

Minutes for Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission

May 5, 2022

Hybrid In-Person & Virtually

Call to Order

Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022, in the Main Conference Room of the Central Support Office of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services (located at 351 Collins Road Boise, ID) and virtually via Microsoft Teams. It was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. MT, but due to technical difficulties was called to order at 8:43 a.m. MT.

Attendees

Commission Members in attendance: **Rockey Davis, Jinny Cash, Art Gimpel, Josh Callihan** (absent due to illness).

IDVS Staff Members in attendance included: IDVS Chief Administrator **Mark Tschampl**, IDVS Deputy Chief Administrator **Tracy Schaner**, IDVS Business Support Services Bureau Chief **Paul Spannkebel**, ISVH-Boise Administrator **Rick Holloway**, ISVH-Lewiston Administrator **Mark High**, ISVH-Pocatello Administrator **Josiah Dahlstrom** (virtually), OVA Bureau Chief **Bill Heyob**, Cemetery Bureau Chief **James Earp**, Blackfoot Cemetery Business Operations Specialist **Mark Weaver** (virtually), Financial Specialist Senior **Sonya LaCasse**, and Management Assistant **Kevin Wallior**.

Number of Citizens in attendance: 0

Announcements

New Commissioner Rockey Davis was announced. Rockey Davis is Navy Veteran who retired after 20 years of service. He also is a former state Veterans Service Officer.

With the departure of Commissioner Patrick Grace, a new Chairman needed to be appointed. Commissioner Art Gimpel nominated Commissioner Jinny Cash, who politely declined. Commissioner Gimpel then nominated Commissioner Josh Callihan. Commissioner Cash seconded. With unanimous assent, Commissioner Callihan was appointed Chairman of IVAC.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on October 21, 2021, was made by Commissioner **Rockey Davis**. Commissioner **Art Gimpel** seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Community Outreach

With Community Resource Coordinator Mitzi Cheldelin absent, Chief Administrator Mark Tschampl provided an update on Mitzi's Outreach efforts since the last meeting. He highlighted Mitzi's efforts to connect with Veterans Organizations around the state and her participation in Veterans events. Including:

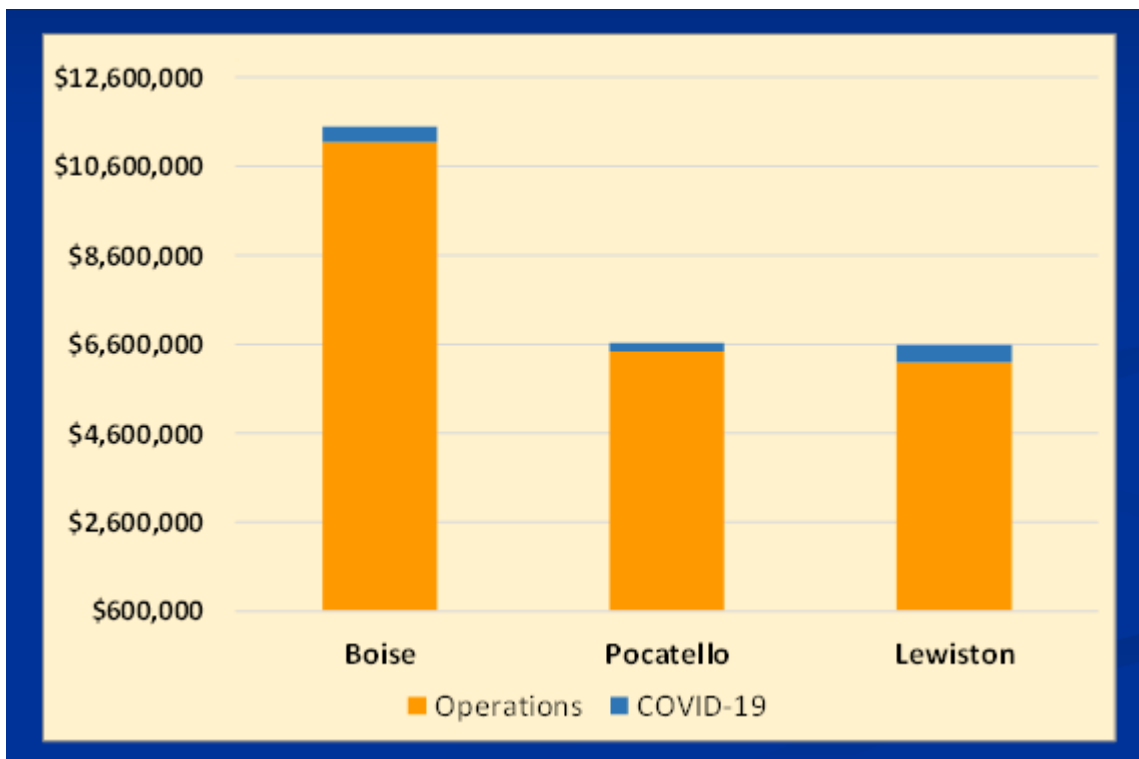
- Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration
- Memorial Day Ceremony at Idaho State Veterans Cemetery – Boise
- Multiple USS Idaho Commission Events

Mitzi is working to compile a comprehensive list of all the organizations and services available to Veterans and their families in Idaho.

Division Bureau Reports

Financial Report presented by Sonya LaCasse

1. Quarterly All Costs Per Resident Day
 - a. Quarter 4 – April to June 2021
 - i. Boise Home - \$518.85
 - ii. Pocatello Home - \$604.83
 - iii. Lewiston Home - \$558.78
 - b. Quarter 1 – July to September 2021
 - i. Boise Home - \$445.67
 - ii. Pocatello Home - \$483.84
 - iii. Lewiston Home - \$381.03
 - c. Quarter 2 – October to December 2021
 - i. Boise Home - \$498.44
 - ii. Pocatello Home - \$732.51
 - iii. Lewiston Home - \$483.00
 - d. Quarter 3 – January to March 2022
 - i. Boise Home - \$533.93
 - ii. Pocatello Home - \$561.77
 - iii. Lewiston Home - \$487.11
2. Annual COVID-19 Costs Per Resident Day
 - a. FY2021
 - i. Boise Home - \$205.88
 - ii. Pocatello Home - \$72.89
 - iii. Lewiston Home - \$69.54
 - b. FY2022
 - i. Boise Home - \$17.20
 - ii. Pocatello Home - \$21.41
 - iii. Lewiston Home - \$32.52
3. YTD Costs – Operations & COVID-19



4. Quarterly Occupancy Rates
 - a. Quarter 4 – April to June 2021
 - i. Boise Home – 39%
 - ii. Pocatello Home – 66%
 - iii. Lewiston Home – 88%
 - b. Quarter 1 – July to September 2021
 - i. Boise Home – 48%
 - ii. Pocatello Home – 71%
 - iii. Lewiston Home – 88%
 - c. Quarter 2 – October to December 2021
 - i. Boise Home – 49%
 - ii. Pocatello Home – 69%
 - iii. Lewiston Home – 88%
 - d. Quarter 3 – January to March 2022
 - i. Boise Home – 48%
 - ii. Pocatello Home – 68%
 - iii. Lewiston Home – 88%
5. FY 2023 Charge Changes (Private Pay)
 - a. 8% increase from \$204/day to \$219/day
 - b. Average cost of other Idaho Nursing Homes - \$308.56/day
 - c. Last time increased – 5% on 6/1/19; FY21 included medical supplies ancillary in daily rate
Chief Administrator Tschampl spoke on the increase to the private pay rate. This change only impacts approximately 22 Veterans and spouses. It's prudent to make this adjustment due to the increased cost of care. VA funding and Medicare/Medicaid do annual increases, generally 2-3%. This applies to most of our residents. The VA recently approved a temporary increase but is heavily considering making the change permanent.
6. FY2022 Budget:
 - a. Fiscal year end coming fast
 - b. Continue to watch revenue and cash flow
 - c. Using cash reserves due to lower census (decreased revenue) and increased expenditures
 - d. Received CARES Act funding in supplemental request – will make expenditure adjustments to regain cash spent from other fundings
 - e. Prior Year Reappropriation
 - i. Veterans Home COVID 19 Response
 - ii. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for State Homes
 - iii. Staffing and Supplement and PPE
 - iv. Post Falls Equipment – IT & Vehicle
 - v. Veterans Contract List
 - vi. Blackfoot Cemetery Funding Realignment
 - vii. Post Falls Grant Project
 - viii. Boise Veterans Cemetery Expansion
 - ix. Post Falls Construction Costs
7. FY2023 Budget Appropriation - \$52,819,000
 - a. Federal Funds – 50% - \$26,632,200
 - b. Miscellaneous Revenue – 43% - \$22,583,700
 - c. General Funds – 2.9% - \$1,531,800

- i. \$240,500 Change in Benefit Costs
 - ii. \$738,600 Inflationary Adjustments
 - iii. \$296,400 Replacement Items
 - iv. \$129,700 Statewide Cost Allocation
 - v. \$1,811,200 Change in Employee Compensation - 3% pay line move (Classified and Temporary Employees) and \$1.25/hr increase distributed based on merit (Classified Employees)
- d. Veterans Recognition Income – 2% - \$1,1195,000
 - e. Endowment Income – 2% - \$876,300
 - f. FY2023 Budget Highlights:
 - i. \$90,000 Loan Forgiveness/Tuition Assistance
 - ii. \$60,000 Additional Staff for Boise Cemetery – Cemetery Caretaker
 - iii. \$43,000 New Capital Outlay – bariatric beds, electric recliners, ice machine, and conference room furniture
 - iv. \$7,154,900 Post Falls Home Prorated Operations
 - v. \$3,731,900 – COVID Relief Act for Nursing Homes
 - vi. \$3,132,400 Reappropriation Authority for Blackfoot Cemetery
 - vii. \$42,918,900 Reappropriation Authority for Post Falls Nursing Home
 - g. FY2023 DPW Projects
 - i. Project No. 22604 – Private Room Conversions, Veterans Homes - \$75,000,000
 - ii. Project No. 23600 – Roadwork Improvements/Erosion Control, Cemetery, Blackfoot - \$125,000
 - iii. Project No. 23601 – Replace Chillers, Pocatello Veterans Home - \$308,000
 - iv. Project No. 23602 – Reseal Parking Lot and Fire Lane, Lewiston Veterans Home - \$120,000
 - h. FY2024 Budget Request
 - i. Started budget training in March
 - ii. Address future requirements, objectives, and Veterans Recognition annual allocation plan
 - iii. Submit agency budget request by August 31, 2022

Boise Veterans Home Report presented by **Rick Holloway**

- 1. Average daily census for the 2nd and 3rd quarter of FY22 was 81 nursing care residents – 66% occupancy.
 - a. Biggest challenge is lack of capacity due to staffing challenges. Cannot go above 90 currently.
 - b. 34 of 50 CNA positions are vacant.
 - c. Working with CSO to implement a market equity increase for staff.
 - d. PPD running at 4 nursing hours per patient day.
 - e. If we don't have census, we don't have funds. Very important that we increase our census. A decrease in census reduces revenue which in turn negatively impacts spending.

Commissioner Cash asked what was being done to recruit? Are we offering mileage? Other incentives? We are unable to offer mileage reimbursement, but we have increased wages to stay competitive. We are researching paying certifications – would create a pipeline from Nurses Aid to CNA to LPN to RN. Partnering with colleges and nursing programs to funnel students into our organization. Looking at walk-in interviews.

- 2. Major Maintenance/DPW Projects
 - a. Replaced west side elevators.

Questions and comments from the Commissioners:

No questions or comments.

Pocatello Veterans Home Report presented **Josiah Dahlstrom**

1. Similar staffing concerns as the Boise Veterans Home.
 - a. Had recent success hiring.
 - b. 2 new RNs are onboarding and 3 new CNAs.
2. Census for the 2nd and 3rd quarter of FY22
 - a. Averaging 42, currently at 44 residents
 - b. Have 7 Veterans interested in admission, but staffing levels prevent admission.
3. Student Hours increased. Student partnerships renewing has been successful.
4. DPW/Maintenance
 - a. Doors/hardware/security project is ongoing.
 - b. Converted the staff lounge to a shower room on East Hall, and moved the staff lounge to a new location.
 - c. Updated the paint and color scheme in several areas throughout the home.
 - d. Front parking lot and drainage system is being replaced this coming summer.
 - e. 2 boilers are being replaced.
 - f. 30 shares/semi-private rooms will be converted into 66 single/private rooms.
5. Been fostering a relationship with the Veterans Mobility Corps
 - a. Veterans Mobility Corps has been responsible for donating hundreds of refurbished motorized wheelchairs to Veterans in need. Typically, only takes between 2-7 days to get a Veteran a motorized wheelchair compared to the months it can take the VA to approve.
6. Surveys
 - a. Anticipating an annual state survey soon, the last was conducted in August 2019!
 - b. Life Safety Survey was completed in November.
 - c. VA Survey likely to occur in June and resume the regular schedule.
7. Vaccine mandate
 - a. 115 total staff and contractors, all but 10 are vaccinated. Those 10 have approved exemptions. The Pocatello Home follows the CMS mandate.
8. Josiah played a video presentation created by his Activities Staff.

Questions and comments from the Commissioners:

No questions or comments.

Lewiston Veterans Home Report presented by **Mark High**

1. COVID Update
 - a. 26 staff and 21 residents contracted the COVID-19 Omicron variant.
 - b. Unfortunately, they lost one resident to COVID in late January.
 - c. No Veterans were admitted or re-admitted during the outbreak.
2. Census for the 2nd and 3rd quarter of FY22 averaged 74%. Current census is 49 (74%).
 - a. They have the staffing for up to 60 Veterans currently. Unfortunately, not getting the referrals to meet that level. This is an issue for all the facilities in the area. Census is down across the board.
 - b. Staffing levels have been helped by internal promotions. 3 CNAs were hired who began in the dietary and housekeeping departments. The Lewiston Home helped put them through the CNA program and were able to move them into the CNA pool, as a result. Two more staff are currently going through that process.

3. DPW Projects
 - a. Dining Room Expansion project is complete, and they are back to utilizing it.
 - b. New flooring project is nearly complete.
 - c. IVAL in Lewiston purchased and donated new art for the facility.
 - d. Doors/Security project is complete. As a bonus, a wrought iron gate w/inscription "We Love Our Veterans" was added in the courtyard. Secure access with keycode/card reader.
4. Volunteers
 - a. Returned in April
 - b. 7 have been helping, they are fully vaxxed.
5. No community Outings
 - a. The community rallied and brought the outings to the home.
 - b. Have conducted mini parades around the facility to ensure the Veterans they aren't forgotten.
6. Played a video presentation showcasing Activities, human interest stories, and morale in the Lewiston Home.

Questions and comments from the Commissioners:
 No Questions or comments.

BREAK – 9:50 – 10:05

Office of Veterans Advocacy Report presented by **Bill Heyob**

1. OVA Statistics comparing 3rd Quarter FY2022 Totals to 3rd Quarter FY2021 Totals

- OVA statistics comparing 3rd Qtr FY-2022 totals to FY-2021:

	<u>2022 YTD</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>
Interviews YTD	5,361	3,711	+ 1,650
Phone Interviews	36,222	32,371	+ 3,851
POAs Filed YTD	3,881	3,326	+ 555
Claims Filed YTD	6,826	5,224	+ 1,602
Correspondence	4,419	3,556	+ 863
Appeals YTD	364	284	+ 80
Home Visits	123	104	+ 19
Veterans Seen by			
OVA in Vet Courts	408	446	- 38
State Emergency			
Grants Approved	3	5	- 2

- Notable changes from March 2022 to March 2021: +226 Office Interviews, +22 POAs filed, +901 Claims Filed, +329 Pieces of Claims Correspondence.

2. Noteworthy Issues currently happening with the VA
 - a. Construction on the 2d floor of the Boise VARO is finished! Adds a state of the art telehealth capability to the Boise VAMC.
 - b. Masks are no longer required within the VARO.
 - c. The VA is in the process of approving 13 new types of rare respiratory cancers related to particulate matter, environmental exposure (Burn Pits). This is on top of the conditions of asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis already approved.

- d. VA has approved additional herbicide presumptive conditions (Vietnam)- Bladder Cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinsonism. VA has also ordered a new round of Nehmer Reviews pertaining to these and all herbicide presumptive conditions. VA has also centralized processing of all herbicide-presumptive claims to 12 different VAROs- Huge delays!
 - e. VA is preparing to make changes to the Mental Health, Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Tinnitus Rating Tables
 - f. Boise VARO is the test site for proof of concept of claim automation. Currently looking at single-issue claims filed electronically for hypertension. VA looking at expanding to additional conditions.
 - g. Boise VARO is still in the process of hiring new employees within the service center for expected increase of claims for additional SW Asia presumptive conditions.
 - h. The National Personnel Records Center has resumed normal operations as of March 7, 2022.
 - i. VA Medical Family Caregiver Program is preparing to expand to all generations of Veterans beginning October 1, 2022.
 - j. Boise VAMC preparing to roll out the Cerner VA Medical Records. There have been problems with implementation in other VAMCs. Boise VAMC is going to reduce appointments leading up to and following the implementation to try to reduce the impact.
3. Significant Event with OVA
- a. Personnel Changes in OVA:
 - i. Boise VARO: Lance Santiago (Retired), Shay Henry (took a job at Boise VARO). New Hires- Iris Higgins (Retired Air Force), Nick Percy (Marine Staff Sergeant).
 - ii. Caldwell DOL: Michele Padgette (Resigned), Replaced by Abel Silva (Retired Marine MSgt)
 - iii. Pocatello: Dan Arzola (Resigned), Arlene Davis-Cornwall (Retired), replaced by Ted McAuslan (Navy Veteran and Wyoming NG), Emberly Bertasso (Admin Assistant)
 - b. OVA conducted its Annual Retreat (after taking two years off due to Covid) at the Riverside Hotel April 19th and 20th. Conducted Annual Respectful Workplace Training, Presentations from Mark, Education, Cemetery, CSO, PERSI, VARO, VAMC Social Work and VA Office of the Inspector General.
 - c. The VFW spring Proficiency Training Course is being conducted at San Antonio, TX from May 9-13. Kelly McCartney and Jim Philpott will attend in-person while Joe Riener and Ted McAuslan attend remotely.
 - d. We will be conducting the 2022 County and Post Service Officer Training at the Riverside Hotel in Boise from August 3-5.
 - e. Outreaches being conducted in all counties across the State and many different outreach events to include the DAV State Convention, the Idaho Nuclear Lab Veteran Engagement Program and upcoming VFW State Conventions.
 - f. OVA was able to tell a Veteran he would be getting a retroactive payment for a claim erroneously denied in 2002. The total amount of the retroactive payment was >\$600,000. The Veteran will also be getting a monthly payment of ~\$3,000 related to this correction to his disability claim.

Questions and comments from the Commissioners:

No questions or comments.

Veterans Cemetery Report presented by James Earp

1. ISVC 3rd Quarter FY2022 YTD Interments
 - a. Boise – 718
 - 467 Veterans
 - 251 Dependents
 - b. Blackfoot – 41
 - 34 Veterans
 - 7 Dependents
2. Interment Revenue 3rd Quarter FY2022 YTD Revenue
 - a. Boise – \$633,211
 - b. Blackfoot – \$29,650
3. ISVC Volunteer Hours 3rd Quarter FY2022 YTD
 - a. 2039 hours
4. Notable Events
 - a. The National Day of Remembrance and Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremonies were performed at Boise and Blackfoot. An estimated 500 people attended the Boise ceremony and through the generous donations of our community, over 5,800 wreaths were placed at gravesites throughout the cemetery.
 - b. The official dedication of the Veterans Cemetery in Blackfoot was held on October 29th. This momentous ceremony was attended by the Veterans and families of Eastern Idaho. Speakers included Governor Little, Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs Matthew Quinn, and Mayor Marc Carroll.



(Pictured: Mark Tschampl, Mark Weaver, Gov. Little, USMA Quinn)

- c. The incredible employees of Idaho’s State Veterans Cemeteries provided 984 interment services for Idaho families in 2021. Their unwavering compassion, attention to detail, and technical competencies continue to develop a pronounced reputation of customer care and national shrine standards of appearance.
5. DPW Projects
 - a. DPW 20-606 – Boise Veterans Cemetery Expansion
 - Project presented to PBFAC as of January 5, 2020.

- Project is submitted as a VA Construction Grant Expansion Project, requires annual review for selection and funding approval
- Completed project will add additional Columbarium Walls, surveyed plots for urn burials, and a new Memorial Wall courtyard.
- Estimated project completion and opening – TBD. VCGP
- Total project budget \$840,000
- Total construction budget \$646,000



- b. DPW 22-601 – Replaced HVAC System, Boise
 - The project is at substantial completion as of 4/26/22. Contractor has minor punch list of items to address.
 - Add alternate approved to add a second AC unit in the server room – completed.
 - Total project budget \$46,565
 - Authorized funding \$120,000.
- c. DPW 21-605 – ISVC-Blackfoot Project
 - April 2022, Contractor selected for design build of the project is Headwaters Construction Company of Victor, Idaho.
 - Pending PBFAC approval at the May 3, 2022 meeting
 - The completed project will add a 30x60 ft storage building, expanded maintenance bay, conference room addition, and public restrooms.
 - An additional request has been made to add an employee breakroom.
 - Nov. 2021, Initial construction bids rejected. DPW recommends new RFQ for design-build process
 - Estimated project completion Summer 2023
- d. DPW 17-603 – Southeast Idaho Veterans Cemetery
 - Remaining work to complete Memorial Wall for scatter garden and in memory of markers
 - Reports of remaining deficiencies submitted to DPW to require contractor repairs
 - Finalizing VA approved reimbursement
 - Total project budget \$7,371,817
 - Total construction budget \$5,741,171

6. The Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2022

- a. The intent of the Burial Equity for Guard and Reserves Act is to allow State, Tribal, and Territorial Veterans Cemeteries the option to provide non-Veteran Reservists, Guardsman, and their eligible spouses and dependents burial in a Veterans Cemetery that receives Veterans Affairs (VA) grant funding for establishment, expansion, and improvement, and continued burial plot allowances for Veteran burials. National Veterans Cemeteries will not participate in any burial or inurnment of non-Veteran servicemembers.
- b. Non-Veteran burials will not include VA provided headstones or markers – burial plot allowances – use of other VA or National Cemetery Administration (NCA) resources that include use of eligibility and scheduling offices.
- c. Greater planning and discussions on incorporating non-Veteran National Guard and Reservists to

- Idaho's State Veterans Cemeteries are pending.
- d. Will likely require changes to Idaho Code and IDAPA Rules.
 - e. The VA supports this, but space is a concern.

Questions and comments from the Commissioners:

No Questions or comments.

Business Support Services Report presented by **Paul Spannkebel**

Education

Shannon Lambert, the new Veterans Education Program Specialist, introduced herself to the Commission. Gave a brief overview/refresher of what the Veterans Education Program does in Idaho.

1. Approve programs for education benefits. Includes Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL), Non-College Degree Programs (NCD), On the Job Training Programs (OJT), and apprenticeships.
2. Partnered with the Idaho Department of Labor for approving OJT and apprenticeships. This partnership will eliminate duplicated work regarding approval of OJT and apprenticeship programs.

HR Report

Paul introduced Olivia Howard; a new HR Specialist hire stationed in the CSO. Olivia will primarily focus on recruiting for open positions throughout the Agency. She will be conducting the initial hires for the new Post Falls State Veterans Home as we get closer to opening that facility.

1. Change in Employee Compensation (CEC)
 - a. 3% for all staff including temps. Authorized to implement early, this increase went into effect March 20th.
 - b. An additional \$1.25 was approved as a performance-based CEC. The actual increase was dependent upon the eval; higher evals received larger increases. Pay increase goes into effect in June.
 - c. CNA wages were adjusted to make them more competitive.
 - i. Starting hourly for CNAs last year was \$13.88/hour.
 - ii. Increased to \$17.50-\$18.50/hour beginning in June.
2. A full quarter of the available positions in our Agency are currently vacant.
 - a. Everything is on the table to try and recruit. Individual bonuses, market equity, etc.
 - b. Recruiting is a Sisyphean hurdle.
 - c. Legislature has considered legislation related to staffing agency price gouging.
3. DHR will be taking over responsibility for ensuring Veterans Preference in Public Employment.
4. Phase 2 for HR Modernization implementation is targeted for January 2023.
5. CMS Vaccine Mandate for Health Services
 - a. Religious and medical exemptions were allowed.
 - b. Still 5-10% of our turnover cited the Vaccine mandate as a reason to depart, none of them applied for nor were they denied exemptions.

Questions from the Commissioners:

No questions or comments

Central Support Office Updates

Legislative Update presented by **Kevin Wallior**

The legislature adjourned sine die on Thursday, March 31, 2022. During the 81-day legislative session several bills passed impacting Idaho Veterans and the Idaho Division of Veterans Services. The one that received the most fan fare was Governor Little's Leading Idaho Plan which included \$75 million for refurbishing the Idaho State Veterans

Homes in Pocatello and Lewiston and completely rebuilding the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise. The \$75 million would be utilized as the state's 35% match required for the VA Home Construction Grant Program. Other notable pieces of legislation that passed include:

[HB461](#) and [HB506](#) which expand eligibility for [the Armed Forces and Public Safety Officer Scholarship](#).

[HB697](#) which expands eligibility for Gold Star License Plates.

[SB1237](#) is a piece of legislation that moves oversight of Veterans Preference for Public Employment over to the Division of Human Resources.

[SB1268](#) amends existing law to allow for the issuance of no-cost identification cards to persons who are homeless. This is not explicitly a Veterans bill but will be beneficial to unhoused Veterans.

[SB1410](#) is the IDVS appropriations bill.

Central Support Office Updates presented by **Tracy Schaner**

1. Post Falls is on track to open in November 2022.
 - a. Looking at Veterans Day for the commemoration of the facility.
 - b. Showed progress photos, which are available on the IDVS website.
2. Working on the Grants for the renovations of the Pocatello and Lewiston Homes and the rebuild of the Boise Home.
 - a. Dom/Res program will be ending because of the Boise Home Replacement.
 - b. The building will be 5 stories.
 - c. Boise Kickoff meeting will be the second week of May.
 - d. Currently #45 on the priority list; with funding approved by the Legislature we should move up the list. We'll know for sure in January/February 2023.

5/04/2022

<u>IDVS Active Construction Grants</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>Federal Funding</u>	<u>State Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Post Falls Home (4 grants)	\$ 54,488,035.41	\$ 34,967,642.61	\$ 19,520,392.80	
64-Bed New Construction	\$ 50,282,117.99	\$ 30,761,725.19	\$ 19,520,392.80	Awarded
COVID #1 – Infection Control Upgrades	\$ 3,242,247.02	\$ 3,242,247.02		Awarded
COVID #2 – Durable Surfaces	\$ 400,724.52	\$ 400,724.52		Awarded
COVID #3 – Bulk Oxygen	\$ 562,945.88	\$ 562,945.88		Awarded
Lewiston & Pocatello Homes (1 grant)	\$ 2,138,137.00	\$ 1,389,789.05	\$ 748,347.95	
Lewiston Dining Rm Expansion	\$ 711,309.00	\$ 462,350.85	\$ 248,958.15	Awarded
Lewiston Flooring Replacement	\$ 517,561.00	\$ 336,414.65	\$ 181,146.35	Awarded
Lewiston Door Security	\$ 160,227.00	\$ 104,147.55	\$ 56,079.45	Awarded
Pocatello Handrails & Wall Protection	\$ 212,401.00	\$ 138,060.65	\$ 74,340.35	Awarded
Pocatello Doors & Door Security	\$ 536,639.00	\$ 348,815.35	\$ 187,823.65	Awarded
Boise Cemetery (1 grant)	\$ 1,005,479.05	\$ 1,005,479.05	\$ 100,547.91 (initial 10% State commitment/A&E- Reimbursable)	
Boise Cemetery Expansion	\$ 1,005,479.05	\$ 1,005,479.05	\$ 66,500.00	Grant Submitted Remaining \$34,048 pending budget & grant approval)
Private Room Leading Idaho Project (3 grants)	\$ 213,357,142.85	\$ 138,357,142.85	\$ 75,000,000.00	
Boise 152-Bed Replacement- Private Bed/Bath	\$105,737,180.00	\$ 68,404,167.00	\$ 37,333,013.00	Grant Submitted
Lewiston 66-Bed Renovate- Private Bed/Bath	\$ 52,810,500.00	\$ 34,326,825.00	\$ 18,483,675.00	Grant Submitted
Pocatello 66-Bed Renovate- Private Bed/Bath	\$ 54,809,462.85	\$ 35,626,150.85	\$ 19,183,312.00	Grant Submitted
GRAND TOTAL	\$270,988,794.31	\$175,720,053.56	\$ 95,369,288.66	

Chief Administrator Remarks presented by **Mark Tschampl**

Chief Administrator Tschampl mentioned a lot of exciting projects are on the horizon and reiterated the high quality of service Team IDVS provides to Idaho Veterans.

Emphasized that the 2022 Legislative Session was successful for Veterans. The Idaho Defense Alliance plan to present legislation next year seeking to make military retirement pay tax exempt at the state level (already tax exempt federally). This is a drive to recruit skilled workers to relocate to Idaho. IDVS will not be leading the push for this legislation but will be assisting with information and support.

VA Governor's Challenge – prescriptive from the VA, which is why Idaho did not start last year. This year grant funding is available for starting suicide prevention programs. The Idaho National Guard, IDHW, the VA, IDVS and other interested organizations will collaborate and set specific statewide objectives/goals to address suicide prevention, particularly in rural communities. This is an attempt to reduce duplicative work and increase efficiency to better serve Veterans. This initiative is in the beginning stages. The Idaho National Guard will take lead, and IDVS is secondary.

Transunion/Veterans Connect Project – there were a lot of legal and logistical hurdles to clear to be able to gain access to Transunion's data related to Veterans in Idaho. Primarily proof of data security. IDVS will not be abusing this data. It will specifically be utilized for outreach efforts and to connect Veterans to available services and inform them of important information related to the Veterans community and potential legislative impacts.

New Business

Recruiting is ongoing for the Vacant Commissioner spot.

Commissioner Cash suggested that even when there are not enough Commissioner for a quorum that IVAC conduct a meeting.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

Commissioners voted to suspend the Veterans Recognition Fund for another year due to depleted funds.

Commissioner Davis Motion to adjourn at 11:30 AM. Commissioner Gimpel seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM MT

Kevin R. Wallior
Management Assistant
Idaho Division of Veteran Services