



## **Safe Harbor Fund Board of Trustees**

### ***DRAFT Meeting Minutes***

*Thursday, February 19, 2026, 10:00AM*

#### **In Attendance:**

Treasurer Erick Russell (chair), Colin Host, Dr. Iyanna Liles, Juancarlos Soto, Liz Gustafson  
Staff: Jennifer Putetti, Director of Strategic Initiatives

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Treasurer gave welcoming remarks and board members introduced themselves

#### **Fundraising Update**

Treasurer provided an update on fundraising efforts:

- Initial fundraising will likely begin from CT based funders.
- Other states are introducing legislation to create their own funds.
- The office is working with For the Long Term to establish a centralized fund, which can serve as a mechanism to facilitate coalition work and distribution of funds based on need.

#### **Review & Approve Policies and Procedures**

Treasurer gave a brief overview of the draft policies and procedures and opened the floor for questions or comments.

Colin Host raised an issue around the statutory definition of “youth” and whether that limits the impact of the fund. Treasurer took note as possible reconsideration for changing the statute.

Liz Gustafson provided a comment reflecting her appreciation for the ability to consider applications on a case-by-case basis when appropriate.

Dr. Liles asked about pregnancy and contraception and whether individuals who need to travel to receive prenatal care would be covered. The Treasurer responded that the office will need to investigate further to see if that is allowable under the statute.

Treasurer requested a motion to adopt the policies and procedures as drafted. Colin Host made the motion, and Dr. Liles second. Board members in attendance approved the policies and procedures with no revisions.

### **Announcement of Application Process**

Treasurer provided an update on the application process. The Office of the Treasurer expects to be able to open the application period shortly after the fund receives its first contribution. It is expected that the board will be able to approve grants at its next meeting.

Dr. Liles asked whether board members would be able to review the draft application. Treasurer responded affirmatively.

Liz Gustafson asked whether there will be a public announcement regarding the application period. Treasurer responded that there will be an announcement and public outreach, including a press release.

### **2026 Meeting Dates**

Treasurer announced the meeting dates for 2026:

- June 4th
- September 10th
- December 3rd

Dr. Liles asked if the meetings will be an hour long. The Treasurer responded affirmatively.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Liles moved to adjourn, Juan Carlos Soto seconded, and the board approved unanimously.