

Minutes for Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission

October 2, 2025

Hybrid In-Person & Virtually

Call to Order – 8:30 AM MT

The Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission Meeting was held on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at the Idaho Division of Veterans Services Central Support Office (351 N. Collins Road Boise, ID 83702) and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Attendees

Commission Members in attendance: **Chairman Josh Callihan, Art Gimpel, Jinny Cash, Eugene Brown, David Maxwell**

Commission Members absent: **Jinny Cash**

IDVS Staff Members in attendance: IDVS Chief Administrator **Mark Tschamp**, Deputy Chief Administrator **Tracy Schaner**, ISVH-Boise Administrator **Rick Holloway**, ISVH-Lewiston Home Administrator **Mark High**, ISVH-Pocatello Home Administrator **Josiah Dahlstrom** (Virtual). ISVH-Post Falls Home Administrator **Amber Goodchild**, OVA Bureau Chief **Bill Heyob** (Virtual), Idaho State Veterans Cemeteries Bureau Chief **Jacob Faulkner**, Business Support Bureau Chief **Paul Spannkebel**, Fiscal Officer **Sonya LaCasse**, VOCS Director **Mitzi Cheldelin**, Community Resource Specialist **Robertta Matulis** (Virtual), **Kirsten Murphy** Quality Improvement Director, and Management Assistant **Kevin Wallior**.

Guests from Partner Agencies: Budget and Policy Analyst **Frances Lippitt** (Idaho Legislative Services Office)

Number of Citizens in attendance: 1.

Introductions & Announcements

Robertta Matulis was introduced as the newest Community Resource Specialist in the Veterans Outreach and Community Support Team. She serves the eastern Idaho catchment area. Kirsten Murphy explained the role she plays in the State Veterans Homes' mission as the Quality Improvement Director. Frances Lippitt introduced herself as the LSO Budget and Policy Analyst assigned to our agency.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Callihan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on April 16, 2025. **Commissioner Brown** motioned for approval of the minutes. **Commissioner Gimpel** seconded. The motion was approved with unanimous assent.

Division Bureau Reports

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

	Census				
	Nursing Care			Medicare A	
	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census	Occupancy Rate	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census
July	2,446	79	99%	0	0.0
August	2,409	78	97%	0	0.0
September	2,364	79	99%	0	0.0
Total/Avg	7,219	78	98%	0	0.0

Census is capped at 80 (licensed at 120), and hovers between 77-80 depending on hospitalizations. This reduction in

beds is in preparation for the construction project for the new home which necessitates the demolition of the East Wing. The Boise Home is in the process of vacating the East Wing in preparation. All residents, staff, and the pharmacy have relocated to other parts of the building.

The Boise Home will be hosting Social Work Interns from Boise State through May 2026.

The new bus, which was donated by the Borbonus Family, has made it possible to take residents with larger wheelchairs on community outings. The old bus could not transport those veterans.

The Boise Home has low turnover compared to national trends in skilled nursing facilities.

Last Annual Surveys:

State: 05/12-16/2025; follow up with substantial compliance 07/01/2025

Life Safety: 04/08/2025; substantial compliance on that date

VA: 04/18-21/2025; follow up with attestation of substantial compliance sent 09/23/2025

Questions/comments: none.

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

	Census				
	Nursing Care			Medicare A	
	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census	Occupancy Rate	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census
July	1,408	45	69%	61	2.0
August	1,564	50	76%	62	2.0
September	1,542	51	78%	32	1.1
Total/Avg	4,514	49	74%	155	1.7

Census is increasing slowly. Admissions are high, but so are discharges. This is indicative of the success the Lewiston Home has in caring for rehab patients and getting them to a point where they can return home.

IDVS is awaiting the VA Construction Grant Priority List. If the Lewiston Renovation project is high enough on the list to get funded, we will have everything ready and will be able to accept the grant opportunity.

Trunk or Treating is coming back to the Lewiston Veterans Home for the first time since before CoVID.

Lewiston IVAL replaced all Resident Room TVs with 52" flat screen televisions. These televisions are Bluetooth-enabled and can connect to residents' hearing aids.

The Lewiston Home is in the middle of a kitchen remodel. They are utilizing catering until the project is complete.

At the end of the briefing, showcased a slideshow video of the various activities and events Veterans participated in during the previous quarter.

Last Annual Surveys:

State: 07/17/2025; follow up w/substantial compliance 09/04/25

Life Safety: 08/26/2025; POC was accepted 9/9/25; substantial compliance pending

VA: 06/16/2025; CAP accepted; substantial compliance pending

Questions/comments: no comments.

Pocatello Veterans Home Report presented by **Josiah Dahlstrom**

	Census				
	Nursing Care			Medicare A	
	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census	Occupancy Rate	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census
July	1,634	53	80%	32	1.0
August	1,608	52	79%	20	0.6
September	1,626	54	82%	30	1.0
Total/Avg	4,868	53	80%	82	0.9

Pocatello Home Census continues to hover around 80%. It came close to 90% at times during the previous quarter.

Actively working to reduce spending on Staffing Agencies; almost all open positions have been filled.

Highlighted the Blackfoot Movie Mill for providing discounts and reserving screens so that our Veterans Home residents are able to view new movies.

Showcased a slideshow video of the various activities and events Veterans participated in during the previous quarter.

Last Annual Surveys:

State: 08/07/25; follow up with substantial compliance 09/22/25

Life Safety: 09/25/25; follow up with substantial compliance pending the results of the survey.

VA: 07/29/25; follow up with substantial compliance 12/15/25 Questions/comments: no comments.

Post Falls Veterans Home Report presented by **Amber Goodchild**

	Census				
	Nursing Care			Medicare A	
	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census	Occupancy Rate	Days of Care	Avg Daily Census
July	1,798	58	91%	0	0.0
August	1,821	59	92%	19	0.6
September	1,763	59	92%	27	0.9
Total/Avg	5,382	59	91%	46	0.5

The Post Falls Census has been steady, beginning the second week of October the Post Falls Home will fill the final five available beds.

Amber highlighted a collaboration with the Veterans Outreach and Community Support (VOCS) team that helped move a Veteran from an unsafe/medically neglectful circumstance and into the Post Falls Veterans Home.

Beginning October 2, CNA students from North Idaho College will begin clinical rotations with the Post Falls Veterans Home.

Construction finally began on a long-term fix for the Post Falls HVAC system. This work is being paid for by contractors and not IDVS or the state of Idaho.

Last Annual Surveys:

State: 7/28/2025 – 8/1/2025; follow up with substantial compliance 9/24/2025

Life Safety: 3/5/2025; follow up with substantial compliance 3/18/2025
VA: 11/5/2024 – 11/7/2024; follow up with substantial compliance 5/20/2025

State Survey was conducted by a 3rd party team contracted by the State of Idaho Bureau of Facility Standards (BFS). The citations received primarily highlighted improvement areas in documentation practices. During the follow-up survey to determine substantial compliance, the Supervisor of the Long-Term Care Program at BFS was extremely complimentary of both the Post Falls team and their facility.

Questions/Comments: Chairman Callihan asked about the connection with North Idaho College. Amber stated that the Veterans Home began discussions with them in July to place CNA students in the Post Falls Veterans Home.

Veterans Cemetery Report presented by **Jake Faulkner**

DPW 20-606 Boise Cemetery Expansion

- 1. Memorial Wall-Completed, punch list items remain, landscaping to be completed this spring.

DPW 25-600 Shop Expansion-Secure Records

- 1. Final Design
- 2. Est. Completion Summer of '26

DPW 21-605 Admin Building Expansion (Blackfoot)

- 1. Construction Underway
- 2. Expected completion winter of 2025

FY2026 Approved Projects

- 1. ADA Access to Memorial Monument
- 2. Concrete Curbing-Lower Cemetery/New Road for Additional Access

Deferred Maintenance

Scatter Garden Handrail; Upper Memorial Road/Concrete; Wash Bay; Admin Floors; Roof Seal; and Wash Bay

ISVC Funded Improvements

ADA Parking & Stairway, Access Road between sections 1 and 5 (lower casket area)

Veteran Interments

Jul	Cemetery Boise: 63	Cemetery Blackfoot: 12	
Aug	Cemetery Boise: 58	Cemetery Blackfoot: 8	
Sep	Cemetery Boise: 50	Cemetery Blackfoot: 4	
YTD	Cemetery Boise: 171	Cemetery Blackfoot: 24	Total Cemetery Bureau: 195

Dependent Interments

Jul	Cemetery Boise: 31	Cemetery Blackfoot: 5	
Aug	Cemetery Boise: 24	Cemetery Blackfoot: 3	
Sep	Cemetery Boise: 26	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
YTD	Cemetery Boise: 81	Cemetery Blackfoot: 8	Total Cemetery Bureau: 89

Burial Equity Act Interments

Jul	Cemetery Boise: 1	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
Aug	Cemetery Boise: 0	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
Sep	Cemetery Boise: 0	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
YTD	Cemetery Boise: 1	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	Total Cemetery Bureau: 1

Burial Equity Act Dependent Interments

Jul	Cemetery Boise: 0	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
Aug	Cemetery Boise: 0	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
Sep	Cemetery Boise: 0	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	
YTD	Cemetery Boise: 0	Cemetery Blackfoot: 0	Total Cemetery Bureau: 0

YTD Total Burials 285; Boise 253 Blackfoot 32

Volunteer Hours

Jul	239
Aug	222
Sep	230
YTD	691

Other Important Events/Information

In September, the Idaho Women Veterans Memorial was unveiled.

The Idaho Wreaths program has been successful and will enter its second year this holiday season. Jake presented the program to his counterparts in other states during a national conference in Wyoming.

Questions/Comments: Chairman Callihan asked if there was a comparable survey process for the State Veterans Cemeteries as the State Veterans Homes. Jake responded that the NCA sends out surveys to families and funeral homes regarding their experiences.

OVA Report presented by Bill Heyob

OVA statistics comparing 1st Quarter FY2026 totals to 1st Quarter FY2025:

	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	Increase/Decrease
Interviews YTD	2,385	2,781	+ 396
POAs Filed YTD	1,664	1,415	- 249
Claims Filed YTD	2,818	2,546	- 272
Appeals YTD	64	48	- 16
BVA Hearings YTD	23	16	+ 7

Veterans Seen by

OVA in Vet Courts	121	87	- 34
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Noteworthy Issues Currently Happening with the VA

- Partial Government Shutdown (?) We are still awaiting guidance on how this will impact our OVA Staff, especially for those of us who work in the VA Regional Office.
- PACT Act updated numbers- Since August 10, 2022, Idaho Veterans have submitted 17,700 Pact Act-related claims with over a 70% approval rate and \$77 Million in benefits paid out.
- Nationwide claims backlog (claims over 125 days old) is at 145k claims.
- There are currently 4,000 claims for Idaho Veterans pending with an average of 123.5 days for claims to be completed.
- Targeted Mandatory Overtime continues for the Boise VA Regional Office.
- Rshetta Smith will continue to serve as the Acting Boise VA Regional Office Director through the end of the calendar year.
- Boise VA Regional Office currently has 134 full-time claims processors working in the Service Center.

- 25k claims have been completed so far this year by the Boise VARO and they are currently #9 in the Country for Quality (working on improving Quality).
- Boise VARO remains instrumental in Automated claims processing.

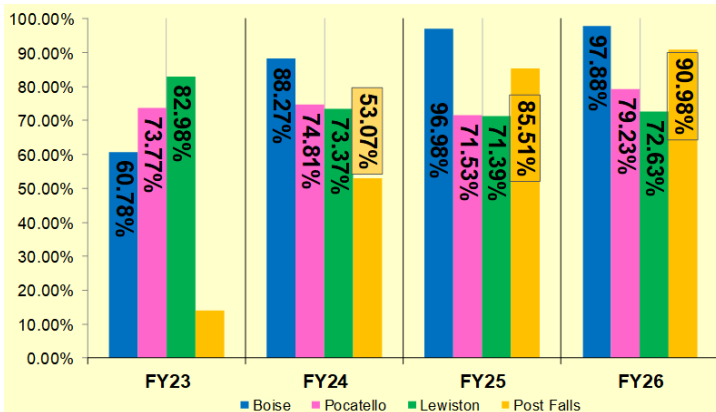
Significant Events within the OVA

- Results of this year's Employee Satisfaction Survey showed improvements from last year. Last year's survey results were satisfactory, but there was still improvement.
- American Legion Service Officer Training will be held October 19-24 at Leesburg, VA with Traci Colton, Frank Fabbi, Matt Ranstrom and Paul Burgin attending.
- Completed the VFW Skills Level and Basic Training in Annapolis, MD from September 21-25th. Bill Heyob, Frank Fabbi, Traci Colton, Arica Fox, Nick Percy, Joe Riener and Rodrigo Madrigal attended in person with Bob Smith, Jim Philpott, Eric Bobinski, Scott Thorsness and Emberly Bertasso attended remotely.
- The 2025 County and Post Service Officer Training was held on August 27-29th at the Riverside Hotel with 95 attendees.
- Kelly McCartney attended the National Women Veterans Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming September 6-11.
- Continuing to support the State Association of Counties, Idaho National Guard Pre-Retirement Briefings, Yellow Ribbon Events for the Guard and Reserve, Veteran Appreciation Fair at the Boise VAMC, Transition Assistance Program briefs at Mountain Home AFB and scheduled outreaches throughout the State.

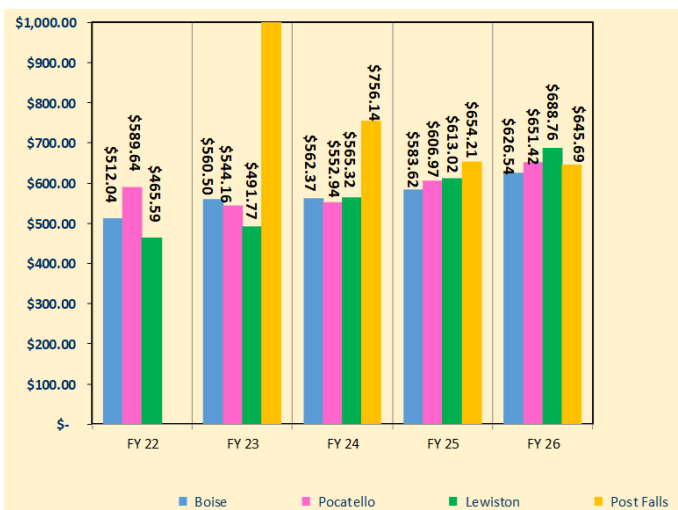
Questions/Comments: no comments.

Fiscal Report – presented by Sonya LaCasse

Average Census YTD Comparisons between the Homes:



FY25 Nursing YTD Average Cost Per Resident Day was \$649.34.



FY 26 Budget Appropriation – \$64,891,200

- General funds are 2.7% of the total budget.
- Maintenance items (benefits, replacement items, and change in employee compensation)
 - Replacement items – dump truck, beds, boiler pump, trash compactor, kitchen equipment, generator, UTV, 3 vehicles, lifts, bath chairs, IV machines, storage shed, and IT equipment.
- Reappropriation (Budget Law Exemptions) - dollars not in total budget amount:
 - Boise Veterans Home Replacement Request - \$77,026,100.
 - Lewiston Veterans Home Replacement Request – \$34,462,500.

FY 27 Budget Request - \$67,471,200

- General Funds are 2.8%
- Division Budget will include:
 - 2.4 FTPs Reduction unfilled position <\$129,200>
 - Change in Variable Benefit Costs <\$43,800>
 - Change in Health Benefit Costs \$681,000
 - Change in Employee Compensation \$318,800
 - IT Maintenance and Licensing Services for Network and Hardware Devices \$169,000
 - New Capital Outlay \$40,900 (Commercial washing machine, front loader for tractor, and radios)
 - Replacement Items \$702,400 (vehicles, medication and treatment carts, bed frames, tractor, tables, walk-in cooler shelves, lawnmower, toolcat, shower lift chair, stair step machine, oven, dryer, washer, waste disposal, floor mixer, braising pan, dish dispenser, computers, utility vehicle)
 - Budget Law Exemptions/Other Adj.
 - Boise Home Replacement \$77,026,100
 - Lewiston Home Renovation \$34,462,500
 - FY27 DPW Projects – Requested Permanent Building Funds for:
 - Boise Home Replacement - \$10,000,000
 - Pole Barn for Equipment Storage – Cemetery Blackfoot - \$300,000
 - Pave Maintenance Road/ADA Walking Path– Cemetery Boise - \$500,000
 - Memorial Wall Project - Cemetery Blackfoot – \$500,000
 - Parking Lot Seal Coating and Re-Striping– Post Falls Home – \$50,000
 - New Doorway and Cabinets Replacement – Pocatello Home - \$30,000
 - Concrete Curbing Project – Cemetery Blackfoot - \$250,000
 - Replace Walk in Refrigerator/Freezer – Lewiston Home - \$280,000
 - Asphalt Access Road – Cemetery Boise - \$250,000
 - Floor Replacement - Cemetery Boise - \$60,000
 - Cabinets, Countertops, and Flooring Replacement – Pocatello Home - \$360,600

Questions/Comments: none

Business Support and Education – presented by **Paul Spannkebel**

Business Support

\$1.2 million dollars in operations was moved to personnel to create a temporary staffing pool and reduce reliance on staffing agencies.

The Volunteers we utilize in the State Veterans Homes and Cemetery equate to approximately 20 FTPs.

Our Supply Chain Management team are invaluable and essential to completing our mission of serving Veterans.

Our IT costs are still very high.

We have secured 30 spots from the City of Boise for employee parking during construction of the Boise Veterans Home. \$1,200/month. We also secured 12 free spots at the USGS building for our state Vehicle motor pool.

HR

We have 5 HR positions serving our agency. They have been invaluable in increasing our hiring. Post Falls Home has filled all their CNA vacancies.

We have signing bonuses available for LPN positions and have a market equity increase for Boise based LPNs.

Education Report

Kyla Aldridge moved from the Fiscal Department to the Education Team.

We are close to break even between our Education expenses and the VA Funding we receive for the operating the GI Bill® State Approving Agency.

Keeping Tabs on the Cooperative Contract Agreement with the VA:

FY25 Allocation + COLA is \$202,029.00

- Team will request VA's Quarter 4 reimbursement late October 2025
 - In that Education exhausted VA funding for FY25, the short fall in funds for Q3 and Q4 will be used to justify a request for additional funding through VA's supplemental request process, projected to open to qualifying SAAs December 2025.
 - Team received VA's Quarter 3 reimbursement in the amount of \$47,199.99
 - Team received VA's Quarter 2 reimbursement in the amount of \$84,967.30
 - Team received VA's Quarter 1 reimbursement in the amount of \$69,861.71
- FY24 Supplemental Funding: Total request was received from VA in July
 - Amount received by VA: \$124,608.95
 - Education's total YTD expenditures are \$267,517 (reported the end of August)
 - With FY24 Supplemental, FY26 has a surplus of \$89,558.00

Education: VA FY2026

Projecting funding for FY26 & the Cooperative Agreement Allocation

- VA's FY26 Allocation is projected at \$181,830.00
 - Loss in annual funding is partially relative to the number of active facilities counted in August of FY25
 - Another major contributor to the lower FY26 allocation is Idaho's ranking against the other 49 states' active facility counts
 - The new contract has yet to be approved by VA, but the team anticipates that it will be approved within the first quarter of VA's FY26 (VA's FY begins October 1st)
 - COLA for 2026 is projected at 2.7% to 2.8%; the new COLA adjustment that will increase the FY26 allocation is anticipated after the federal government publishes the final COLA percentage on October 15, 2025.

Program Activities in VA FY25 4th Quarter

The Education Team oversees 136 active facilities and manages 300 inactive facilities for a total of 436 approved facilities.

At the end of Q4:

- Added 2 new facilities to our active facility rosters.
- Approved an additional 1,795 programs since Q3
- Have 11 new facility applications in the queue.

Each program approved by Idaho’s SAA requires continuous oversight by the Education Team in way of:

- New program approvals
- Annual reapprovals
- Routine approval modifications
- Wage Scales updates
- Program suspensions and withdrawals

ACTIVE FACILITY TYPE	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE IDAHO FACILITIES APPROVED	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS APPROVED IN VA’S Q4	TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS APPROVED (VA FYTD)
IHL	21	1284	2,581
NCD (includes vocational flight)	31	477	926
Apprenticeships (APP)**	53	31	57
On-The-Job (OJT)	15	3	8
License/Certification*	14	0	0
Prep-Courses*	4	0	10
Totals:	138	1,795	3,582

Sectors Education Contributes to Idaho

VA's FY25 Quarter 4				
Type of Pursuit	Fry	TOE	VET / SM	Grand Total
Apprenticeship			2	2
College, non-degree	1	67	406	474
Graduate		42	244	286
Non-College Degree	1	27	177	205
OJT			3	3
Undergraduate	4	305	778	1087
Grand Total	6	441	1610	2057

Education's Outreach and Liaison Activities

VA's Q4 (IDVS' Q1) Activities included training for SCOs

- Abby conducted outreach with Idaho's SCOs which included liaison activities with west region SAAs at this year's WAVES conference.
- The Western Association of Veteran Education Specialist Conference is an annual conference geared to train VA's School Certifying Officials (SCO)
- This year's conference took place in Reno, NV.

Questions/Comments: none.

Veterans Outreach and Community Support (VOCS) – presented by **Mitzi Cheldelin**

Events

- Idaho Women Veterans Memorial Dedication
 - After 6 years of work and community support, the Memorial was dedicated at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.
 - There were 500 people in attendance at the dedication ceremony.
 - The memorial was sculpted by local artist and world renowned sculptor Benjamin Victor.
 - The memorial honors Cpl. Carrie L. French, Idaho's first woman killed in combat, as well as the contributions of all Idaho women who have bravely served in the military.
 - Marisa McCarter read her short story "Marbles" which captures McCarter's friendship and service with French and can be found on the Idaho Veterans Garden website at <https://www.idahoveteransgarden.com/marbles>.
- Treasure Valley Veterans Stand Down
 - Collaboration between the VA Homeless Stand Down, Joining Forces Idaho, and Feeding American Heroes.
 - 750 Veterans received medical screenings, resources, food, haircuts, and other services.
 - It was held at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa.
 - The success of this event has led to discussion about making it an annual event.

Engagement July 1 – September 30:

- Veterans – 1,844
- Civilians – 228
- Mixed Events – 10,634
- Events – 58
- Counties Visited – 17/44

Highlighted Events hosted by Community Partners this quarter:

- Veterans Outreach Center of Boundary County
- Salt Lake City VA Town Hall
- Warhawk Air Museum Grand Opening of the Global War on Terrorism Wing
- Salt Lake City VA Stake Holders Meeting
- Idaho Association of Counties Conference

Contributions through Outreach:

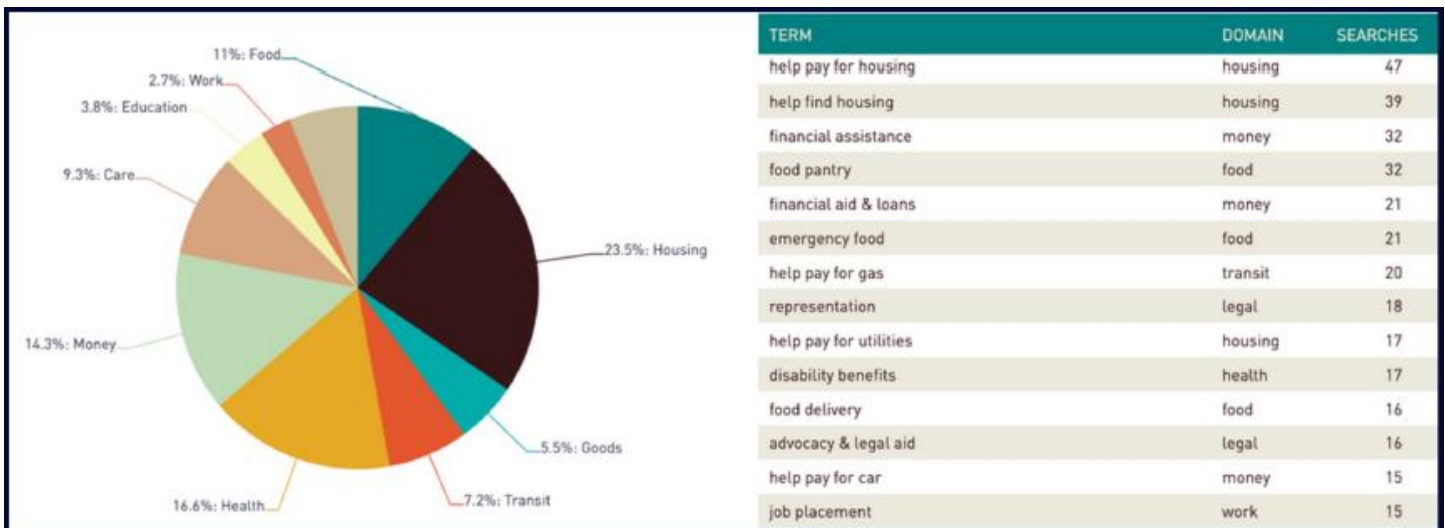
- Raised \$127,528.23 in direct Veteran Support thanks to Community Partners. Highlighted organized support from our community partners and volunteers:
 - A well pump was procured for a family in need through multiple community partners donating \$6,000

to the request.

- o Marine Veteran diagnosed with cancer and their family was able to stay in their home thanks to over \$4,500 in donations raised by community partners.

Ongoing Projects

- **Joining Forces Idaho** – Continues to grow. With the addition of Robertta Matulis to the VOCS team, outreach in Eastern Idaho has grown considerably.
- **Governor's Challenge** – For the third time, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1025 ordered 10,000 rack cards for distribution across the entire state of Idaho. The VOCS team created area specific cards with the phone number to the nearest OVA office and utilize these cards in teaching the community the importance and value of identifying veterans as well as connecting them to the next steps in securing benefits. These cards are used in posts, libraries and county offices to promote connectedness.
- **Idaho Veterans Guide**
[Idaho Veterans Guide](#) – Report from July 1 – September 30, 2025
 - o 74 Programs Added (4,560 Total)
 - Local – 27 added, 2,495 total
 - State – 34 added, 1,180 total
 - National – 13 added, 885 total
 - o 32 Programs Claimed
 - o Top 5 Local Engaged Programs – IDVS Office of Veterans Advocacy; IDVS Emergency Grant; Idaho Food Bank; Idaho Law Foundation; Ada County Housing Authority
 - o Site Activity: 2,605 sessions; 2,210 searches.
 - o Site Search Trends:



Questions/Comments: none

Central Support Office Updates

Deputy Chief Administrator's Remarks presented by Tracy Schaner

Construction

- Since our last Commission meeting, the Boise Replacement Home project bids were tallied, and we were ~\$24M over budget.

- Request from PBFAC to transfer Pocatello's funds (over \$15M)
- DPW and IDVS were involved in some difficult conversations with our construction contractor about the need to revisit their general requirements/general conditions (GR/GC) as part of their guaranteed maximum price (GMP) before DPW would enter contract.
- Discussions included needing to go back out to bid should we not be able to agree on the proposed GMP in order for DPW to amend their contract.
- Fortunately, our contractor was willing and able to make a substantial decrease.
- Contract Finalized as of Friday.
- Several categories that we received unresponsive bid on will be sent back out to bid in the near future, but these have been estimated and taken into consideration as part of our overall budget.
- Other Home projects
 - VA SHCGP FY26 Priority List was previously expected to be released within the 1st quarter, prior to or on December 31st and now it is expected to be released prior to the end of the 2nd quarter.
 - High probability that both Lewiston and Pocatello will receive a grant opportunity in FY26. VA's FY26 budget begins October 1, 2025 and we should see the FY26 PL after the first of the new year.
 - We have salvaged the Lewiston Project
 - We transferred the funds set aside for the Pocatello Project to the Boise project.
 - Will go to PBFAC to request funds to try a recoup the equivalent for the Pocatello project.
- The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be Tomorrow, October 3, 2025 at 11 AM.
- Boise Veterans Home Timeline
 - October 13 – mobilization
 - October 28 – Construction begins
 - Mid-December – asbestos abatement
 - May 2028 – first residents
 - 2029 Substantial Completion

NASVH Update

- The VA temporarily paused Federal Advisory Committees, to include the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee, but will be recommencing in December.
- Priorities
 - VA Per Diem Changes. Currently it is 50% of the cost of care or the established rate of \$150/day. The actual cost of care is \$600+/day.
 - Expanded services to authorize/establish outpatient care programs.
 - 100%SC Veteran Residents Reimbursement for Durable Medical Equipment/Prosthetics/dental care.

Questions/Comments: Chairman Callihan thanked Tracy for everything she has done at the national level to advocate for Idaho's and our nation's Veterans.

Chief Administrator's Remarks presented by Mark Tschampf

Five-year core driving principle is to do more with less.

How can we be creative to serve Veterans without asking for more money from the Idaho Legislature?

One example he highlighted was the Borbonus Family Foundation donating a \$200,000 bus to make it possible for Veterans to go on community outings that were previously unable to.

The robust network of community partners that the VOCS team has cultivated is another example where Idaho Veterans are receiving necessary services without an increased cost to the state of Idaho.

Shocked to see IDVS mentioned in relation to Idaho DOGE, emphasized that for every state \$1 invested in IDVS

there is a 300-400x in benefit returned.

Will be looking at available federal and nonprofit grant opportunities to pursue to benefit Idaho Veterans.

Questions/Comments: Chairman Callihan – Continually impressed by the IDVS Team. Mentioned that housing and food insecurity should be top concerns, that those Veterans struggling to meet basic needs should be at the forefront of our minds as we look to serve Idaho's Veterans.

New Business

The Next IVAC Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the Central Support Office (351 Collins Road Boise, ID 83702).

Chairman Callihan is open to a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Brown** motioned to adjourn at 11:10 AM MT. **Commissioner Maxwell** seconded. The motion was approved with unanimous assent. Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM MT

Kevin R. Wallior
Management Assistant
Idaho Division of Veteran Services