

Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission  
 July 22, 2015 8:30 a.m. MST  
 Idaho Division of Veterans Services Headquarters – Main Conference Room

Members: Commissioner H. Melvin Napier, Chairman  
 Commissioner Arthur L. Gimpel  
 Commissioner John A. Spurny  
 Commissioner Thomas Prewitt  
 Commissioner David E. Brasuell, Executive Secretary; Administrator, IDVS  
 Tracy Schaner, Human Resource Officer, IDVS  
 Sonya LaCasse, Financial Specialist Senior, IDVS  
 Randal Barnes, Administrator, ISVH – Boise  
 Kenneth Shull, Administrator, ISVH – Lewiston  
 Josiah Dahlstrom, Administrator, ISVH – Pocatello  
 Beth Lahny, Veteran Service Officer, Office of Veterans Advocacy  
 James Earp, Director, Veterans Cemetery  
 Tom Byrns, Veterans Education Coordinator  
 Kevin Wallior, Administrative Assistant II, IDVS

Guests:

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Meeting commenced at 8:25 AM

Financial Specialist Sonya LaCasse will be delivering the financial briefing for Debbie Spence, as she is out of town. Also, Service Officer Beth Lahny will be delivering the OVA brief for Bill Heyob because he, too, is out of town.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

| Topic A.                            | Minutes of Last Meeting (4-15-15):  |
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| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | Minutes were sent electronically to the Commissioners for review prior to this meeting. There were no changes offered.  |
| <b>Action/Decision/ Conclusion:</b> | 8:25 AM Commissioner Gimpel made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Spurney seconded. Vote was held and the minutes were unanimously approved as written. |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Administrative Assistant II, IDVS   |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | N/A   |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>CLOSED</b>   |

**II. STANDING ITEMS:**

| <b>Topic A.</b>                     | <b>Human Resources (Tracy Schaner – Human Resource Director):</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FY16 Personnel Budget Appropriation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional Staffing - 3 Classified Positions                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1.00 FTP – Veterans Service Officer (OVA-Twin Falls)</li> <li>○ 1.00 FTP – Administrative Assistant (OVA-Twin Falls)</li> <li>○ 1.00 FTP – Technical Records Specialist 2 (Division HQ – 3 Homes)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 331 Total Appropriated Positions in FY16</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>2. FY16 CEC Appropriation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For FY16, the Legislature appropriated the following:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Payline move (68% TO 70%)</li> <li>○ 3% ongoing salary increase based on merit</li> <li>○ Encouraged agencies to use FY15 salary savings for early implementation</li> <li>○ 96% eligible with overall average of 4.8% merit based increase.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>3. External Market Equity Adjustment Plan Nursing &amp; Dietary                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDVS has established and submitted a plan to DFM &amp; DHR to use additional projected personnel salary savings to help address the considerable challenges the 3 Homes are experiencing with recruiting and retaining skilled nursing and dietary staff.</li> <li>• Requesting to implement performance based market equity adjustments for the following classifications:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sr. CNA, CNA, POTA &amp; RA   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 7.5%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ RNs &amp; Sr. RN   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6.8%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Sr. Dietary Aide   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6.3%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Cooks &amp; Sr. Cooks   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3.2%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ LPNs   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2.8%</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nursing &amp; Dietary Market Pressures                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ America’s nursing facilities have high turnover &amp; low retention</li> <li>○ Wages for state employees lag the private sector by an average of 29%</li> <li>○ The State Market Rate (Policy) is 9.8% below the market.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

- Data Reflects that IDVS pays less than several other State of Idaho agencies
- IDVS's nursing & dietary salaries are significantly low as compared to nearby states
  - IDVS CNA Hourly mean is \$11.30
  - Washington's CNA Hourly mean is \$14.06
  - Oregon's CNA Hourly Mean is \$13.80
- Nurses living in the Northern Idaho Counties average \$20,000.00 or more per year less compared to counterparts in Spokane County, Washington.
- In BLS's 2014 Report, RN and LPN had less than 2% unemployment, which equates to a nursing shortage.
- A APR projects by 2030 there will only be 4 potential caregivers for each 80 or older person
- The University of California projects America will need at least 2.5 million more long-term care workers within 15 years
- Prevailing market rates are exerting a significant pattern of challenges on IDVS recruitment & retention efforts.
- This raises valid concerns and uneasiness about the ability of staffing a 4<sup>th</sup> Veterans Home in the Panhandle.

#### 4. Turnover rates

- IDVS Turnover rates: FY15 28.8% compared to 31.9% in FY14 and 29.7% in FY13
- All nursing home employees: 43.1%
- CNAs: 64.5%
- Dietary Aide, Sr.: 58.3%
- RNs: 47.1%
- Cooks: 38.1%
- LPNs: 30.8%
- Breakdown:
  - RN Sr.
    - Boise: 35.3%
    - Lewiston: 40%
    - Pocatello: 0%
  - RN
    - Boise: 0%
    - Lewiston: 80%
    - Pocatello: 33.3%
  - LPN
    - Boise: 15%
    - Lewiston: 40%

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|                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pocatello: 52.2%</li> <li>○ CNA             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boise: 42.7%</li> <li>▪ Lewiston: 94.1%</li> <li>▪ Pocatello: 76.7%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Cook, Sr             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boise: 44.4%</li> <li>▪ Lewiston: 33.3%</li> <li>▪ Pocatello: 33.3%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Dietary Aide, Sr             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boise: 69.6%</li> <li>▪ Lewiston: 46.2%</li> <li>▪ Pocatello: 50.0%</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>             No questions or comments.</p>   |
| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b>  | As above; information update as available.   |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Human Resource Director  |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting.   |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>   |
| <b>Topic B.</b>                     | <b>Financial Report (Sonya LaCasse for Debbie Spence – Financial Manager):</b>   |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FY 15 Year End Fiscal Status Preliminary Report             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Appropriation: \$30,155,400</li> <li>• Expenditures: \$28,746,859</li> <li>• Remaining Appropriation: \$1,252,661</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. FY15 Year-to-Date Occupancy Rates             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boise: 91.1%</li> <li>• Pocatello: 74.2%</li> <li>• Lewiston: 97.0%</li> <li>• IDVS Nursing: 88.3%</li> <li>• Idaho Statewide Nursing: 65.0%</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. FY15 Average Cost per Resident Day             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing: \$298.14</li> <li>• Dom/Residential: \$82.22</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Year-End Closing Packages are being prepared for the State’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report</li> <li>5. Audit and Review Findings             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 LSO Single Audit                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No Findings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2014 LSO Management Review</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

- Covers FY11, FY12, & FY13
- No Findings
- 2014 SCO Review
  - One Recommendation
    - Consider coordinating with SCO recent enhancements and current capabilities of Travel Express (will review application again; previously didn't meet our higher internal controls)
- 2014 VA Fiscal Surveys
  - No Findings
- 2014 Myers & Stauffer Cost Report Audit
  - In Process
- 2014 H&W Criminal History Check Integrity Audit
  - 2 findings
    - There are three H&W Divisions involved with the Criminal History rules; these rules have changed during the fiscal year and IDVS has revamped its procedures three times to meet H&W's interpretation of the Criminal History rules. IDVS met with H&W to discuss interpretation; from this meeting H&W sent out clarification to all stakeholders.

6. FY16 Budget Appropriation

- \$32,168,700
  - Federal Funds VA
    - \$13,780,253
    - 43%
  - Federal Funds Medicare
    - \$1,399,247
    - 4%
  - Medicaid – Receipts
    - \$8,737,055
    - 27%
  - Receipts
    - \$5,971,345
    - 19%
  - Veterans Recognition Income Fund
    - \$400,000
    - 1%
  - General Funds
    - \$987,400
    - 3%
  - Endowment
    - \$893,400

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|                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3%</li> <li>• The General Fund Percentage of Appropriation has decreased every year since FY2006             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From 9.1% in FY2006 to its current 3.1% in FY2016</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Highlights             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$197,900 Change in Benefit Costs</li> <li>○ \$493,200 Inflationary Adjustments (general, medical &amp; contract inflation)</li> <li>○ \$1,405,200 Replacement Items &amp; DPW Self-Funded Projects (medical, kitchen equipment, furniture, computers, etc.)</li> <li>○ \$420,000 Change in Employee Compensation</li> <li>○ \$218,500 3 Full-Time Positions                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Service Officer</li> <li>▪ Admin Assistant I</li> <li>▪ Technical Records Specialist II</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ \$25,600 Temporary Staff Health Benefits</li> <li>○ \$666,000 New Capital Outlay Items</li> <li>○ \$100,600 Ongoing IT Needs</li> <li>○ \$400,000 Veterans Recognition Income Fund</li> <li>○ \$100,000 Idaho Suicide Hotline</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>7. FY17 Budget Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started in March 2015</li> <li>• Address future requirements, objectives, and Veterans Recognition annual allocation plan</li> <li>• All programs have submitted their budget request to Division</li> <li>• Division is reviewing the requests and compiling the Division budget request</li> <li>• Division Budget will include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Veterans Recognition Fund plan</li> <li>○ Operations plan if there is a reduction of 10% or greater in federal funds received per Governor Otter’s Executive Order #2014-03</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>             No questions or comments.</p> |
| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b> | As above; information update as available.  |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>          | Financial Manager   |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>     | Update each meeting until complete.   |
| <b>Status:</b>                     | <b>INFORMATION</b>  |

| <b>Topic C.</b>                     | <b>Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston (Kenneth Shull – Administrator):</b>   |
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| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Operations Report<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nursing Care<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Average daily census is 65</li><li>○ Occupancy rate is 98%</li></ul></li><li>• Medicare A<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Average days of care is 274</li><li>○ Average daily census is 3.01</li></ul></li><li>• Admissions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 10 admissions in the last quarter</li><li>○ 7 discharges</li><li>○ 4 deaths</li></ul></li><li>• Receipts<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ All within norms</li></ul></li><li>• Pharmacy costs are within norms</li><li>• Laundry costs are within norms</li><li>• Janitorial services within norms</li><li>• Energy costs are consistent</li><li>• Food service is within norms</li><li>• Nursing hours are within norms</li></ul></li><li>2. DPW/Major Maintenance Projects<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Black Box Phone Company is working on installing phones in the East and West halls.</li><li>• DPW conducted a walkthrough of the resident's rooms in preparation for the cabinet remodel.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It is expected to begin this fall.</li></ul></li><li>• DPW Boiler replacement project is in the final stage.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It is expected to be ready by the end of July.</li><li>○ Bidding will take place shortly after that.</li></ul></li><li>• The security camera project will be going out to bid in the next two weeks.</li><li>• Maintenance is installing shelving in the new Conex storage units.</li><li>• Five new plantar boxes for resident use have been built.</li><li>• Concrete sidewalks are in place.</li><li>• Maintenance will be working on the landscaping around the plantar boxes.</li><li>• Installed a Smartboard in the activities room.</li></ul></li><li>3. Significant Community Activities<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents enjoyed a fishing trip sponsored by the Idaho Fish and Game at Tunnel Pond in May</li><li>• Attended the NAIA World Series at Lewis Clark State University in May</li><li>• The Home welcomed the Washington/Idaho Volunteer</li></ul></li></ol> |

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|                                     | <p>Center for their annual Senior Walk and Roll in June which coincides with the Senior Games held in the Valley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fingerprints Kids had an Easter Egg Hunt at the home.</li> <li>• Sigma Chi Fraternity helped host a game of Bingo</li> <li>• The Idaho Youth Challenge Academy helped with some much needed yard work while they visited with the residents.</li> <li>• The Dulcimer Duo entertained our residents and will be returning monthly.</li> <li>• The Combat Vet Riders Motorcycle group visited and donated \$1000.00 for the purchase of Galaxy Tablets for the Activities Department to use for one on ones and other activities.</li> <li>• The Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Home on was well attended by the community</li> <li>• We hosted a Meet and Greet with area Director of Nurses, Administrators, Discharge Planners and local Representatives.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We had members from each Home in the Valley and Representative Paulette Jordan and Representative Caroline Troy attended.</li> <li>○ We gave tours, enjoyed refreshments and shared with each other information regarding our Homes and the strengths and challenges.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>                 No questions or comments.</p> |
| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b>  | As above; information update as available.   |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Lewiston Home Administrator  |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting until complete.  |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>   |
| <b>Topic D.</b>                     | <b>Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello (Josiah Dahlstrom – Administrator):</b>   |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <p>1. Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursing Care             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average daily census is 51</li> <li>○ Occupancy rate is 77%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medicare A             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average days of care is 548</li> <li>○ Average daily census is 6.02</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Admissions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 26 admissions in the last quarter</li> <li>○ 14 discharges</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |

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|                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 14 deaths</li> <li>● Receipts             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All within norms</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Pharmacy costs are within norms</li> <li>● Laundry costs are within norms</li> <li>● Janitorial services within norms</li> <li>● Energy costs are consistent</li> <li>● Food service is within norms</li> <li>● Nursing hours are within norms</li> </ul> <p>2. DPW/ Major projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None during the last quarter.</li> </ul> <p>3. Significant Community Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attended the Field of Heroes held annually in Pocatello.</li> <li>● The POW*MIA rallied at the home with over 75 motorcyclists to show appreciation to our veterans on Memorial Day.</li> <li>● Meeting held at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center with their discharge planners to try increase ISVH-Lewiston's profile in Idaho Falls.</li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>             No questions or comments.</p> |
| <b>Action/Decision/ Conclusion:</b> | As above; information update as available.   |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Pocatello Home Administrator   |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting until complete.  |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>   |
| <b>Topic E.</b>                     | <b>Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise (Randal Barnes – Administrator):</b>  |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <p>1. Operations Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nursing Care             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average daily census is 123</li> <li>○ Occupancy rate is 94%</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Medicare A             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average days of care is 401</li> <li>○ Average daily census is 4.4</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Residential/Domicillary Care             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2,902 days of care</li> <li>○ Average Daily census 32</li> <li>○ Occupancy rate is 89%</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Admissions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 38 nursing admissions in the last quarter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

- 14 Res/dom admissions in the last quarter
  - 22 nursing discharges
  - 14 res/dom discharges
  - 6 deaths
  - Receipts
    - All within norms
  - Pharmacy costs are within norms
  - Laundry costs are within norms
  - Janitorial services within norms
  - Energy costs are consistent
  - Food service is within norms
  - Nursing hours are within norms
2. DPW/ Major projects
- None during the last quarter.
3. Significant Activities
- Annual VA survey in April with very positive results.
    - There were only two areas of concern noted.
    - 1) Privacy curtains in the private rooms on 1 East
    - 2) Finger foods
    - The team was very complimentary of the building and enjoyed their interactions with staff and residents.
    - One of the surveyor stated when she goes into a building to survey it, she looks at two things: would she place her parents in the home and would she work there. She stated yes to both.
  - The Leadership Team launched the C. H. I. P. S. program to recognize staff who go above and beyond their normal daily duties.
    - The characteristics of the program are:
    - C = Compassion;
    - H = Honesty;
    - I = Integrity;
    - P = Professionalism
    - S = Sacrifice.
    - Staff can "redeem" their chips for candy, beverage cards, movie tickets or DVD's.
    - Each supervisor was given a bag of chips to pass out as they see fit.
    - The HPO Committee purchased poker chips with the Veterans Home logo printed in the center.

Floor opened for questions and/or comments.

No questions or comments.

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| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b>  | As above; information update as available.  |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Boise Home Administrator  |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting until complete.   |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>  |
| <b>Topic F.</b>                     | <b>Idaho State Veterans Cemetery (James Earp – Director):</b>   |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Operation Report                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18.5% more interments in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter than 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Highest number of services conducted since cemetery opened.</li> <li>○ FY15 YTD 673 interments, 33 more than the previous year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Conducted multiple site visit in Idaho Falls while looking for a location for a 2<sup>nd</sup> State Veterans Cemetery</li> <li>• Interment Revenue for FY15 increased 14% from FY14.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase can be attributed to slight adjustment from VA plot allowance and a slight increase in upper area interments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. DPW/ Construction                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive feedback regarding increased capacity at the committal shelter.</li> <li>• Exploring construction for a shed for seasonal equipment storage.</li> <li>• Eagle Scout Project to add a state flag pole.</li> <li>• Conduit upgrade</li> <li>• Resurface road and paint road markings</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Volunteer Hours                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38% increase volunteer hours from previous FY</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Events                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial Day 2015 was attended by over 2,000 visitors. Staff and volunteers implemented numerous changes to ensure an improved experience for all.</li> <li>• American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Tour visit to the ISVC was a great success. The experience was enhanced by increased Volunteer participation for direction and questions.</li> <li>• Continued planning to host the August 16th Spirit of '45 ceremony. Governor's proclamation will be read and a wreath dedication will be performed.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

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|                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In conjunction with the Department of Idaho Military Order of the Purple Heart.</li> <li>● Increased requests for IVAL Memorial Benches continue to be met and placed throughout the cemetery.</li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>                 No questions or comments.</p>  |
| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b>  | As above; information update as available.  |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Idaho State Veterans Cemetery Director  |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting until complete.   |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>  |
| <b>Topic G.</b>                     | <b>Office of Veterans Advocacy (Beth Lahny for Bill Heyob – Director):</b>  |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Office of Veterans Advocacy continues to set records for the number of Veterans and family members assisted this year.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For comparison for Year to Date Totals comparing FY-14 and FY-15:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interviews YTD – FY14: 7,139 and FY15: 8,149; increase of 1,010</li> <li>○ POAs Filed YTD – FY14: 3,047 and FY15: 3,677; increase of 630</li> <li>○ Claims Filed YTD – FY14: 4,211 and FY15: 5,349; increase of 1,138</li> <li>○ Appeals YTD – FY14: 439 and FY15: 377; decrease of 62 (Better Quality w/VA, better explanations of requirements to Vets).</li> <li>○ State Emergency Grants Approved – FY14: 16 and FY15: 10; decrease of 6</li> <li>○ Grants Denied – FY14: 75 and FY15: 48; decrease of 27</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Notable changes from 4th Quarter 2014 versus 4th Quarter 2015:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interviews – FY14 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr: 1,743 and FY15 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr: 2,116; increase of 373</li> <li>○ Claims Filed – FY14 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr: 1,090 and FY15: 1,601; increase of 511</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Noteworthy Issues currently happening with the VA                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fully Developed Claim Initiative (1-year Retroactive Payments) ends on August 6, 2015</li> <li>● Standardized Forms Initiative- No major problems experienced by our State Service Officers</li> <li>● VA just recognized Air Force Active Duty and Reserve Personnel who were C-123 Pilots, Flight Crews and</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

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|                                     | <p>Ground Maintenance Crews on Agent Orange Contaminated planes for Agent Orange Presumptive conditions from 1969-1986.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans VA I.D. Card Bill recently approved by the House and Senate and awaiting the President's Signature. Once signed into Law, it will require the VA to issue a Veteran's I.D. Card to every Veteran with a DD-214.</li> <li>• Senate Bill 681 (Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015) is still pending in the U.S. Senate. It proposes to grant the same Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions to "Blue Water" Veterans as those who served "Boots on Ground" in Vietnam.</li> <li>• On July 13th, VA released a statement, urging Congress to transfer funds from the Veterans Choice Program to increase Veterans' access to care and life-saving pharmaceuticals. It says that if funds are not reallocated from other medical service programs, the VA will face shutting down hospital operations during August 2015.</li> </ul> <p>3. Upcoming Events within the OVA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2015 County and Post Service Officer School will be conducted July 29-31 at the Riverside Hotel, here in Boise.</li> <li>• The Twin Falls OVA Office will be fully operational at the beginning of August in the State DOL Office.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A service officer will be transferring from the Boise State Veterans Home to Twin Falls.</li> <li>○ Recently hired a Twin Falls Admin Assistant (currently training)</li> <li>○ Hired a retired Navy veteran as a replacement service officer in the Boise State Veterans Home</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sending 7 of our Service Officers to the VFW Basic Service Officer Training Course in Annapolis, MD from 15-21 August, remainder attending the VFW Advanced VSO Course in Annapolis, Nov 15-19.</li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>                 No questions or comments.</p> |
| <b>Action/Decision/ Conclusion:</b> | As above; information update as available.   |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Office of Veterans Advocacy Director   |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting until complete.  |

| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Topic H.</b>                     | <b>Veterans Education – GI Bill (Tom Byrns – Veterans Education Coordinator):</b>   |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VA Contractual Obligations for FY15                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All IHL, Licensing/Certification and Apprenticeship compliance surveys have been completed.</li> <li>• One remaining Non-College Degree Program Compliance Survey to complete</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>2. Upcoming SAA Training &amp; Travel                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26-29 July WAVES Conference in Anaheim, CA</li> <li>• 14-19 August NASAA Summer Business Conference in Indianapolis, IN</li> <li>• In October, sending the Education Office Admin Assistant to the annual NASAA Training Conference in Indianapolis, IN</li> <li>• Past Travel since last IVAC                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 14-15 May Attended Northwest Career Colleges Federation Conference</li> <li>○ 17-21 May Compliance Visits in Northern Idaho</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>3. Number of Approved Educational Facilities in Idaho                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 295 from 284                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 24 Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL)</li> <li>○ 58 Non-College Degree Programs (NCD)</li> <li>○ 108 Apprenticeship Programs</li> <li>○ 103 On-the-Job Training Programs (OJT)</li> <li>○ 2 Flight Schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>4. Approximate Number of Veterans Utilizing Education Benefits in Idaho                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3375                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3084 IHL</li> <li>○ 87 NCD</li> <li>○ 78 OJT</li> <li>○ 71 Flight School</li> <li>○ 55 Apprenticeships</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>5. Amount of Education Benefits Used in Idaho YTD (as of April 2015)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$17,140,886 Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)</li> <li>• \$1,555,190 Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30)</li> <li>• \$858,512 National Guard &amp; Reserve GI Bill (Chapter 1606 – Never Deployed &amp; Chapter 1607 – Deployed)</li> <li>• \$842,903 Dependents of Veterans with a VA Service Connected Disability Rating of 100% Permanent and Total (Chapter 35)</li> </ul> </li> <br/> <li>6. Amount of Education Benefits Used in Idaho 2014</li> </ol> |

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|                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$42,491,345 Chapter 33</li> <li>• \$5,398,019 Chapter 30</li> <li>• \$2,355,247 Chapter 1606/1607</li> <li>• \$2,382,955 Chapter 35</li> </ul> <p>7. Breakdown of Veterans by Benefit Chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 484 Chapter 33</li> <li>• 340 Chapter 30</li> <li>• 320 Chapter 1606/1607</li> <li>• 293 Chapter 35</li> </ul> <p>8. Issues/In the Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY16 Contract reduces Education Coordinator budget to \$21,000 which is \$4,000 less than FY15</li> <li>• Section 702 of Veterans Choice Act – all schools confirmed except for North Idaho College and College of Western Idaho.</li> <li>• Updates to IDVS Education website ongoing.</li> <li>• Collaboration with Federal and State Departments of Labor continue.</li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>                 No questions or comments.</p> |
| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b>  | As above; information update as available.   |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>           | Veterans Education Coordinator   |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>      | Update each meeting until complete.  |
| <b>Status:</b>                      | <b>INFORMATION</b>   |
| <b>Topic I.</b>                     | <b>Idaho Division of Veterans Services (David Brasuell – Administrator):</b>   |
| <b>Information/Data Discussion:</b> | <p>1. Division Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NASVH next week in Sandusky, OH</li> <li>• There is a new American Legion Adjutant for Idaho</li> <li>• Bill Heyob is the new Commander for the Idaho Department of the Marine Corp League, as well as the commander of the local chapter</li> <li>• The FY16 Budget is due to the Governor’s Office in September</li> <li>• IDVS staff is developing the JFAC briefing</li> <li>• IHCA is this week in Boise</li> <li>• NASDVA is in August in Orlando                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ David will be sworn in as the new NASDVA President</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Disable Veterans Hunt Committee selected to deserving veterans to participate in this year’s hunt in</li> </ul>  |

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|                                    | <p>October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDVS is looking to scale back IT hardware purchases.</li> <li>• There is an interagency mental health summit being hosted August 24 by Boise VAMC in their Mountain Cove Annex.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This summit will discuss veterans mental health issues and discuss avenues to identify and treat at risk veterans.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Colonel Timothy Donnellan, is the new Idaho Air National Guard 124<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Commander.</li> <li>• Gowen Field is hosting its annual family day on September 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>2. DPW projects likely will need to continue to be self-funded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We must wait until revenue has accrued before we can green light projects.</li> </ul> <p>3. Transportation Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are working with other valley organizations to come up with solutions to existing veteran transportation issues.</li> <li>• This is likely to be a long term working group.</li> <li>• Uncertain when actionable programs will evolve from it.</li> <li>• Kevin Wallior, the Division Administrative Assistant II, who already manages the Disabled Wheelchair Program, is acting as the IDVS representative in this group.</li> </ul> <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.<br/>                 No questions or comments.</p> |
| <b>Action/Decision/Conclusion:</b> | As above; information update as available.  |
| <b>Responsible Party:</b>          | Division Administrator  |
| <b>Target Completion Date:</b>     | Update each meeting until complete.   |
| <b>Status:</b>                     | <b>INFORMATION</b>  |
|                                    |   |

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

Vice Chairman Nominations and Election will be held at the next IVAC meeting in October.

**Next meeting is scheduled for  
Thursday, October 15, 2016  
Idaho State Veterans Home – Lewiston  
Conference Room  
821 21st Avenue Lewiston, Idaho**

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

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H. Melvin Napier, Chairman

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David Brasuell, Executive Secretary