

Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission
 January 12, 2017 8:30 a.m. MST
 Idaho Division of Veterans Services – Main Conference Room

Members: Commissioner H. Melvin Napier, Chairman
 Commissioner Arthur L. Gimpel (absent)
 Commissioner Jinny Cash
 Commissioner Leo Dub (absent)
 Commissioner David E. Brasuell, Executive Secretary; Administrator, IDVS
 Tracy Schaner, Deputy Administrator, IDVS
 Dan Claar, Human Resource Officer, IDVS
 Debbie Spence, Financial Manager, IDVS
 Rick Holloway, Administrator, ISVH – Boise
 Mark High, Administrator, ISVH – Lewiston
 Josiah Dahlstrom, Administrator, ISVH – Pocatello
 Bill Heyob, Program Director, Office of Veterans Advocacy
 James Earp, Program Director, Veterans Cemetery
 Tom Byrns, Program Director, Education/State Approving Agency
 Kevin Wallior, Administrative Assistant II, IDVS

Guests:

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting commenced at 8:30 AM

Introduced the new Purchasing Agent and new Administrative Services Manager to the Commissioners in attendance.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Topic A.	Minutes of Last Meeting (7-20-16):
Information/Data Discussion:	Minutes were sent electronically to the Commissioners for review prior to this meeting. There were no changes offered.
Action/Decision/ Conclusion:	8:35 AM Commissioner Napier chose to dispense with the reading of the minutes. There was not a quorum in order to hold a vote and accept the minutes.
Responsible Party:	Administrative Assistant II, IDVS
Target Completion Date:	N/A
Status:	CLOSED

II. STANDING ITEMS:

Topic A.	Human Resources (Dan Claar – Human Resource Director):																														
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. IDVS Employees Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position Break down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 59 Administrative positions (admin, fiscal, social services, inventory included) ○ 42 Dietary ○ 206 Nursing (DONs, RN Managers, therapy aides, & recreation assistants included) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 57.22% of all staff ○ 5 Nursing admin (activities/vol. coord. & nursing scheduler included) ○ 9 Health Information ○ 8 Maintenance (11 w/ cemetery maintenance included) ○ 7 Cemetery ○ 20 Office of Veterans Advocacy ○ 4 Commissioners • 360 Total Active Employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 313 Classified employees ○ 43 Non-classified employees (includes 7 executive FTP and temporary staff) ○ 4 Commissioners <p>2. IDVS FY2016 Separations</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">FY2016 IDVS Classified Position Separations and Reasons (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><small>Avg # of Classified Staff = 300</small></td> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Separation Reason</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Employees (Classified)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>SF - Separation, Federal Job</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SD - Separation, School District Job</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SL - Separation, Layoff/Shortage of Work/Reorganization</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SM - Separation, Military</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SN - Separation, Private Sector Job</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">19</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SP - Separation, Personal (including school, moving, resigning in lieu of dismissal)</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">61</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SR - Separation, Retirement</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>SW - Separation, Layoff/Medical</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>TD - Termination, Dismissal</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>TF - Termination, Failure to Complete Entry Probation</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>TO - Transfer to Other Agency</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">108 (36.30%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FY2016 IDVS Classified Position Separations and Reasons (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)		<small>Avg # of Classified Staff = 300</small>		Separation Reason	Employees (Classified)	<u>SF - Separation, Federal Job</u>	3	<u>SD - Separation, School District Job</u>	1	<u>SL - Separation, Layoff/Shortage of Work/Reorganization</u>	0	<u>SM - Separation, Military</u>	0	<u>SN - Separation, Private Sector Job</u>	19	<u>SP - Separation, Personal (including school, moving, resigning in lieu of dismissal)</u>	61	<u>SR - Separation, Retirement</u>	5	<u>SW - Separation, Layoff/Medical</u>	7	<u>TD - Termination, Dismissal</u>	0	<u>TF - Termination, Failure to Complete Entry Probation</u>	10	<u>TO - Transfer to Other Agency</u>	2	TOTAL	108 (36.30%)
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FY2016 IDVS Non-Classified Position Separations and Reasons (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)	
<small>Avg # of Temp Staff = 62</small>	
Separation Reason	Employees (Non-Classified)
SA - Separation, Appointment Expires/Temporary	23
SF - Separation, Federal Job	0
SG - Separation, School District Job	0
SL - Separation, Layoff/Shortage of Work/Reorganization	0
SM - Separation, Military	0
SN - Separation, Private Sector Job	10
SP - Separation, Personal (including school, moving, resigning in lieu of dismissal)	35
SR - Separation, Retirement	2
SW - Separation, Layoff/Medical	0
TD - Termination, Dismissal	3
TF - Termination, Failure to Complete Entry Probation	0
XO - Transfer to Other Agency	1
TOTAL	74 (119.40%)

3. IDVS Turnover Percentage FY14-FY17

- ISVH Boise
 - FY14 25.2%, FY15 27.1%, FY16 46%, FY17 40.8%
 - Average length of service 5.90 years
- ISVH Pocatello
 - FY14 39%, FY15 37.3%, FY16 16.1%, FY17 49.2%
 - Average length of service 4.73 years
- ISVH Lewiston
 - FY14 43.1%, FY15 33.3%, FY16 49.2%, FY17 48.4%
 - Average length of service 4.24 years

4. IDVS Nursing Turnover Percentage FY14-FY17

- ISVH Boise
 - FY14 25.6%, FY15 32.1%, FY16 58.8%, FY17 43.4%
- ISVH Pocatello
 - FY14 39%, FY15 42.4%, FY16 31%, FY17 41%
- ISVH Lewiston
 - FY14 61.1%, FY15 45.7%, FY16 74.2%, FY17 72.2%
- 2014 National Average was 40.6%

5. IDVS Classified Turnover by Percentage

- Has climbed from 19.3% in FY10 to 36.3% in FY16

6. Statewide Average Comparison

- 99% is the January 2017 IDVS Average Compa-Ratio (classified)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91% is the October 2015 Statewide Compa-Ratio (classified) • \$18.08 is the January 2017 IDVS Average Pay Rate (classified) • \$21.17 is the October 2016 Statewide Average Pay Rate (classified) • 6.92 years is the January 2017 IDVS Employees' Average Years of Service with the State / Longevity • 5.22 Years is the January 2017 IDVS Employees' Average Years of Service with IDVS / Longevity <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. What is Compa-Ratio? Compa-ratio is calculated as the employee's current salary divided by the current market rate. Each position has a salary range that includes a minimum, a midpoint, and a maximum. These three values represent industry averages for the position. A Compa-Ratio of 1.00 or 100% means that the employee is paid exactly what the industry average pays and is at the midpoint for the salary range, a ratio of 0.75 means that the employee is paid 25% below the industry average and is at the risk of seeking employment with competitors at a higher pay that is perceived equitable. A ratio of 1.15 compa-ratio would mean the employee is paid above the industry average.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Human Resource Officer
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic B.	Financial Report (Debbie Spence – Financial Manager):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YTD Average Nursing Per Diem Costs as of December 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$332.19 per day • ISVH-Boise \$325.70 • ISVH-Pocatello \$360.29 • ISVH-Lewiston \$320.52 2. Average YTD Nursing Occupancy Rate as of December 31, 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88% • ISVH-Boise Dom/Res Care 91% • ISVH-Boise Nursing 89% • ISVH-Pocatello Nursing 80% • ISVH-Lewiston-Nursing 95% 3. General Funds for FY17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All General Funds are appropriated in Personnel and Trustee & Benefits

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 17 Appropriation is \$35,500,200 of which \$1,056,400 (3%) is General Funds • We continue to monitor our revenue for cash flow purposes. <p>4. Governor's FY2018 Budget Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$43,672,900 • \$225,700 Change in Health & Variable Benefit Costs • \$545,600 Repair and Replacement items (no general funds) – mattresses, beds, recliners, kitchen equip., and IT equipment • \$477,900 3% Change in Employee Compensation (Classified Employees) • \$709,800 Additional Staffing – 13 FTPs (service officer, IT support technicians, application development analyst, CNAs, LPNs, RN, Sr. RN, and recreation assistant) • \$484,800 New Capital Outlay and Operating (no general funds) – furniture, IT equipment, resident & medical equipment, vehicle, appliances, wheelchair trailer and fire extinguishers • \$936,900 Veterans Recognition Income Fund • \$80,000 Idaho Suicide Hotline • \$80,000 Veterans Treatment Courts • \$1,910,000 Self-Funded Facility Projects (DPW) • \$7,496,100 Veterans Cemetery in Eastern Idaho • General funds are 2.6% of total budget recommendation (lower due to the anticipated federal veterans cemetery construction grant) • Total budget increase over FY17 is 23% (higher due to the veterans cemetery) <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Financial Manager
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic C.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise (Rick Holloway – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	1. FY17 2nd Quarter Operations Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census

- Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 88% for the quarter
 - October 89%
 - November 86%
 - December 91%
- Medicare A Average Daily Census 1.0
 - October 1.1
 - November 0.9
 - December 1.0
- Residential/Domiciliary Care Occupancy Rate 89% for the quarter
 - October 88%
 - November 88%
 - December 91%
- Nursing Admissions and Discharges
 - October 10 Admissions, 8 Discharges, 7 Deaths
 - November 11 Admissions, 6 Discharges, 5 Deaths
 - December 5 Admissions, 2 Discharges, 2 Deaths
- Res/Dom Admissions and Discharges
 - October 3 Admissions, 1 Discharges
 - November 0 Admissions, 7 Discharges
 - December 2 Admissions, 2 Discharges
- Receipts
 - Medicaid \$992,070
 - VA Per Diem \$1,792,788
 - All Other Receipts \$905,905
 - Medicare Part A \$74,091
 - Medicare Part B \$26,457
- Pharmacy
 - Medicare Part D \$21,351
 - VA Pharmacy Receipts \$4,956
 - Pharmacy Costs \$121,432
 - Average Cost PPD \$11.39

2. DPW Projects

- No major DPW or maintenance projects ongoing or completed this quarter.
- The AC Units for the front entry will be replaced soon.
- The Dishwashing are will be remodeled in the near future.

3. Significant Community Activities

- Capt. from USS Boise visit on October 15th.
- Veterans Day Parade
- Le Coq d'Or hosted a lunch for residents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Day Program & Spirit of Freedom Awards • Women Vets Recognition at Warhawk Museum • American Legion Food Convoy • Pearl Harbor and Veterans Day celebrations were very well attended events. <p>4. Special Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Day Prime Rib with Baked Potato and Dutch Apple Pie • Thanksgiving Dinner Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. • Christmas meals included shrimp, waffle fries, baked ham, sweet potatoes, and bread pudding. <p>5. Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to convert four-bed rooms to two-bed rooms. • Laundry service provider was changed and the difference has been night and day. Very positive change. • The 2017 winter has provided enormous challenges for the maintenance staff due to snow accumulation and icicles. • Therapy services have increased in quality and decreased in cost. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Boise Home Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic D.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello (Josiah Dahlstrom – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. FY17 2nd Quarter Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 78% for the quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 77% ▪ November 79% ▪ December 79% ○ Medicare A Average Daily Census 3.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 2.6 ▪ November 3.9 ▪ December 2.5 ○ Admissions and Discharges

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ October 7 Admissions, 3 Discharges, 2 Deaths▪ November 7 Admissions, 10 Discharges, 2 Deaths▪ December 9 Admissions, 5 Discharges, 1 Death○ Small but steady increase in the census.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 550 more days of care in 2016 than 2015 and 1100 more than 2014.● Receipts<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Medicaid \$400,971○ VA Per Diem \$1,275,884○ All Other Receipts \$262,719○ Medicare Part A \$114,690○ Medicare Part B \$12,539● Pharmacy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Medicare Part D \$9,046○ VA Pharmacy Receipts \$6,291○ Pharmacy Costs \$87,510○ Average Cost PPD \$18.45 <p>2. DPW Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● DPW 16-605 Cabinet project● DPW 16-610 VETP Oxygen Tank will go out for bid in February 2017. <p>3. Significant Community Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Food convoy was very successful and we provided cinnamon rolls, orange rolls, coffee and hot chocolate for all who participated. Over \$21,000 worth of food and monetary donations were received by the home. The National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mary Davis, attended as she had never participated in a food convoy before. The youth from two local High Schools had a contest and worked together to provide donations to the Veterans Home and local food bank.● Attendance at a Vietnam War Commemoration in Soda Springs● Senator Mike Crapo was in town and we attended an event to understand his work in DC regarding veterans● Veterans Day Ceremony <p>4. Special Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chicken enchiladas, pinto beans, Spanish rice.● Chicken Fettuccini alfredo● Veterans Day: Prime Rib, baked potatoes and caramel cheesecake.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving: Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie. • Pocatello Labor Council sponsored a meal: "The Sandtrap" roast turkey, mashed potatoes, and cake. • M.O.A.A." sponsored a dinner: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and vanilla mousse. • INEL sponsored a meal: pizza, salad, and dessert. • Allstate Insurance sponsored a meal: Fried Chicken, Dutch oven potatoes, pasta, cobbler and homemade root beer. • Christmas Dinner: Marinated steak, fried shrimp, baked potatoes, and Christmas pudding. <p>5. Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowfall in December was more than last year and year before combined. Provided significant challenges to the maintenance staff. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Pocatello Home Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic E.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston (Mark High – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. FY17 2nd Quarter Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 94% for the quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 93% ▪ November 91% ▪ December 97% ○ Medicare A Average Daily Census 4.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 4.7 ▪ November 3.7 ▪ December 3.9 ○ Admissions and Discharges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 3 Admissions, 1 Discharge, 3 Deaths ▪ November 5 Admissions, 1 Discharge, 1 Death ▪ December 2 Admissions, 0 Discharges, 3 Deaths • Receipts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicaid \$483,392

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ VA Per Diem \$257,207 (VA hasn't provided per diem for November and December, yet.)○ All Other Receipts \$497,576○ Medicare Part A \$113,642○ Medicare Part B \$47,411● Pharmacy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Medicare Part D \$23,417○ VA Pharmacy Receipts \$2,639○ Pharmacy Costs \$74,100○ Average Cost PPD \$13.05 <p>2. DPW Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Resident room remodels completed.● North Dining room floor remodel completed.● Family room has been converted to a Butterfly room. <p>3. Significant Community Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Home held its Annual Community Trick or Treat. The residents enjoyed the kids from the community and handed out lots of candy. We had approximately 250 kids come in that night for the event.● Honored to be a part of the procession to lead the "Eyes of Freedom" Memorial into town and to the event site at the Red Lion hotel. We took busloads of residents to view the display throughout the week. Our Veterans Day Ceremony and Senator Crapo's Spirit of Freedom Awards were held at the Memorial this year on November 11th. The Ceremony was well attended by many community members and the Home residents. <p>4. Special Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Halloween meal: Baby Back Ribs, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn on Cobb, Roll, and Apple Pie A la Mode.● Abundant Life church from Grangeville sponsored a hamburger/hot dog BBQ, with potato/macaroni salad, potato chips, and soda pop.● Family Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner: Turkey, Bread Stuffing, Gravy, Rolls, Mixed Vegetables and Green Beans, and Pumpkin Pie.● The residents enjoyed a Prime Rib dinner for Christmas. The meal included Scalloped potatoes, Green casserole and pie. <p>5. Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Laundry contract is changing.● Survey had three minor citations, all have been corrected
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursement from the VA has been difficult. Senator Crapo interceded on ISVH-L behalf. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Lewiston Home Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic F.	Idaho State Veterans Cemetery (James Earp – Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Cemetery Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cemetery completed the 2nd quarter FY17 with a 2% lower number of interments from last year's 2nd quarter FY16. Completed 349 interments. There has been an increase in dependent interments services rising 18% from 89 to 105. Previous years planning has readily prepared our operations for the unexpected weather conditions. The purchase of the new work truck and snow removal equipment was vital. The staff worked to ensure that our facilities and the roads were safe and facilitated uninterrupted burial services. Several improvements were made to accessibility for the NCA's BOSS system. Over the busiest months of the FY our operations were routinely hindered by the National Cemetery Administrations decision to impose a deadline to access critical operating systems with VA PIV cards. As of the end of month November all of our users have been issued PIV cards and are now in compliance with remote access procedures. Interment Revenue: The ISVC's 2nd quarter FY17 interment revenue was \$261,645. We have not yet received November and December 2016 burial plot allowance from the VARO totaling \$52,399. <p>2. Volunteer Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our volunteers completed a total of 1603 volunteer hours through the 2nd quarter of the Fiscal Year. Two volunteers were awarded Sen. Crapo's Spirit of Freedom award. Our volunteers were instrumental in community outreach for pre-registration and raising donations for the Wreaths across America program.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our volunteer team has grown with the addition of four more people. Sadly, 2016 also affected our volunteer team with health related issues impacting their families.• We are tracking our volunteers' individual hours with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award program and hope to finalize things to purchase the well-deserved awards. <p>3. Construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction was completed on DPW project 12600 in December. The expanded storage yard and 30ft x 60ft pre-engineered building will greatly increase our secure storage capabilities and function as a seasonal storage location for materials and equipment.• DPW project 17602 for road repairs and re-striping has been postponed until Spring 2017 to ensure the necessary environmental conditions are present for the pavement re-sealing.• Internal projects include the modification and installation of a new mezzanine for the new storage location and researching a solution to fix the faulty heating in the public restrooms. We are currently working on replacements for the large outdoor lights that illuminate the Flag at the plaza. The older units are not functioning regularly and the recent weather has deteriorated the light housings that have been in place since the cemetery opening.• The property in the city of Blackfoot continues to be the proposed location of the SE Idaho Veterans Cemetery. A consolidated effort with multiple agencies are working to finalize the property acquisition process. On January 9th the selection of the architect & engineering firm found to be the most qualified is Beck & Baird. This firm was the primary A&E for our original cemetery in Boise. <p>4. Events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the Boise Veterans Day Parade members of the Boy Scouts proudly displayed the images of Idaho's Medal of Honor recipients. The images are part of the "Keep the Spirit of 45 Alive" WWII Wall of Honor Project. Continued support of this project is vital to Idaho's representation at the 75th Anniversary WWII Wall of Honor Project that will culminate in August-September 2020 with a display on the National Mall at Washington D.C.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December the cemetery received over 3,600 wreaths as part of the Wreath across America program. Over 300 volunteers braved the frigid weather on December 17th to participate in the Remembrance ceremony and place the wreaths throughout the cemetery <p>5. Admin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the month we wished happy retirement to one of our senior landscape staff. He was with the cemetery for over 12 years and was instrumental in the task development and creative fabrication of many devices used to facilitate our burial operations. <p>6. Blackfoot Cemetery Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil samples conducted and reviewed by VCGP • IDVS working with DHW on finalizing land acquisition. • Governor's public comment period concluded. • DPW & IDVS completed interviews for project A&E. • VCGP notified about grant deferment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grant deferment is not a negative. Allows for a more deliberate and less rushed timeline. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>																																
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.																																
Responsible Party:	State Veterans Cemetery Director																																
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.																																
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Topic G.	Office of Veterans Advocacy (Bill Heyob – Program Director):																																
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. The Office of Veterans Advocacy continues to set records for the number of Veterans and family members assisted this year. Here are the statistics comparing Fiscal Year-to-Date totals from 2016 and 2d Quarter 2017:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="493 1577 1446 1892"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>2016 Totals</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>2017 Totals</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Increase/Decrease</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Interviews YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4,259</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,573</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- 686</td> </tr> <tr> <td>POAs Filed YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,974</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,827</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 835</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims Filed YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,022</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,657</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 635</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Correspondence</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,481</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,436</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- 45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appeals YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">186</td> <td style="text-align: center;">187</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Visits</td> <td style="text-align: center;">98</td> <td style="text-align: center;">179</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Emergency Grants Approved</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>2016 Totals</u>	<u>2017 Totals</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	Interviews YTD	4,259	3,573	- 686	POAs Filed YTD	1,974	2,827	+ 835	Claims Filed YTD	3,022	3,657	+ 635	Correspondence	2,481	2,436	- 45	Appeals YTD	186	187	+ 1	Home Visits	98	179	+ 81	State Emergency Grants Approved	6	4	-2
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Home Visits	98	179	+ 81																														
State Emergency Grants Approved	6	4	-2																														

	<p>2. Notable changes from December 2015 and 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 2016 had (50) additional claims and (78) additional powers of attorney filed per over the same month in 2015. <p>3. Noteworthy Issues currently happening with the VA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A COLA increase of 0.3% was approved for 2017, affecting VA, DOD and Social Security payments.• VA and SSA has launched a new initiative that enables VA to share medical records electronically with Social Security Disability Processors which will save time and money and will result in better service for Veterans.• Currently, on average, claims are taking 120 days for completion through the NWQ.• Gulf War Presumptive Period has been extended for five Years- Under 38 CFR 3.317, presumptive service connection for disabilities arising from Gulf War Service requires that a Veteran develop the disability within a certain timeframe after his/her service. This "sunset date" was previously December 21, 2016 but the VA has recently published an interim final rule that extends the period to December 31, 2021.• We are still awaiting the results of the Public Comment Period concerning the contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune and what the VA decides to do on implementing the presumptive conditions. To be eligible, Veterans had to have served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune (which includes Camp Lejeune, Camp Johnson, Camp Geiger and New River Air Station) from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 for the 15 medical conditions approved for medical care and the eight proposed conditions for presumptive service connection: adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndrome, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Parkinson's disease.• Status of Appeals- for 2017, there are no BVA Travel Boards scheduled and only (3) days of BVA Video Hearings scheduled, focusing on appeals certified to BVA August 2014 and older.• The Department of Defense has announced a renewed effort to ensure veterans are aware of the opportunity to have their discharges and military records reviewed. Through enhanced public outreach, engagement with Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), Military Service Organizations (MSOs), and other outside groups, as well as direct outreach to individual
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	<p>veterans, DoD is encouraging all veterans who believe they have experienced an error or injustice to request relief from their service’s Board for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) or Discharge Review Board (DRB).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VA Dental Insurance Reauthorization Act was recently signed into law, thus allowing the current VA Dental Insurance Pilot Program (VADIP) to move forward as a permanent benefit. Now is the time for those enrolled in the VA Healthcare system and the VA's Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA) to enroll in VADIP. By enrolling today, Veterans can start taking care of their dental health right away and reap benefits to their overall health. This is a premium-based program managed by Delta Dental and the cost depends on the zip code in which you live. More information can be found at: http://www.va.gov/healthBenefits/vadip/ <p>4. Significant Events within the OVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OVA VSOs completed Annual VFW Service Officer Training in August and November 2016. All attendees at the VFW Basic Course scored higher than the class average of 85%. • Personnel Changes- The Twin Falls State Service Officer resigned in September and was replaced by a gentleman who had previously served as the Jerome CVSO. • A Service Officer continues to work at the Caldwell Department of Labor Office three days a week with a proposal in the FY-2018 Budget to add a full time VSO for Caldwell. • The VFW Proficiency Training Course will be conducted April 2-5, 2017 in Annapolis, MD. • The 2016 Idaho Women Veterans Conference was a huge success with 130 participants from across the State. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Office of Veterans Advocacy Program Director
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting.
Status:	INFORMATION

Topic H.	Veterans Education – GI Bill (Tom Byrns – Veterans Education Coordinator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FY2017 VA Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two compliance visits completed as of the first quarter of FY17 (note SAA operates off of the federal fiscal calendar for compliance purposes rather than the state fiscal calendar). 2. SAA Training and Travel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10-16 February – NASAA Conference in Washington D.C. ○ Northern Idaho (Idaho Falls, Coeur d’Alene, and Lewiston) in Q3 for compliance with NIC, Kootenai Co Sheriff, and other visits • Past Travel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastern and Northern Idaho in Q1 and Q2 for outreach, compliance, and inspection, and training visits with facilities and organizations. 3. Number of Approved Facilities in Idaho <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total 292, down from 303 • 107 On-the-Job (OJT) programs approved (Three additional programs are pending approval) • 108 Apprenticeship programs approved (Two additional programs are pending approval) • 51 Non-College Degree (NCD) programs approved (Two additional programs are pending approval) • 22 Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) programs approved • 4 Flight Schools approved 4. Approximate number of veterans utilizing benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,898 total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2,785 enrolled in IHLs ○ 73 enrolled in NCDs ○ 68 in apprenticeship programs ○ 35 in flight school ○ 42 in OJT programs 5. Issues/In the Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutes of Higher Learning: down from 24 to 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closures – ITT Tech and Webster University in Mountain Home ○ 2017 Closures – Broadview University and the University of Phoenix are teaching out final classes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with US and IDOL to identify and approve/register valid apprenticeship and on-job-training programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IDOL initiative to accelerate licensing for Veterans by granting credit for education and experience while in the service • The College of Western Idaho is the fastest growing college in the United States. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Veterans Education Coordinator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic I.	Idaho Division of Veterans Services (David Brasuell – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>Kevin Wallior provided a demonstration of the the Live Better Idaho website (www.livebetteridaho.org). This initiative being encouraged by the Governor's office and the DHW.</p> <p>Tracy Schaner Brief</p> <p>1. 4th Veterans Home Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 15th Initial Grant Application Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ April 4th - Submitted both USDVA grant applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ one with 14 beds per household (56 total beds) and ○ one with 16 beds per household (64 total beds) • August 1st Section B1 Application Phase Deadline • June 22nd- Met all section B1 required deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We provided justification and requested that the VA Construction Grant Program carefully consider granting Idaho the ability to construct 16 beds per small home under this Program versus 14 beds per household • June 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Multiple conversations/meetings with USDVA ○ 64 bed application denied ○ 54 bed application approved ○ 54 bed schematics approved with the understanding that the VA concerns would be addressed in the next stage of the design process

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FY16 VA Grant Program Funding<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nationally, the new small house model is 20%-30% more expensive to build and operate than the traditional nursing home.○ The VA grant program was funded \$120M for FY16. There is \$11M carryover from FY15.○ The target funding for FY16 grants is \$126M; this will include funding for projects #1-13 and final award of FY15 conditional grants.○ Only three of the 13 FY2016 projects awarded are for the construction of new State Homes (2 in Florida and 1 in Texas). Life safety projects take priority.○ Idaho currently has 76% of allotted VA beds already constructed in Boise, Pocatello, and Lewiston, which places Idaho in a “Limited Need” category for VA funding.○ Our ranking will be near the bottom of the priority list. Therefore, it may be at least a 5 year waiting period, up to possibly 7-10 years before funding will be granted by the VA (Now being informed by USDVA we could be looking at 3-5 years rather than 7-10 due to other States not having matching funds).● 4th Veterans Home Site Post Falls, Kootenai County, Idaho<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The site in Post Falls includes six lots - because of the Jacklin family and Jacklin Land Company’s initial generous donation of 6.1 acres, along with their recent decision to donate the most southern lot, the land comprises of a total of 7.3 acres of developed, shovel ready ground. <p>2. Wheelchair Transportation Program Statute & Rule Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Statutory amendment proposal would change the payments from a voucher reimbursement system to a payment authorization program allowing the Idaho Division of Veterans Services (the "Division") to enter into agreements with commercial transportation vendors or others to provide or administer the transportation services to eligible wheelchair confined veterans.● Currently, the voucher reimbursement system limits the Division's ability to administer this program in rural areas. The statutory amendment gives the Division latitude to authorize payments and enter into agreements with commercial transportation providers
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so this service can be administered across the entire state.

- Statute provides eligible wheelchair-bound veterans transportation to and from medical appointments only.
- In addition to medical appointment transportation, this amendment proposal would further provide payment authorization to eligible wheelchair confined veterans who have no other means of transportation for purposes of meeting basic needs or other necessities of daily life to include, but not limited to, activities related to securing food, clothing, shelter fuel, medication, veteran benefits, or financial needs.

TITLE 65

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

CHAPTER 2

DIVISION OF VETERANS SERVICES -- VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

65-208. TRANSPORTATION OF WHEELCHAIR-BOUND VETERANS --
CREATION OF VETERANS TRANSPORTATION FUND **GRANT PROGRAM.**

(1) Legislative intent. A transportation network operated by volunteers provides veterans in the state of Idaho with van transportation to and from medical appointments. Due to insurance and liability issues, this network is unable to transport disabled veterans who are confined to wheelchairs. As a result, wheelchair-bound veterans must hire private vans with wheelchair lifts in order to obtain medical treatment. As provided in this section, the veterans transportation fund **grant program** is intended to financially assist these disabled veterans in obtaining necessary transportation.

(2) Veterans transportation fund **grant program**. There is hereby created and established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "veterans transportation fund," which shall consist of such funds as may be appropriated for that purpose by the legislature, grants, donations or moneys from other sources. The fund shall be administered by the division of veterans services, as created in section 65-201, Idaho Code, in order to provide **grant moneys for a voucher system** for transportation services for wheelchair-bound veterans who need transportation to and from medical appointments, **or transportation for purposes of meeting the basic needs or other necessities of daily life as set forth in rule. The division may award grants or enter into agreements with transportation vendors, or enter into agreements with others to administer grants or the transportation services authorized by this section.** Moneys in the fund may be expended pursuant to appropriation. Any interest earned on the investment of idle moneys in the fund shall be returned to the fund.

History:

[65-208, added 2002, ch. 228, sec. 1, p. 655.]

- Two Part Process
 - 2017 Statutory
 - In August 2016 submitted statutory amendment proposal to Gov. Office/DFM.
 - Approved & included in Governor's legislative package for 2017 legislature review.
 - 2018 Rulemaking
 - If this law proposal is approved by the legislature in 2017 then upon the end of

	<p>the legislative session, we will submit temporary and proposed (permanent) IDAPA Rules to be part of the 2018 legislative session.</p> <p>1. Division Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Was the Year of the Woman Veteran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Biennial Women Veterans Conference was held in Boise, ID. ○ The Veterans Day Parade Theme was Women Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 2017 Theme is Corpsmen & Medics ▪ The 2018 Theme is Gowen Field • Idaho is well positioned for completing efforts to construct a second State Veterans Cemetery in eastern Idaho. • DPW Project approval has been moved under the Fiscal Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stringent prioritization to meet personnel budgeting. • Governor fully endorsed IDVS's budget requests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes 3% CEC • The Governor has placed an emphasis on education in his annual State of the State address. • 2016 was the 75th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor and Wake Island attacks. The USMC hosted a well-attended event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Boise. • ISVH-Lewiston will expand their Chapel and OVA offices with a \$500,000 project. • Both the American Legion and the VFW endorsed the selection of David J. Shulkin as VA Secretary. He was the former undersecretary of health at the VA. • The Legislative Reception will be held at the Red Lion this evening. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Division Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION

III. NEW BUSINESS:

**Next meeting is scheduled for
April 12, 2017
Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello
Conference Room
1957 Alvin Ricken Drive Pocatello, Idaho**

Commissioner Napier adjourned the meeting at 11:06 AM MT.

H. Melvin Napier, Chairman

David Brasuell, Executive Secretary