

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2025

Location: Hybrid – Idaho Supreme Court Building – [Zoom Link](#)

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission Members Present:

Ashley Dowell, Chair, IDJC	Thomas Sullivan, Judge, Magistrate Court*
Tracy Basterrechea, Chiefs of Police Association	Todd Lakey, Senate Judiciary & Rules Chairman
Kieran Donahue, Vice Chair, ISA	Jeff Nye, Idaho Attorney General’s Office
Monty Prow, Health & Welfare	Darren Simpson, Judge, District Court*
Melissa Wintrow, Senate Judiciary & Rules	Carson Tester, Office of the Governor
Bill Gardiner, Idaho State Police	Denton Darrington, Public Member
Vacant, Public Member	Eric Fredericksen, State Public Defender
Erik Lehtinen, SAPD	Christine Starr, Comm of Pardons & Parole
Jonathon Brody, Judge, District Court*	

Bree Derrick, Department of Correction
Bernadette LaSarte, Public Member
Sara Omundson, Idaho Supreme Court*
Grant Loeb, Prosecuting Attorneys Assoc.
Seth Grigg, Idaho Association of Counties
Greg Wilson, Department of Education

Comprising a quorum of Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (Commission)

*Non-voting members

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission Members Absent

Chris Mathias, House Jud, Rules & Admin	Bruce Skaug, House Jud & Rules Admin
Justin Whatcott, U.S. Attorney, District of Idaho*	Jessie Dexter, Office of Drug Policy

Others Present:

James Patterson
Jen Rube
Audrey D.
Jared H.

Agenda Who's Responsible		Meeting Outcomes/Decisions Reached
9:00 am	Call to Order— <i>Chair Ashley Dowell</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome and Roll Call— <i>Chair Ashley Dowell</i> ● Review Commission's Vision and Mission Statement and Values—<i>Commission Members</i> 	
Commission Management		
9:05 am (5 min)	Action Item – Approve June 27, 2025, Minutes Action Item – Vice Chair selection Action Item - MOU	<i>Seth Grigg motioned to approve the June 27th minutes, seconded by Bree Derrick. Motion passed.</i> <i>Tracy Basterrechea motioned to have Kieran Donahue continue as the Vice Chair, seconded by Jeff Nye. Motion passed.</i> <i>Kieran Donahue motioned to accept the MOU as amended, seconded by Tracy Basterrchea. Motion passed.</i> <i>Correction on the MOU, Marianne King has retired. Jessie Decker is taking her place on the commission.</i>
Promote Well-Informed Policy Decisions		
9:10 (55 min)	Subcommittee Updates 1. Human Trafficking- Office of the Attorney General and Idaho State Police 2. Sex Crimes- Chiefs of Police Association and Erik Lehtinen	1. Very productive with stakeholders in the trafficking task-force. The subcommittee identified clear roles to avoid redundancies. There will be a few more meetings going forward to develop a request of information to request human trafficking statistics. A report being done by Treasure Valley Trafficking hopes to paint a clear picture of the issue of trafficking. Idaho State Police are holding four, two day courses on trafficking in August, September, and November. 2. There has been contact with St. Lukes and St. Al's with individuals who may become a part of this subcommittee to provide an important perspective. The process of building the subcommittee is ongoing. Avoiding a duplication of efforts is an aspect that was emphasized as an important goal. There was also discussion around collaborative efforts of overhauling the sex offender registry.

<p style="text-align: center;">Agenda <i>Who's Responsible</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Outcomes/Decisions Reached</p>
	<p>3. Public Safety Positions- Sheriffs' Association and State Department of Education</p> <p>4. Coroner System- Kelli Brassfield and Senator Wintrow</p> <p>5. Neurocognitive Holds and Placements- Idaho Supreme Court and Department of Health and Welfare</p> <p>6. Support for Victims- Christine Starr and Bernie LaSarte</p> <p>7. Riders- Idaho Department of Correction and Idaho Supreme Court</p>	<p>3. There have been internal conversations around the membership that is wanted to participate in this subcommittee. There are a handful of people being considered that have backgrounds in education and the hope is to have it finalized by the September 12th meeting. It was also emphasized to highlight recruitment and retention data and come up with a strategic plan to improve that. Another aspect is to focus on funding and stakeholder support as policy recommendations are made.</p> <p>4. There have been three meetings and the conversations have been highly focused on the OPE report and the recommendations on oversight, inconsistencies and education. There have been discussions on how to address the resource issues across the state with autopsies, especially with child death(s). There have been a few ideas that are still W.I.P. that consider a sharing of resources, although these conversations are ongoing. JLOC has been invited to tour the autopsy facility in Ada County.</p> <p>5. The group has been named and will soon be assembled. Jared Larson is co-chairing with Judge Sullivan.</p> <p>6. The main goal at the moment is prioritizing the list made at a previous meeting, doing research in particular aspects and determining what should be a priority first. Also determining who has the capacity to take on the work. A meeting in August or September is planned.</p> <p>7. A survey to judges regarding their expectations of the Rider Program is being worked on and will then be sent out after the draft is finalized. Data is being compiled and will get sent out to the committee as soon as possible.</p>

Agenda <i>Who's Responsible</i>		Meeting Outcomes/Decisions Reached
10:00 am (1 hr.)	ICJC/ISC focus group - <i>Sara Omundson, Idaho Supreme Court</i>	<p>They requested a 10:00 am time for the facilitators and said it would take ~1hr.</p> <p>In a nutshell, The Idaho Judicial Branch does a prioritization of goals and they are taking the opportunity to gain input from a large number of individuals to gather more information from core partners and judicial branch employees, judges and staff. This is the main purpose of working with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Alecia Burke and Abby Kuschel presented on the following process:</p> <p>A survey was sent out to all employees and judges of the judicial branch to gain a broad perspective to gain understanding of what was working well and what could be improved. There was a great response rate internally and externally. This focus group will be to gather a deeper understanding and a new perspective.</p> <p>The following are anonymous suggestions/thoughts from the discussion from the ICJC committee based upon the questions given from NCSC and ISC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you think the Idaho Judicial Branch can do to increase public trust and confidence in the courts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removing the senior judge program. - Possibly creating a mechanism or process for an individual to report a concern or relay questions during a case. Making this process clear and known to the public. - There is a lack of confidence in the way that judges are selected in Idaho. Looking at the magistrate level of how judges are picked, many refer to it as the ‘popularity contest’ because questionnaires are anonymous and there is no follow up on statements. So this tool can be used to screen out judges that may not be popular with one group or another, which can lead to a feeling of dismay when judges are chosen.

Agenda <i>Who's Responsible</i>		Meeting Outcomes/Decisions Reached
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Voters don't have the information necessary to elect judges based upon their merit and knowledge, so it can become a political popularity election of judges. - There is no explanation as to why a sentence that is handed out by a judge, which can lead to confusion. - What can the judicial branch do better to serve court users and court partners? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on refining the current system with the magistrate commission. Avoid politicizing the judiciary system is important. - More consistency among the courts across the state in terms of processes for getting warrants, filing documents, hearing attendance requirements, etc. - What would make you feel safer in the Idaho Courts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courthouse security is not consistent in its security and protocols across the State. There is inconsistency around jurisdiction and privileges for ADJ's and bailiffs. - There is a lack of consistency in the processes of security when entering courthouses and it can be dependent upon who is entering the courthouse. Some courthouses have a high level of security while others have next to none. - Some courthouses in Idaho also have massive variations in technology in the courtrooms, which can introduce issues of fairness and accessibility during trial. - Varying revenues and resources are major limitations to a lot of the inconsistencies that have been mentioned, which is an

Next

Agenda <i>Who's Responsible</i>		Meeting Outcomes/Decisions Reached
		important problem to understand if there is going to be efforts to implement some level of consistency.
11:00 am <i>(1 hr.)</i>	Other Commission Business	No other business discussed.
12:00 pm	Adjourn	Adjournment at 11:20 am.

regularly scheduled meeting to be held in Boise, Friday, September 12, 2025

“Collaborating for a Safer Idaho”