

Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission
 July 20, 2016 8:30 a.m. MST
 Idaho Division of Veterans Services – Main Conference Room

Members: Commissioner H. Melvin Napier, Chairman
 Commissioner Arthur L. Gimpel
 Commissioner John A. Spurny
 Commissioner Jinny Cash
 Commissioner Leo Dub
 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, Director, Veterans Cemetery
 Kevin Wallior, Administrative Assistant II, IDVS

Guests:

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting commenced at 8:30 AM

Jinny Cash was introduced as a new member of the Commission. Leo Dub was welcomed back to the Commission. Rick Holloway and Mark High were introduced as the new Home Administrators of Boise and Lewiston, respectively.

Jinny Cash and Leo Dub had their oaths of office administered.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Topic A.	Minutes of Last Meeting (10-15-15):
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 Spurny made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Dub seconded. Vote was held and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.
Responsible Party:	Administrative Assistant II, IDVS
Target Completion Date:	N/A
Status:	CLOSED

II. STANDING ITEMS:

Topic A.	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 Year-to-Date totals from 2015 and 3rd Quarter 2016:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>2015 Totals</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>2016 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;">8,149</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7,952</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- 197</td> </tr> <tr> <td>POAs Filed YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,677</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3,934</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 257</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims Filed YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,349</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5,949</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appeals YTD</td> <td style="text-align: center;">377</td> <td style="text-align: center;">353</td> <td style="text-align: center;">- 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Visits</td> <td style="text-align: center;">190</td> <td style="text-align: center;">289</td> <td style="text-align: center;">+ 99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State Emergency Grants Approved</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Notable changes from FY-2015 and FY-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY15 Averaged 1,337 claims filed per Quarter. FY16 averaged 1,487 claims filed per Quarter <p>3. Noteworthy Issues currently happening with the VA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boise VA Regional Office has named their new Veterans Service Center Manager- Kevin Schneider (was previously a Coach at the Boise VARO). • National Work Queue Rollout has now been implemented nationwide and Boise VA Regional Office is working claims from across the Country. • Currently, on average, claims are taking 88 days for completion. • Data to Data Transfer (D2D) continues to work great. • VA Appeals modernization/improvement continues to be discussed in Congress due to 450k current pending appeals with a new Proposal for a 3-Lane system. • Locally, this week is the Board of Veterans Appeals Travel Board which are the first hearings for Idaho Veterans since October 1, 2015. • VA has recognized that nearly 2,500 initial claims for Traumatic Brain Injury were not conducted by one of the four specified doctors (Psychiatrist, Physiatrist, Neurosurgeon or a Neurologist) and will send out letters to those Veterans affected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If interested, Veterans can request a new exam under "equitable Relief". ○ There are an estimated 55 Veterans in Idaho that fall into this category. • Through a data use agreement between the Department of Defense and the VA, National Guard and Reserve 		<u>2015 Totals</u>	<u>2016 Totals</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	Interviews YTD	8,149	7,952	- 197	POAs Filed YTD	3,677	3,934	+ 257	Claims Filed YTD	5,349	5,949	+ 600	Appeals YTD	377	353	- 24	Home Visits	190	289	+ 99	State Emergency Grants Approved	10	8	-2
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	<p>Units now have the ability to see if a Drilling Reservist/Guardsman has a VA Disability Rating and are permitted to ask the service member what the service connected disability is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve/Guard Drill Pay Recoupment will now be considered a "Debt" for VA purposes and those affected by it will have repayment options instead of the VA taking it all back at once. <p>4. Significant Events within the OVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OVA completed its Annual Retreat/Training May 4-5. • Kelly McCartney attended the National Women Veterans Conference in Boston, MA 28-30 June and will be attending WA State's Women Veterans Conference September 24th. • Milt Smith Retired (Again) on July 1st. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wes McAuslan will be working out of Caldwell Dept of Labor Office two days a week. • 2016 County and Post Service Officer Training will take place at the Riverside Hotel in Boise August 3-5, 2016. • VFW Basic Service Officer Training will be conducted August 19-26 in Annapolis, MD. Seven of our VSO's will be attending. • Requesting a new Full Time Service Officer in order to work out of Caldwell in the FY-18 OVA/IDVS Budget Request. • Planning continues for the Idaho Female Veteran Conference- October 22, 2016 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. <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 B.	Financial Report (Debbie Spence – Financial Manager):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed no increase to ISVH Charges Effective August 1, 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of Other Nursing Facilities \$246 • IDVS \$170 2. FY16 Year-End Fiscal Status (Preliminary Report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Appropriation was \$32,168,700

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expenditures were \$30,709,456• Remaining Appropriation is \$1,459,244<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Less Encumbrance Requests <u>\$<86,570></u>• Remaining Appropriation is \$1,372,674 <p>3. FY16 Year-to-Date Nursing Occupancy Rate Average for IDVS is 89.6%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ISVH-Boise is 91.4%• ISVH-Pocatello is 78.3%• ISVH-Lewiston is 97.3%• Other Idaho Facilities average 65% <p>4. FY16 Average Cost Per Resident Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nursing \$308.98• Dom/Residential \$83.84 <p>5. Year-End Closing Packages are being prepared for the State's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.</p> <p>6. Audit and Review Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2015 Myers and Stauffer Cost Report Desk Review is in process <p>7. FY17 Appropriation is \$35,500,200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Funds VA \$15,364,543 (43%)• Medicaid Receipts \$9,652,742 (27%)• Receipts \$6,671,758 (19%)• Federal Funds Medicare \$1,427,957 (4%)• General Funds \$1,056,400 (3%)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The percentage of the budget from General Funds has decreased from 7.7% in FY07 to 3.0% in FY17.• Endowment \$981,800 (3%)• Veterans Recognition Income Fund \$345,000 (1%)• The FY17 Appropriation Includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$340,400 Change in Health & Variable Benefits○ \$506,300 Inflationary Increases;○ \$2,701,300 Replacement Items and Self-Funding DPW Projects○ \$450,800 Change in Employee Compensation○ \$567,600 27th Payroll○ \$509,200 Market Equity○ \$84,600 Two FTPs (Landscape tech. - Cemetery, and Recreation Assistant – Boise Home)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$80,000 Project Manager – 2nd Cemetery Project ○ \$167,800 New Capital Outlay ○ \$345,000 Veterans Recognition Income Fund <p>8. FY18 Budget Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are starting the FY 18 budget request process. ● All programs have submitted their budget request to Division. ● Division has reviewed the program requests with the Program Executives and is compiling the Division budget request. ● Division Budget will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Veterans Recognition Fund plan; ○ Our plane for operating if there is a reduction of 10% or more in federal funds that we receive per Governor's Executive Order #2014-03 <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.	Human Resources (Dan Claar – Human Resource Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FY17 Personnel Budget Appropriation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2.0 New Classified Positions Requested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1.00 FTP Recreation Assistant at ISVH-Boise ○ 1.00 FTP Senior Landscape Technician at the State Veterans Cemetery ● 333.0 Total Appropriated Positions in FY17 2. FY17 CEC Appropriation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For FY17 the legislature appropriated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3% ongoing salary increase, based on merit. ○ Market equity funding for IDVS employees ○ Encouraged agencies to use FY16 Salary savings for early implementation. 3. FY 2017 CEC & External Market Equity Adjustments Nursing, Dietary, & Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In addition to the 3% CEC appropriated by the legislature, IDVS submitted and had a compensation plan approved by DFM & DHR to use additional

personnel salary savings to help address the considerable challenges the 3 Homes experience with recruiting and retaining skilled nursing, dietary, and maintenance staff.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Additional Pay Adjustment</u>
Sr. CNA, & CNA	1.0%
RNs, Sr. RN, & RN Managers	1.0%
LPNs	1.0%
Cooks & Sr. Cooks	1.0%
Dietary Aides	1.0%
Landscape Technicians	2.0%
Maintenance Craftsman	2.0%

- Also, IDVS was able to distribute a one-time bonus to 22 employees currently compensated at the top end of their respective pay grades. The one-time bonus is equivalent to what they would have earned annually had they been eligible to receive their full CEC increase.

4. Staff Satisfaction Survey

- Supervisors are readily available to direct, mentor, and oversee staff.
 - 81% respondents Agree or Strongly agree
 - Only 9% respondents Disagree or Strongly disagree
 - Remaining 10% undecided
- Staff are fairly compensated for their performance and contributions.
 - 48% respondents Agree or Strongly agree
 - 31% respondents Disagree or Strongly disagree
 - Remaining 21% undecided
- Percentage of staff satisfied with the quality of IDVS internal recognition and morale enhancing efforts.
 - 40% respondents Agree or Strongly agree
 - 28% respondents Disagree or Strongly disagree
 - Remaining 32% respondents undecided

5. IDVS Turnover

- FY16 National unemployment average was 4.99%
- FY16 Idaho unemployment average was 3.99%
- FY16 saw a slight increase in turnover from 28.8% to 32%.
 - As the economy heals turnover is expected.
- FY16 IDVS Classified Turnover % by Program
 - ISVH-Lewiston 45.6%
 - ISVH-Boise 43.3%
 - ISVH-Pocatello 12.8%
 - Cemetery 12.5%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OVA 10.5% ○ Division HQ 7.1% ● ISVH Turnover rates FY 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All Nursing Home Employees 35.4% ○ CNAs 53.1% ○ Dietary Aide, Sr. 20.0% ○ RNs 45.2% ○ Cooks 27.3% ○ LPNs 20.0% <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</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 D.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello (Josiah Dahlstrom – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. FY16 4th Quarter Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 82% for the quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 79% ▪ May 86% ▪ June 80% ○ Medicare A Average Daily Census 1.9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 1.6 ▪ May 2.4 ▪ June 1.7 ○ Admissions and Discharges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 11 Admissions, 2 Discharges ▪ May 2 Admissions, 1 Discharge ▪ June 4 Admissions, 7 Discharges ● Receipts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicaid \$415,471 ○ VA Per Diem \$600,641 ○ All Other Receipts \$279,890 ○ Medicare Part A \$53,363 ○ Medicare Part B \$20,940 ● Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicare Part D \$3,987 ○ VA Pharmacy Receipts \$15,417 ○ Pharmacy Costs \$23,025 ○ Average Cost PPD \$4.67 ● Janitorial

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The facility is looking excellent. ● Energy Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stable, as expected for spring/summer months. ● Volunteer Hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3,064 Volunteer hours, 0.62 PPD <p>2. DPW Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DPW 15-606 Camera Project was finished in April ● DPW 15-603 Bathing rooms remodel completed on July 1st. <p>3. Significant Community Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field of Heroes was on the 27th of May, the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War was also on the 27th. <p>4. Special Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special program and meal was served for our Vietnam Veterans for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary. Marinated sirloin steak, grilled to each veteran's preference served with bake potatoes with fixings. ● Memorial Day special meal included BBQ pork ribs and mashed potatoes. ● A special Father's Day meal was served in June. Seasoned Grilled Sirloin Steak, Baked Potatoes, Sour Cream/Chives/Butter, Dinner Rolls, Fresh Garden Salad. <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 - Boise (Rick Holloway – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. FY16 4th Quarter Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 90% for the quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 89% ▪ May 92% ▪ June 89% ○ Medicare A Average Daily Census 2.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 0.6

- May 3.8
- June 2.0
- Residential/Domiciliary Care Occupancy Rate 90% for the quarter
 - April 87%
 - May 88%
 - June 97%
- Nursing Admissions and Discharges
 - April 6 Admissions, 2 Discharges
 - May 11 Admissions, 4 Discharges
 - June 10 Admissions, 10 Discharges
- Res/Dom Admissions and Discharges
 - April 2 Admissions, 0 Discharges
 - May 1 Admissions, 2 Discharges
 - June 5 Admissions, 0 Discharges
- Receipts
 - Medicaid \$850,268
 - VA Per Diem \$1,879,635
 - All Other Receipts \$928,727
 - Medicare Part A \$57,421
 - Medicare Part B \$25,911
- Pharmacy
 - Medicare Part D \$3,020
 - VA Pharmacy Receipts \$9,907
 - Pharmacy Costs \$123,493
 - Average Cost PPD \$11.47
- Janitorial
 - The facility is looking excellent.
- Energy Costs
 - Stable, as expected for spring/summer months.
- Volunteer Hours
 - 7,293 Volunteer hours, 0.53 PPD

2. DPW Projects

- No major DPW or maintenance projects ongoing or completed this quarter.

3. Significant Community Activities

- Boise Philharmonic Woodwind visit
- "All That's Jazz" at the Morrison Center
- Music week performance of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"
- Boise Veterans Home Fund Run Car Show
- Flags Over Eagle
- Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

4. Special Meals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Day special meal included BBQ pork ribs, baked beans and potato salad. • A special Father's Day meal was served in June. Fried Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese with Bacon, Chuckwagon Vegetables, Dutch Apple Pie with Whipped Cream <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 F.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston (Mark High – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. FY16 4th Quarter Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 98% for the quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 99% ▪ May 98% ▪ June 98% ○ Medicare A Average Daily Census 3.8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 5.5 ▪ May 4.0 ▪ June 1.8 ○ Admissions and Discharges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 4 Admissions, 1 Discharge ▪ May 0 Admissions, 0 Discharges ▪ June 1 Admission, 0 Discharges • Receipts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicaid \$483,020 ○ VA Per Diem \$1,073,349 ○ All Other Receipts \$519,223 ○ Medicare Part A \$82,000 ○ Medicare Part B \$40,446 • Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicare Part D \$5,400 ○ VA Pharmacy Receipts \$8,020 ○ Pharmacy Costs \$109,161 ○ Average Cost PPD \$18.56 • Janitorial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The facility is looking excellent. • Energy Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stable, as expected for spring/summer months. • Volunteer Hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2,387 Volunteer hours, 0.41 PPD <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. DPW Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boilers were replaced. • The exterior camera project is complete. 3. Significant Community Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Home held a 50th Year Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony. Residents, family, and the community attended. 4. Special Meals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Day special meal included BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Pea Salad, Potato Salad, Garlic Toast and Strawberry Shortcake. • A special Father's Day meal was served in June. Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Soda Pop, and Apple Pie Ala Mode. <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 G.	Idaho State Veterans Cemetery (James Earp – Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cemetery Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cemetery completed the 4th quarter FY16 with an increase of 8% more interments over last year's 4th quarter FY15. • We concluded the Fiscal Year with 729 interments having completed 83 of these interments in the month of June. • We experienced a spike in interments for the month of April and June where we performed 80 or more interments. • This increased OPTEMPO has pressed the personnel capabilities in the areas of maintenance and data input. • Our operations continue to be routinely hindered by the National Cemetery Administrations decision to impose a deadline to access critical operating systems with VA PIV cards. This directive has resulted in backlogs of ordering grave markers and data input into

	<p>the NCA's systems. No long term solution has been established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total interments have steadily increased each FY in 2012 to 2016 from 574 to 729. That is an increase of 27%.• Interment Revenue: The ISVC's FY16 year-end interment revenue was \$567,675. This is a slight increase of 1.6% from FY15. <p>2. Volunteer Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our volunteers completed a total of 3343 volunteer hours for the Fiscal Year.• Our volunteers were critical to the success of our Memorial Day ceremony and Girl's State visit.• Our volunteer team continues to be instrumental in the successful operations at the ISVC. Much of the credit to increased services provided is due to the volunteers and service organizations efforts to communicate Veterans burial benefits and pre-registration. <p>3. Construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are continuing to work with DPW and Dan Baird on the project to expand and add a 30ft by 60ft storage building adjacent to our existing water pump house. A contractor has been selected and noticeable efforts will start in August.• Design and review is underway for the cemetery road repairs and re-striping of the cemetery grounds and facilities. This DPW project is expected to start soon due to the seasonal requirements of repairing the cracks throughout the roadways.• Internal projects completed this FY included the addition of the backup power generator as part of the State's COOP plan. This increased capability will provide back power to the Division's critical IT operating systems. The improvements to the Gravesite Locator have been completed and the addition of a new reception workstation have greatly improved operations and streamlined customer service tasks.• The pre-needs assessments in East Idaho have been concluded and the data will be used to further determine the most developable site to provide burial services to all Veterans and their eligible family members in the region. The budget for the construction is estimated at \$8.3M with \$810,000 of the total cost allocated for non-allowable construction costs. The total budget to be covered by the VA's grant is estimated to be \$7.5M
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	<p>4. Events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are planning the Sunday, August 14th "Keep the Spirit of 45 Alive" ceremony. The event is to honor the men and women whose participation and contributions led to our victory in WWII. <p>5. Admin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Jayo will be attending NCA training in St. Louis on August 8th – 12th. With training focused on Burial Operations Support Systems (BOSS) training. Greatly increasing our technical competence in administrative tasks. • IDVS IT masterfully updated our aging and plagued Cemetery Management Database. The new improvements provide greater speed, query capabilities, and easy to use functions. • The start of FY17 we will welcome a new FTE, Mr. Austin Muse. Austin has worked at the Twin Falls cemetery for a number of years and has experience in all facets of burial operations and cemetery maintenance. <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.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic H.	Veterans Education – GI Bill (Tom Byrns – Veterans Education Coordinator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. FY2016 VA Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All compliance visits scheduled for FY16 were completed. <p>2. SAA Training and Travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16-20 JULY – WAVES Conference in Albuquerque, NM ○ 19-25 AUGUST – NASAA Conference in New Orleans, LA ○ Idaho Falls, Coeur d’Alene, and Kellogg in Q4 for inspection visits (dates TBD) • Past Travel

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travelled to Eastern and Northern Idaho in Q3 for compliance and inspection visits. <p>3. Number of Approved Facilities in Idaho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Total 303, up from 293 ● 115 On-the-Job (OJT) programs approved ● 109 Apprenticeship programs approved ● 52 Non-College Degree (NCD) programs approved ● 23 Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) programs approved ● 4 Flight Schools approved <p>4. Approximate number of veterans utilizing benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2,966 total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2,785 enrolled in IHLs ○ 60 enrolled in NCDs ○ 54 in apprenticeship programs ○ 35 in flight school ○ 32 in OJT programs <p>5. Issues/In the Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Received FY17 Contract from the VA with a realized 3.34% allocation increase to \$125,141 ● Continue working with US and ID Department of Labor to streamline the approval process for OJT and apprenticeship programs. <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>1. IDVS hosted a MyVA forum for veterans in Moscow, ID in June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Well attended. ● Brought together stakeholders to discuss veteran benefits available. ● Allowed veterans to meet representatives from organizations in the area who assist veterans. <p>2. The annual interagency mental health summit hosted by Boise VAMC in their Mountain Cove Annex is upcoming.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This summit will discuss veteran mental health issues and discuss avenues to identify and treat at risk veterans. <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. NASDVA is focused on legislative efforts regarding the VA Appeals process.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a hot button issue.• The appeals process is a mess.4. Remember My Service is working on a Vietnam War Remembrance book<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is similar to the Korea and Gulf War books.• It can be personalized to each state.5. Once again working on trying to get Military Retiree pay tax exempt. Focused on the Workforce and Economic Development aspects. <p>Kevin Wallior and Clinton Dale provided a demonstration of the new IDVS webpage (veterans.idaho.gov/) as well as the Live Better Idaho (www.livebetteridaho.org/) initiative being encouraged by the Governor's office and the DHW.</p> <p>Tracy Schaner Brief</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 4th Veterans Home Update<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timeline<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ April 15th Initial Grant Application Deadline○ 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○ 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
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 54 bed schematics approved with the understanding that the VA concerns would be addressed in the next stage of the design process• 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 an \$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 3 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 5 year waiting period, up to possibly 7-10 years before funding will be granted by the VA.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A 3-5 year wait may be more likely according to the VA due to other states not having the matching funds.• 4th Veterans Home Site, Post Falls, Kootenai County, Idaho• The site in Post Falls includes 6 lots - as a result 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
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	<p>rural areas. The statutory amendment gives the Division latitude to authorize payments and enter into agreements with commercial transportation providers so this service can be administered across the entire state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • It is a 2-part process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2017 Statutory Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By August 5th - submitting statutory amendment proposal to Gov. Office/DFM to meet their review deadline. If approved. included in Gov. legislative package for 2017 legislature review. ○ 2018 Rulemaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If this law proposal gets approved by legislature in 2017 then upon the end of the legislative session, we will submit temporary and proposed (permanent) IDAPA Rule to be part of the 2018 legislative session. <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
January 14, 2017
Idaho Division of Veterans Services Headquarters
Conference Room
351 Collins Road Boise, Idaho**

Commissioner Gimpel motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Commissioner Dub seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am MST.

H. Melvin Napier, Chairman

David Brasuell, Executive Secretary