offered others in attendance to provide their feedback. STAR Committee Member Sarah Cuellar commented on the implementation of a Rural Practice Section and wanted to emphasize a list serve as an easy resource to implement sooner than later. STAR Committee Member Zachary (Zac) Bryant

mentioned a “SLACK” Channel to get more information to practitioners. Julianne commented that there are specific processes on establishing a section, and they would work directly with her to do so. The BOG ultimately would need to agree to establish a section, and it must have min of 150 signatures of active bar members, with a minimum of 75 voting members under current WSBA bylaws. Julianne commented that we have a WSBA tool for list serves that can be uses without association of a committee, group, or section and this can be open to the public. The STAR Committee could have a “stakeholders” list serve if the Committee wanted to pursue this.

Governor Abell opened the discussion to what the next steps should be, based on the conversations presented by the subcommittees. Laurie commented that she liked having Hunter’s draft proposal to review but wants to have more conversation time and expand discussions. Governor Adewale asked if the Committee had met with the Young Lawyer’s Division (Washington Young Lawyers Committee, “WYLC”) and discussed this issue with them? Governor Abell commented that WYLC has been partners of this since this project was the Rural Practice Project (RPP) at the inception and there is a WYLC representative on the STAR Committee. Sophia Byrd McSherry shared ideas of having a student representative, as we have identified them as a focus for this effort, and it would be beneficial to ask students what their vision of the approach would be. Katie commented that the proposal has had a lot of good ideas, but feels it is a little disjointed between the subcommittees. She feels that it would be more productive if one committee was tasked with building the proposal, and then having feedback from larger group. Julianne commented that she agreed law students would be a stakeholder and suggested that the committee build a stakeholders list, and then build outreach efforts around that. Julianne also commented that law students could attend but could not be voting members of the committee as they are not current WSBA members. However, WSBA has law student liaisons, and could extend a formal invite to those representatives. Leone commented that in her experience in private practice in Okanagan County, a lot of ways they get new attorneys are from locals, and few come from different jobs or contracts and end up staying. It also seems that there is a high attrition rate in Okanagan County of women and people of color, and she would like to see development of resources for those people. STAR Committee Member Merf Ehman commented that they liked the idea of a menu of options generated by each committee recognizing their ideas and the work from previous efforts like the RPP.

Governor Abell asked the Committee if they felt the current proposal was too ambitious, and if they felt it needed to be narrowed down. Katie commented that she felt the current proposal was helpful for generating ideas, but hard to define where do we go is hard when so many members have so many opinions. She feels that having a subcommittee generate a proposal would help give an opportunity for the committee to narrow down. Cindy commented that she agrees with the comments from other committee members and feels that the existing proposal is so large that it is hard to decide where to go. She likes Merf’s idea of establishing priorities to work from moving forward. Merf would like to establish a sense of priorities, recognizing that priorities for fellows and law students could be different, but wants to ensure committee members are working toward the same set of principles. Laurie commented that if we continue to work in subcommittees, a timeline should be established inclusive of the BOG timeline and requirements for rollouts, phases, and what should come first. Kevin commented that there was a project management timeline for the RPP with ideation phase, implementation phase, etc. and that it could be good to outline and put this project into a project management tool/template and build in the timelines and deadlines. STAR Committee Member Rusty McGuire commented that it is

important for law schools to get in front of students, and he feels that students seem fearful to leave their “box” and do not want to branch out. Lauren McElroy commented that there are programs such as “coffee with counsel” where law students chat with practitioners, and if anyone is interested to please contact her for additional details. Merf suggested to allow subcommittees an opportunity to review and adjust the existing proposal and then review again as a large group. Julianne commented on Merf’s suggestion of having subcommittees revisit the idea from the RPP and define what’s in their scope of work, have defined parameters and reconvene at the next meeting. Governor Abell agreed to sending the proposal to the subcommittees to review and follow up at the next meeting with the results.

STAR Committee Recruitment and Appointments

Julianne commented on STAR Committee recruitment and appointments for the upcoming fiscal year. Relevant materials start on page 10, including a detailed timeline. She advised that applications open March 1. The open STAR Committee positions will be Chair (1 year), Gonzaga Law School Rep (3-year term), Rural Member (3-year term). These positions are open for current members to reapply. The application deadline is April 15.

NWSideBar Blog Series

WSBA Staff Member Colin Rigley commented on details of the blog planned for the Bar News, featuring the STAR Committee. Colin is actively seeking volunteers that he can job shadow for blog content. Governor Adwale thanked Colin for highlighting this information and commented that language matters to him and feels that calling small town and rural communities “legal deserts” can be frowned upon in those communities and taken negatively. He requested that publications be mindful of the language used. Rusty suggested Ryan Ortuno as an opportunity for Colin to feature.

Rural Justice Collaborative

Julianne commented that the Rural Justice Collaborative was formed after the RPP research and commented that subcommittees may want to use it as a resource.

Other Business

Governor Abell asked if Committee members had announcements or other business to discuss or bring to the committee’s attention. No responses were made.

Next Steps/ Conclusion

The next Committee meeting scheduled for March 17. Governor Abell requested that subcommittee’s meet between today’s meeting and that date to discuss the proposal and issues and will discuss how to move forward.

Adjournment

Governor Abell adjourned meeting at 1:55 p.m.



RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

REQUEST INPUT FROM RURAL JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

We invite you to complete the questionnaire below to inform the development of a *Rural Justice Roadmap*. This initiative is part of the [RJC's 2022-2023 priorities](#) as outlined [here](#) and will communicate the funding, training, technical assistance, and research needs of rural justice and public safety practitioners.

The questionnaire is designed to collect information from **rural justice and public safety practitioners** (e.g., judges, law enforcement, pretrial and probation officers, corrections, prosecutors, defense attorneys), **rural justice and public safety partners** (e.g., substance use treatment providers, public health staff, child welfare staff), and **rural project coordinators** managing cross-sector projects.

The RJC is partnering with the [Institute for Intergovernmental Research](#) (IIR) and [RTI International](#) to develop the *Rural Justice Roadmap*. IIR and RTI International support the [Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic initiative](#) sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program. This initiative receives funding and other support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State Justice Institute (SJI).

The deadline to complete the survey is **April 1, 2022**.
TO LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD, [CLICK HERE](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

RESEARCH & REPORTS

PODCASTS



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a crosssector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

FIRST RESPONDERS-COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ACT GRANT

**Application Deadline
April 5, 2022**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

 [How to Apply](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for fiscal year 2022 First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Support Services Act Grant.

The purpose of this program is to provide resources to first responders and members of other key community sectors at the state, tribal, and other government levels to train, carry and administer Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act approved drugs and devices for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose.

[For More Information](#)

RURAL COMMUNITIES' OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT

**Application Deadline:
April 19, 2022**

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

 [How to Apply](#)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently opened its annual funding opportunity, the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care Support (RCORP-BHS). Ultimately, RCORP-BHS aims to reduce morbidity and mortality of SUD, including opioid use disorder (OUD), in these communities. The funder expects to award 26 grants of up to \$500,000 per year over a four-year period.

For detailed descriptions of allowable activities and consortium eligibility requirements, see the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [available for download here](#).

[For More Information](#)



PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

COLORADO'S JAIL BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (JBBS)

The goal of the Colorado JBBS Program is to provide appropriate behavioral health services to inmates while supporting continuity of care within the community after release from incarceration. JBBS, which started as a regional effort, currently operates as a county-run program under state supervision. Programs such as the one at the [Moffat County Jail](#) are already seeing promising results. Preliminary data shows 40% of JBBS patients from have followed up with counseling and other services once released from the jail.

[For More Information](#)

ANNOUNCING SHIFT: A PEER-TO-PEER INITIATIVE TO PREVENT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

“Dating violence occurs nearly twice as often among rural teenagers than it does among non-rural teens, making this a crucial program for Preble County and rural Montgomery County,” said Mady DeVivo, transitional housing and aftercare case manager and Shift adviser. Dayton, Ohio’s newest prevention education program, Shift, utilizes high school students who serve as role models to provide health and wellness education to their fellow students through interactive programming, peer-to-peer outreach, and resource connections.

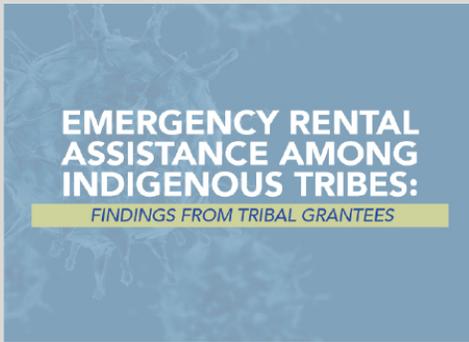
[For More Information](#)

IN A TINY NEW MEXICO COURTROOM, A PUSH TO DELAY EVICTIONS

A Clovis magistrate courtroom became a laboratory for a new eviction diversion program this month, ushering in a major change to state housing policy that aims to bring the rental market closer to normal while also staving off a wave of evictions amid a lingering pandemic.

[For More Information](#)

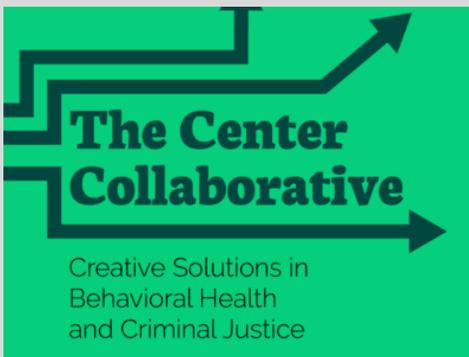
RESEARCH & REPORTS



[NLIHC Releases New Report on Emergency Rental Assistance among Indigenous Tribes \(2022\)](#)

A new report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, explains that tribal grantees face unique challenges and barriers to implementing Emergency Rental Assistance programs. The research examines these key characteristics as well as lessons learned from tribal experience with the programs.

PODCASTS



[The Center Collaborative Podcast](#)

From the Oregon Center on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice, the Center Collaborative podcast shines a light on partnerships that are moving the dial, leading to better solutions and outcomes for people who may become involved with the justice system due to experiencing behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, or neurocognitive concerns.



[Expanding Access to Justice in Rural Communities \(January 2022\)](#)

Experts discuss how the legal system operates in rural communities and how to expand access to justice in these regions on the latest episode of Talk Justice. -hosted by Legal Service Corporation President Ron Flagg.

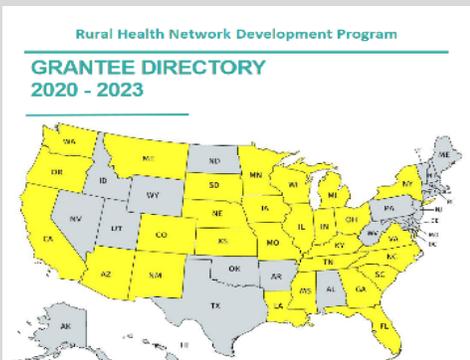
VIDEOS



[Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services \(TNMHSAS\) Publishes 12 Videos Highlighting Tennessee’s Recovery Courts](#)

Tennessee has a total of 82 Recovery Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, Juvenile and Family, and DUI courts which offer a rigorous program of treatment, testing, and therapy as an alternative to incarceration. The video profiles feature professionals at all levels of the court system from judges and prosecutors to program coordinators, case workers, and even one court graduate who is now employed providing peer support in a court.

RESOURCE



[Rural Health Network Development Program \(RHND\) 2020-2023 Grantee Directory](#)

This Directory provides contact information and a brief description of the 44 rural health networks funded during the 2020-2023 grant period.

Celle Gegax

From: Julianne Unite
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Celle Gegax
Subject: FW: [External]RE: WSBA - STAR Committee - Proposed Ambassador Program, Next Steps, Potential Subcommittee Reorganization

From: Abell, Hunter <HAbell@williamskastner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Star-Committee list <star-committee@list.wsba.org>
Cc: Julianne Unite <julianneu@wsba.org>; Kevin Plachy <kevinp@wsba.org>; Celle Gegax <Michelleg@wsba.org>
Subject: [External]RE: WSBA - STAR Committee - Proposed Ambassador Program, Next Steps, Potential Subcommittee Reorganization

[DO NOT REPLY ALL]

STAR Committee Members and Friends:

Good evening, I hope your week is going well. Thank you all very much for your participation at our last couple of Committee meetings and ongoing participation in the subcommittees. I wanted to update you on a new and exciting proposal for our Committee's consideration, next steps, and discuss possible reorganization of our existing subcommittees. Each is addressed in turn.

Proposed Ambassador Program

At our last full Committee meeting, I invited anyone with an idea for a program proposal to submit one for the full Committee's consideration. In response, Betsy Penoyar put together a draft idea for consideration called the "Ambassador Program." She authorized me to send it out to the full Committee, with the additional comment that she welcomes ideas to edit or improve the concept. The Ambassador Program divides the state geographically into about six regions. There would be two ambassadors, STAR committee members or someone they delegate, to represent each region. The three Washington law schools would each set three days per school year for these rural ambassadors to come and have a classroom discussion/presentation for 3-4 hours where students could come and chat. Ambassadors would bring photos, demographics, maybe possible job opportunities from local courts, local public defense, or low-income programs. Any students interested in a particular area of the state would then have a name and a friendly face to contact if they find they are interested in rural law.

The costs involved would be gas money for the ambassadors' trips, with the remaining being a fund for students who contact the STAR Committee and say they have chosen, say, Wahkiakum County because of having met us, heard about us, and they could ask for funds for say, bar dues, or malpractice insurance for a year, or rent for a month, or whatever they might need. A small committee of STAR could approve or disapprove the expenditure. These efforts would be coordinated and supplemented through a website operated by the STAR Committee and WSBA staff extolling the beauty and of rural areas of our state, the joys of rural practice, and information about how to begin practicing in small towns and rural areas.

Next Steps

I am thankful to Betsy for putting together a second proposal for our Committee to examine. Since we now have at least two proposals, we are getting closer to a variety of options for us to consider, edit, and potentially adopt. In light of that, it is my intent to devote some time at our next Committee meeting to discussing the proposed Ambassador

Program, as well as to invite anyone with any other ideas to please forward them to me. **Now is the time to bring out your ideas for the full Committee's consideration. Depending upon the receipt of additional proposals, it is my intent to bring all proposals up for discussion and a vote at the May meeting.** It is my anticipation that such a vote would identify which proposal we wish to pursue as our primary line of effort with the goal of ultimately recommending an edited and finalized version to the BOG later in the year. That should provide everyone and the various subcommittees approximately two additional months to put together any other ideas and provide input on the existing proposals. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding this course of action.

Potential Subcommittee Reorganization

Finally, after consultation with various Committee members and hearing the comments at the full Committee meeting about the overlap of the various subcommittees, I am strongly considering reorganizing our subcommittees from the current structure to either: 1) retain the current subcommittees but clarify what is and is not in each subcommittee's purview; or 2) start over with new subcommittees with clear areas of responsibility, i.e. Law Student Subcommittee, Practitioner Subcommittee, and Education and Outreach Subcommittee (or something like that). Please take some time at your upcoming subcommittee meetings and at the next full Committee meeting to think about this idea, and whether or not we should keep the existing subcommittees or try a different approach. **I welcome any thoughts or comments you may have in advance on this subject.**

As always, thank you to all of you for your service. I look forward to seeing you on the 17th!

Regards,

Hunter

Hunter M. Abell

Williams Kastner | Attorney at Law
601 Union Street, Suite 4100
Seattle, WA 98101-2380
P: 206-233-2885 | F: 206-628-6611
www.williamskastner.com | [Bio](#) | [V-Card](#)

WASHINGTON OREGON

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Small Town and Rural Committee

Small Town and Rural Committee Meeting I Virtual Only

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Via [Zoom](#) | Meeting ID: **884 6080 9037** | Passcode: **047632** | Call-in: **888-788-0099**

AGENDA

1. Introductions, February Meeting Recap, and Approval of February Meeting Minutes (Gov. Abell)
2. WSBA Updates (Gov. Abell and Julianne)
3. Subcommittee Report Updates
 - a. Community, Education, and Outreach (Kari Petrusek, Chair)
 - b. Pipeline Placement Program (Laurie Powers, Chair)
 - c. Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse (Betsy Penoyar, Chair)
4. Ambassador Program Proposal (Betsy Penoyar)
5. Posting of Rural Job Opportunities by WSBA (Katie Burke)
6. Potential Subcommittee Reorganization (Gov. Abell)
7. STAR Committee Recruitment and Appointments (Julianne Unite)
8. Rural Justice Collaborative
9. Other Business
10. Next Steps/ Conclusion
11. Adjournment

2021 - 2022 STAR Committee Meeting Schedule

October 26, 2021	Meeting: 3 – 5:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
November 18, 2021	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
January 20, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
February 17, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
March 17, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
April 21, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
May 26, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
June 16, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
July 21, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
August 18, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only
September 15, 2022	Meeting: 12 - 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Only

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Small Town and Rural Committee Charter

Effective: July 16, 2021
as approved by the
WSBA Board of
Governors

Purpose

The WSBA Small Town and Rural (STAR) Committee is committed to strengthen and support the practice of law in the rural communities throughout Washington state. Members of the STAR Committee will work to ensure that the practice of law in rural communities is present, growing, and thriving.

Practitioners in rural communities are few and far between. Additionally, many of these practitioners are nearing retirement without a clear plan of succession for their clients, leaving a void of access to legal representation and counsel. The STAR Committee will guide policy & program development, serves as ambassadors between the WSBA and these communities, explore and advocate for creative and innovative solutions, and regularly assess the legal landscape in rural communities to determine if WSBA policy, advocacy and program development require further resource for sustainability and improvements.

The STAR Committee aligns with the authorized activities outlined in General Rule 12. More specifically, GR 12.1 (a) articulates the Washington Supreme Court’s regulatory objective to provide, in part, “meaningful access to justice. . .” while GR 12.1(d) strives for “affordable and accessible legal services.” In addition, the STAR Committee aligns with the authorized activities outlined in GR 12.2, in particular by providing “services to members and the public,” and “fostering collegiality among its members and goodwill between the legal profession and the public.”

Further, the STAR Committee furthers the WSBA mission to serve the public and the members of the Bar by providing focused attention on the unique needs of residents and members in rural areas both by improving access to legal practitioners in rural communities and outreach and development of a pipeline of younger rural residents to pursue a legal career and serve their communities.

Definition of “Rural”

For the purpose of the STAR Committee and reflective of Washington’s unique geographic and socio-geographic landscape, the definition of “rural” is as follows:

Based on the definitions produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) and an overview of Washington county population, we focused on counties with populations of less than 50,000 and more than 2,500. These areas are considered ‘urban non-metro areas not part of larger labor markets’ by ERS. As part of the working definition, and for ease, we have termed these counties as ‘rural.’ Based upon WA county population data, we’ve pursued a hypothesis that counties with 30,000 or more as rural, but likely more

adjacent to a labor market and perhaps have a varying set of circumstances that may differ from counties that are less than 30,000.

Composition

Members of the STAR Committee should have demonstrated experience and/or interest in a thriving legal practice in Washington's rural communities. The STAR Committee will consist of 13 members and are outlined as:

- Chair (voting member)
- 2 Current or Former WSBA Board of Governors Members (voting members)
- 1 Active WSBA Member At Large (voting member)
- 4 Active WSBA Members from rural communities - see above for definition of "rural" (voting members)
- 1 Active WSBA Young Lawyer Member, as defined in WSBA Bylaws (voting member)
- 3 Law School Representatives (voting members, must be currently employed with a WA Law School which is not currently represented on the Committee.)
- 1 Active WSBA Lawyer Member currently employed with a Qualified Legal Service Provider (QLSP)(voting member).

WSBA Staff Liaison: Member Services and Engagement Manager or staff member in the Advancement Department, non-voting

Board of Governor Liaison: as assigned annually, non-voting.

Terms

- Chair: two-year term
- Members: three-year term

Initial Committee Terms

The first appointments to the STAR Committee should effectuate a staggered rotation of STAR Committee members. Therefore, the following terms are in place for the first appointment cycle only. All subsequent terms should adhere to the term limits stated above. STAR Committee member serving an initial term less than three years, should be considered an incomplete term. Therefore, the member is eligible to serve two subsequent complete three-year terms in WSBA Bylaws.

- 2 Active WSBA Members
1 member with two-year term, 1 member with three-year term.
- 4 Active WSBA Members from rural communities (see above for definition)
1 member with one-year term, 1 member with two years term, 2 members with three-years term.
- 3 Law School Representatives (voting, must be currently employed with a WA Law School)
- *1 member with one-year term, 1 member with two-years term, 1 member with three-years term.*

The following positions will begin as a standard term as set forth in this charter.

- Chair
- 1 Active WSBA Young Lawyer Member

- 1 Active WSBA Lawyer Member currently employed with a Qualified Legal Service Provider (QLSP).

Scope of Work

The scope of the STAR Committee’s work will focus on what the WSBA is uniquely positioned to do in supporting a sustaining and thriving environment for the practice of law in Washington’s rural communities. The STAR Committee will work with all relevant and interested stakeholders to collaborate where needed. The provision of direct legal services and civil legal aid to the public is outside the scope of the STAR Committee.

Measures of Success

- Increased awareness of the issues and possible solutions to address any gap in practicing members in rural communities.
- A sustainable pipeline of legal practitioners in rural communities.
- Increased numbers of legal practitioners in rural communities.
- The establishment of funding for programs and initiatives for the practice of law in rural communities.

STAR Committee Roles

1. Community Education and Outreach

Coordinated efforts to educate members and potential members about the unique needs, opportunities and benefits of a rural practice. This can include, but should not be limited to, comprehensive information on WSBA’s website, features in WSBA publications, presentations at high schools, law schools and community colleges. Meetings and events, such as a summit or symposium, to highlight the issue, convene interested stakeholders to share their concerns and strategize on possible solutions.

2. Pipeline and Placement Program(s)

Develop WSBA programming, or WSBA supported/partnered programming designed to build a pipeline of practitioners in rural areas as well as an incentive program to encourage members to explore a rural practice on a time-limited or multi-year timeframe. This role should explore a possible collaboration or strategic overlap with WSBA existing and future mentorship program(s). In particular, this role will require extensive strategic planning and identification of external stakeholder support and additional funding sources. Coordinate with law schools and other stakeholders regarding economic incentives to practice in rural areas.

3. Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse

Utilize existing and future WSBA resources to support and highlight job opportunities in rural communities. This role should include making it easier, and perhaps more cost-effective, to add job postings to WSBA’s service. Develop a clearing house to assist retiring members with succession planning and the buying/selling of a practice.

Committee Evaluation

The STAR Committee should conduct an assessment within five years from the date of Board of Governors' approval by 1) conducting a survey of rural practitioners to provide stakeholder feedback regarding the impact of this Committee to effectuate change in these areas, 2) assessing the scope of work to reflect impact and progress in this area and align with trends in the greater legal community, and 3) earnestly examining if the Committee is necessary to continue the scope of work.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Small Town and Rural Committee

Small Town and Rural Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 17, 2022, | 12:03 p.m. – 1:55 p.m. *Virtual meeting via Zoom*

Committee Members Present: Allison Foreman, Cindy Yeung, Elizabeth Penoyar, Governor Hunter Abell (Chair), Kathryn Burke, Laurie Powers, Merf Ehman, Rusty McGuire, Sarah Cuellar, Governor Sunitha Anjilvel, Zachary Bryant

Committee Members Absent: P.J. Grabicki

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite – Member Services and Engagement Manager, Chelle Gegax – Member Services and Engagement Administrative Assistant, Kevin Plachy – Advancement Department Manager, Mike Kroner – Outreach Specialist, Salena Salagno – Equity & Justice Specialist, Colin Rigley – Communications Specialist

Public Attendees: Governor Francis Adwale, Justice Jane Smith, Kari Petrasek, Larry Jefferson, Lauren McElroy, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Leone Reinbold

Introductions, January Meeting Recap, and Approval of January Meeting Minutes

STAR Committee Chair, Governor Hunter Abell, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Governor Abell invited WSBA Staff and those in attendance for the first time to provide introductions. Public attendees Governor Francis Adewale (Access to Justice Board liaison) and Leone Reinbold gave short introductions, as well as WSBA Staff Member, Colin Rigley. STAR Committee member Laurie Powers requested to have the following amendments made to the January meeting minutes - remove Ann Spangler, did not attend; STAR Committee member Cindy Yeung should be listed as a Committee member, not public attendee. On motion by STAR Committee Member Kathryn “Katie” Burke, with amendments, seconded by Laurie, the STAR Committee by unanimous vote (11-0-0) approved the February 2022 meeting minutes.

WSBA Updates

Governor Abell provided an update on the Board of Governors (BOG) ETHOS Meeting. WSBA Staff Liaison, Julianne Unite advised that it is recruiting season for committees and leadership opportunities. She advised on BOG seats that are coming open for the upcoming fiscal year. Governor Abell added that filing deadline for at large seats is April 15. Governor Abell has decided not to run for re-election and encourages Committee members to consider applying and asked if Governor Francis Adewale would like to contribute anything regarding this topic. Governor Adewale commented that the APEX Award

Committee is now accepting nominations and encourages those in attendance to consider who they would nominate.

Subcommittee Report Updates

Community, Education, and Outreach (STAR Member Kari Petrusek, Chair)

The Community, Education and Outreach Subcommittee met, attended by Kari Petrusek, WSBA Staff Member Mike Kroner, STAR Committee Member Allison Foreman, and STAR Committee Member Kathryn Burke in attendance. The subcommittee felt that from an education and outreach standpoint, that there should be a stipend of at least of \$5,000 or more to be more lucrative and inclusive of cost of living. It was also discussed that it would be good for law schools to give a law school economics presentation about life in rural areas and Eastern Washington to give more detail and insight to potential applicants. Since most law firms in these areas do not recruit and interview, perhaps the introduction of a feeder interviewer to do this on behalf of the firm. It still needs to determine when to start offering this program to law students. The subcommittee also felt that out of state law students should also be eligible for this program; must show on program that they have a commitment to the state of Washington in a rural area upon returning. Julianne commented on how the WSBA Law Clerk program could be incorporated into this proposal. Kevin Plachy commented that the Practice Management Assistance Program could provide additional resources and may want to consider how to integrate that support as a resource for this program. There could be a possibility to include a package of free CLE's for fellows of this program relevant to their practice area and efforts in rural communities.

Pipeline Placement Program (STAR Committee Member Laurie Powers, Chair)

Laurie presented on the Pipeline Placement Program subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee agreed that there would need to be more involvement and oversight from WSBA. It was suggested that the STAR Committee use a shared drive to house editing documents and ease of review, if possible. The subcommittee also discussed a doing more to provide a loan repayment program and felt that we should be looking at two tracks, one being government, and the other being private and rural practice. It was suggested to review the greatest need by Moderate Means Program to see what counties need the most assistance by using existing data. Julianne commented on the ability to use a shared drive and needing to further research, due to the Open Public Meeting Act and public records requirements. She will research with Kevin's assistance and report back to Committee with findings as soon as available. Kevin commented that attracting attorneys to rural practice areas would be a way to solve some of the access to justice issues and agreed that we likely have data supporting where the needs are greatest.

Job Opportunities and Clearinghouse (STAR Committee Member Elizabeth (Betsy) Penoyar, Chair)

STAR Committee Member Elizabeth "Betsy" Penoyar commented that the subcommittee thought a list serve of practitioners who need help or have work available open for students would be beneficial, as well as a website for the STAR Committee with promotional videos. Betsy reviewed WSBA website for buying/selling a practice and commented that it hasn't been updated since 2017. She suggested updating and revision. The subcommittee members feel that the subcommittees overlap quite a bit and offered others in attendance to provide their feedback. STAR Committee Member Sarah Cuellar commented on the implementation of a Rural Practice Section and wanted to emphasize a list serve as an easy resource to implement sooner than later. STAR Committee Member Zachary (Zac) Bryant

mentioned a “SLACK” Channel to get more information to practitioners. Julianne commented that there are specific processes on establishing a section, and they would work directly with her to do so. The BOG ultimately would need to agree to establish a section, and it must have min of 150 signatures of active bar members, with a minimum of 75 voting members under current WSBA bylaws. Julianne commented that we have a WSBA tool for list serves that can be used without association of a committee, group, or section and this can be open to the public. The STAR Committee could have a “stakeholders” list serve if the Committee wanted to pursue this.

Governor Abell opened the discussion to what the next steps should be, based on the conversations presented by the subcommittees. Laurie commented that she liked having Hunter’s draft proposal to review but wants to have more conversation time and expand discussions. Governor Adewale asked if the Committee had met with the Young Lawyer’s Division (Washington Young Lawyers Committee, “WYLC”) and discussed this issue with them? Governor Abell commented that WYLC has been partners of this since this project was the Rural Practice Project (RPP) at the inception and there is a WYLC representative on the STAR Committee. Sophia Byrd McSherry shared ideas of having a student representative, as we have identified them as a focus for this effort, and it would be beneficial to ask students what their vision of the approach would be. Katie commented that the proposal has had a lot of good ideas, but feels it is a little disjointed between the subcommittees. She feels that it would be more productive if one committee was tasked with building the proposal, and then having feedback from larger group. Julianne commented that she agreed law students would be a stakeholder and suggested that the committee build a stakeholders list, and then build outreach efforts around that. Julianne also commented that law students could attend but could not be voting members of the committee as they are not current WSBA members. However, WSBA has law student liaisons, and could extend a formal invite to those representatives. Leone commented that in her experience in private practice in Okanogan County, a lot of ways they get new attorneys are from locals, and few come from different jobs or contracts and end up staying. It also seems that there is a high attrition rate in Okanogan County of women and people of color, and she would like to see development of resources for those people. STAR Committee Member Merf Ehman commented that they liked the idea of a menu of options generated by each committee recognizing their ideas and the work from previous efforts like the RPP.

Governor Abell asked the Committee if they felt the current proposal was too ambitious, and if they felt it needed to be narrowed down. Katie commented that she felt the current proposal was helpful for generating ideas, but hard to define where do we go is hard when so many members have so many opinions. She feels that having a subcommittee generate a proposal would help give an opportunity for the committee to narrow down. Cindy commented that she agrees with the comments from other committee members and feels that the existing proposal is so large that it is hard to decide where to go. She likes Merf’s idea of establishing priorities to work from moving forward. Merf would like to establish a sense of priorities, recognizing that priorities for fellows and law students could be different, but wants to ensure committee members are working toward the same set of principles. Laurie commented that if we continue to work in subcommittees, a timeline should be established inclusive of the BOG timeline and requirements for rollouts, phases, and what should come first. Kevin commented that there was a project management timeline for the RPP with ideation phase, implementation phase, etc. and that it could be good to outline and put this project into a project management tool/template and build in the timelines and deadlines. STAR Committee Member Rusty McGuire commented that it is

important for law schools to get in front of students, and he feels that students seem fearful to leave their “box” and do not want to branch out. Lauren McElroy commented that there are programs such as “coffee with counsel” where law students chat with practitioners, and if anyone is interested to please contact her for additional details. Merf suggested to allow subcommittees an opportunity to review and adjust the existing proposal and then review again as a large group. Julianne commented on Merf’s suggestion of having subcommittees revisit the idea from the RPP and define what’s in their scope of work, have defined parameters and reconvene at the next meeting. Governor Abell agreed to sending the proposal to the subcommittees to review and follow up at the next meeting with the results.

STAR Committee Recruitment and Appointments

Julianne commented on STAR Committee recruitment and appointments for the upcoming fiscal year. Relevant materials start on page 10, including a detailed timeline. She advised that applications open March 1. The open STAR Committee positions will be Chair (1 year), Gonzaga Law School Rep (3-year term), Rural Member (3-year term). These positions are open for current members to reapply. The application deadline is April 15.

NWSideBar Blog Series

WSBA Staff Member Colin Rigley commented on details of the blog planned for the Bar News, featuring the STAR Committee. Colin is actively seeking volunteers that he can job shadow for blog content. Governor Adwale thanked Colin for highlighting this information and commented that language matters to him and feels that calling small town and rural communities “legal deserts” can be frowned upon in those communities and taken negatively. He requested that publications be mindful of the language used. Rusty suggested Ryan Ortuno as an opportunity for Colin to feature.

Rural Justice Collaborative

Julianne commented that the Rural Justice Collaborative was formed after the RPP research and commented that subcommittees may want to use it as a resource.

Other Business

Governor Abell asked if Committee members had announcements or other business to discuss or bring to the committee’s attention. No responses were made.

Next Steps/ Conclusion

The next Committee meeting scheduled for March 17. Governor Abell requested that subcommittee’s meet between today’s meeting and that date to discuss the proposal and issues and will discuss how to move forward.

Adjournment

Governor Abell adjourned meeting at 1:55 p.m.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

REQUEST INPUT FROM RURAL JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

We invite you to complete the questionnaire below to inform the development of a *Rural Justice Roadmap*. This initiative is part of the [RJC's 2022-2023 priorities](#) as outlined [here](#) and will communicate the funding, training, technical assistance, and research needs of rural justice and public safety practitioners.

The questionnaire is designed to collect information from **rural justice and public safety practitioners** (e.g., judges, law enforcement, pretrial and probation officers, corrections, prosecutors, defense attorneys), **rural justice and public safety partners** (e.g., substance use treatment providers, public health staff, child welfare staff), and **rural project coordinators** managing cross-sector projects.

The RJC is partnering with the [Institute for Intergovernmental Research](#) (IIR) and [RTI International](#) to develop the *Rural Justice Roadmap*. IIR and RTI International support the [Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic initiative](#) sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program. This initiative receives funding and other support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State Justice Institute (SJI).

The deadline to complete the survey is **April 1, 2022**.
TO LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD, [CLICK HERE](#)

PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

RESEARCH & REPORTS

PODCASTS



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a crosssector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

FIRST RESPONDERS-COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ACT GRANT

**Application Deadline
April 5, 2022**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



[How to Apply](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for fiscal year 2022 First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Support Services Act Grant.

The purpose of this program is to provide resources to first responders and members of other key community sectors at the state, tribal, and other government levels to train, carry and administer Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act approved drugs and devices for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose.

[For More Information](#)

RURAL COMMUNITIES' OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT

**Application Deadline:
April 19, 2022**

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



[How to Apply](#)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently opened its annual funding opportunity, the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care Support (RCORP-BHS). Ultimately, RCORP-BHS aims to reduce morbidity and mortality of SUD, including opioid use disorder (OUD), in these communities. The funder expects to award 26 grants of up to \$500,000 per year over a four-year period.

For detailed descriptions of allowable activities and consortium eligibility requirements, see the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [available for download here](#).

[For More Information](#)



PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

COLORADO'S JAIL BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (JBBS)

The goal of the Colorado JBBS Program is to provide appropriate behavioral health services to inmates while supporting continuity of care within the community after release from incarceration. JBBS, which started as a regional effort, currently operates as a county-run program under state supervision. Programs such as the one at the [Moffat County Jail](#) are already seeing promising results. Preliminary data shows 40% of JBBS patients from have followed up with counseling and other services once released from the jail.

[For More Information](#)

ANNOUNCING SHIFT: A PEER-TO-PEER INITIATIVE TO PREVENT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

"Dating violence occurs nearly twice as often among rural teenagers than it does among non-rural teens, making this a crucial program for Preble County and rural Montgomery County," said Mady DeVivo, transitional housing and aftercare case manager and Shift adviser. Dayton, Ohio's newest prevention education program, Shift, utilizes high school students who serve as role models to provide health and wellness education to their fellow students through interactive programming, peer-to-peer outreach, and resource connections.

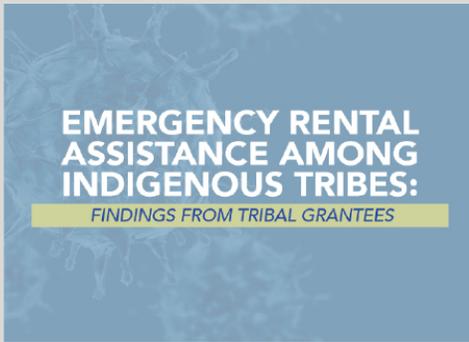
[For More Information](#)

IN A TINY NEW MEXICO COURTROOM, A PUSH TO DELAY EVICTIONS

A Clovis magistrate courtroom became a laboratory for a new eviction diversion program this month, ushering in a major change to state housing policy that aims to bring the rental market closer to normal while also staving off a wave of evictions amid a lingering pandemic.

[For More Information](#)

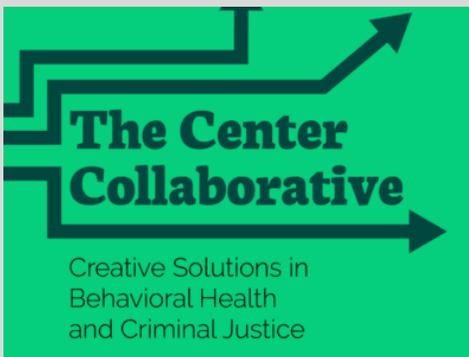
RESEARCH & REPORTS



[NLIHC Releases New Report on Emergency Rental Assistance among Indigenous Tribes \(2022\)](#)

A new report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, explains that tribal grantees face unique challenges and barriers to implementing Emergency Rental Assistance programs. The research examines these key characteristics as well as lessons learned from tribal experience with the programs.

PODCASTS



[The Center Collaborative Podcast](#)

From the Oregon Center on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice, the Center Collaborative podcast shines a light on partnerships that are moving the dial, leading to better solutions and outcomes for people who may become involved with the justice system due to experiencing behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, or neurocognitive concerns.



[Expanding Access to Justice in Rural Communities \(January 2022\)](#)

Experts discuss how the legal system operates in rural communities and how to expand access to justice in these regions on the latest episode of Talk Justice. -hosted by Legal Service Corporation President Ron Flagg.

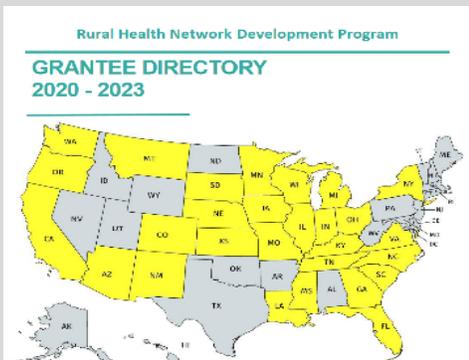
VIDEOS



[Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services \(TNMHSAS\) Publishes 12 Videos Highlighting Tennessee’s Recovery Courts](#)

Tennessee has a total of 82 Recovery Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, Juvenile and Family, and DUI courts which offer a rigorous program of treatment, testing, and therapy as an alternative to incarceration. The video profiles feature professionals at all levels of the court system from judges and prosecutors to program coordinators, case workers, and even one court graduate who is now employed providing peer support in a court.

RESOURCE



[Rural Health Network Development Program \(RHND\) 2020-2023 Grantee Directory](#)

This Directory provides contact information and a brief description of the 44 rural health networks funded during the 2020-2023 grant period.

Celle Gegax

From: Julianne Unite
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:45 AM
To: Celle Gegax
Subject: FW: [External]RE: WSBA - STAR Committee - Proposed Ambassador Program, Next Steps, Potential Subcommittee Reorganization

From: Abell, Hunter <HAbell@williamskastner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Star-Committee list <star-committee@list.wsba.org>
Cc: Julianne Unite <julianneu@wsba.org>; Kevin Plachy <kevinp@wsba.org>; Celle Gegax <Michelleg@wsba.org>
Subject: [External]RE: WSBA - STAR Committee - Proposed Ambassador Program, Next Steps, Potential Subcommittee Reorganization

[DO NOT REPLY ALL]

STAR Committee Members and Friends:

Good evening, I hope your week is going well. Thank you all very much for your participation at our last couple of Committee meetings and ongoing participation in the subcommittees. I wanted to update you on a new and exciting proposal for our Committee's consideration, next steps, and discuss possible reorganization of our existing subcommittees. Each is addressed in turn.

Proposed Ambassador Program

At our last full Committee meeting, I invited anyone with an idea for a program proposal to submit one for the full Committee's consideration. In response, Betsy Penoyar put together a draft idea for consideration called the "Ambassador Program." She authorized me to send it out to the full Committee, with the additional comment that she welcomes ideas to edit or improve the concept. The Ambassador Program divides the state geographically into about six regions. There would be two ambassadors, STAR committee members or someone they delegate, to represent each region. The three Washington law schools would each set three days per school year for these rural ambassadors to come and have a classroom discussion/presentation for 3-4 hours where students could come and chat. Ambassadors would bring photos, demographics, maybe possible job opportunities from local courts, local public defense, or low-income programs. Any students interested in a particular area of the state would then have a name and a friendly face to contact if they find they are interested in rural law.

The costs involved would be gas money for the ambassadors' trips, with the remaining being a fund for students who contact the STAR Committee and say they have chosen, say, Wahkiakum County because of having met us, heard about us, and they could ask for funds for say, bar dues, or malpractice insurance for a year, or rent for a month, or whatever they might need. A small committee of STAR could approve or disapprove the expenditure. These efforts would be coordinated and supplemented through a website operated by the STAR Committee and WSBA staff extolling the beauty and of rural areas of our state, the joys of rural practice, and information about how to begin practicing in small towns and rural areas.

Next Steps

I am thankful to Betsy for putting together a second proposal for our Committee to examine. Since we now have at least two proposals, we are getting closer to a variety of options for us to consider, edit, and potentially adopt. In light of that, it is my intent to devote some time at our next Committee meeting to discussing the proposed Ambassador

Program, as well as to invite anyone with any other ideas to please forward them to me. **Now is the time to bring out your ideas for the full Committee's consideration. Depending upon the receipt of additional proposals, it is my intent to bring all proposals up for discussion and a vote at the May meeting.** It is my anticipation that such a vote would identify which proposal we wish to pursue as our primary line of effort with the goal of ultimately recommending an edited and finalized version to the BOG later in the year. That should provide everyone and the various subcommittees approximately two additional months to put together any other ideas and provide input on the existing proposals. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding this course of action.

Potential Subcommittee Reorganization

Finally, after consultation with various Committee members and hearing the comments at the full Committee meeting about the overlap of the various subcommittees, I am strongly considering reorganizing our subcommittees from the current structure to either: 1) retain the current subcommittees but clarify what is and is not in each subcommittee's purview; or 2) start over with new subcommittees with clear areas of responsibility, i.e. Law Student Subcommittee, Practitioner Subcommittee, and Education and Outreach Subcommittee (or something like that). Please take some time at your upcoming subcommittee meetings and at the next full Committee meeting to think about this idea, and whether or not we should keep the existing subcommittees or try a different approach. **I welcome any thoughts or comments you may have in advance on this subject.**

As always, thank you to all of you for your service. I look forward to seeing you on the 17th!

Regards,

Hunter

Hunter M. Abell

Williams Kastner | Attorney at Law
601 Union Street, Suite 4100
Seattle, WA 98101-2380
P: 206-233-2885 | F: 206-628-6611
www.williamskastner.com | [Bio](#) | [V-Card](#)

WASHINGTON OREGON