



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND
FAIRNESS

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

August 15, 2024

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Virtual

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Kevin Brazile (Cochair), Hon. Victor Rodriguez (Cochair), Ms. Morgan Baxter, Hon. Jose Castillo, Hon. Thomas Delaney, Hon. Rebekah Evenson, Ms. Ana Maria Garcia, Hon. Clare Keithley, Hon. Victoria Kolakowski, Hon. Sunil Kulkarni, Hon. Cynthia Loo, Ms. Shirley Luo, Hon. Lia Martin, Mr. Lawrence Meyer, Ms. Kemi Mustapha, Ms. Julie Paik, Ms. Andrea Pella, Hon. Michael Rhoads, Ms. Fariba Soroosh, Hon. Terry Truong, and Hon. Laura Walton.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Judith Dulcich, Hon. Amy Guerra, Hon. Richard Lee, Hon. Elizabeth Macias, Ms. Nina Magno, Mr. Michael Powell, Ms. Twila White, and Mr. Mitchell Wunsh.

Others Present: Ms. Deanna Adams, Ms. Irene Balajadia, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Veronica Lewis, Ms. Amanda Morris, Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Ms. Chio Saephanh, and Hon. Charles A. Smiley, III.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 20, 2024, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness meeting. Ms. Fariba Soroosh abstained from voting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-3)

Item 1

Language Access Subcommittee Update

Presenter: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three, and Co-chair of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

Justice Victor Rodriguez updated committee members on multiple language access projects. The Language Access Signage & Technology Grants, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (Cycle 6) is scheduled to go to the Council for approval in September 2024. If approved by the council, intra-branch agreements will be drafted for the awarded courts in October. For Cycle 7, staff plans to launch applications in Spring 2025. The California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program received 1,107 applications from potential candidates. Staff will be working with the pilot courts to select candidates for the first cohort, which will

start January 1, 2025. The Language Access Subcommittee will meet on August 22nd, to review language access projects and highlights from the 2023 Language Access Data Tool.

Item 2

2024 Pathways to Justice Conference

Presenter: *Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts*

Ms. Resendiz-Johnson informed committee members about an upcoming legal services provider focused conference called the Pathways to Justice Conference which will be held for the first time, in person, since 2019. It is scheduled for October 29 and 30 in San Francisco, at the Milton Marks Conference Center. The conference is being organized and sponsored by The State Bar of California, The Legal Aid Association of California, and the Judicial Council.

Item 3

Draft Report – Addressing Racial Disparities and Improving Equity in California’s Adult Collaborative Programs

Presenters: *Hon. Charles A. Smiley, III, Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, and Co-Chair of the Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Collaborative Justice Court Advisory Committee*

Ms. Veronica D. Lewis, Director, Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System, and Co-Chair of the Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Collaborative Justice Court Advisory Committee

Judge Smiley and Ms. Lewis presented to committee members on the draft report of addressing racial disparities and Improving Equity in California’s Adult Collaborative Court system. The report is an initial effort by the subcommittee to focus on four overall priority areas to promote collaboration at the state and local levels. Each priority area includes actionable recommendations that cover a range of council or court opportunities, such as improving practices and procedures in adult collaborative programs, program assessment and data evaluation, training and education, and promoting improved access to culturally responsive treatment and services.

Action: *Motion to approve the draft report and recommendations by Judge Kolakowski, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Meyer and Judge Brazile. There were no oppositions or abstentions. Motion carried.*

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56.

Approved by the advisory body on **October 17, 2024**.