

ICBVI Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025

Meeting was called to order at: 9:00 am Mountain Time

Board Members in Attendance in Person: Al Schneider, B.J. Stinger, LeAnn Gelskey

Board Members in Attendance via Teams: Britt Raubenheimer, Mark Watkins

ICBVI Staff in Attendance in Person: Beth Cunningham, Caleb Tibbetts, Steve Achabal, Angela Starr, Corey Bresina, Kevin Jernigan, Justin Fish, Rocio Gil

ICBVI Staff in Attendance via Teams: Linda Upton, Earl Hoover, Jackie Stallings, Dawn Ristau, Jeff Weeks, Merrilee Jackson

Others in Attendance in Person: None

Others on Teams: None

Motion to approve September minutes – Britt moved; BJ seconded.

Motion to approve agenda - Britt moved; LeAnn seconded.

Administrator's Report – Beth Cunningham

Good Morning, First, I would like to introduce Caleb Tibbetts, our new Chief of Rehabilitation Services to you. Caleb will provide you with a little more information and background after my report.

Personnel: We sent Mike out with a bang. We had some really fun things at in-service at the beginning of October and a little party for him one evening in which about 10 of us dressed up as the different versions of Mike. We had hockey Mike, U of I Mike, Biking Mike, Dressed up Mike, everyday Mike, IDVR Mike etc. It was really cute and then Jeff dressed up in a beekeeper's suit and Linda dressed up like a bee.

Mike came to the last session at in-service and Angela and Collene had put together a slide show and he brought his guitar and sang us a Bob Dylan song. VR staff got him a funny cake and he definitely felt the love and was touched by all of this. Angela asked Chat gpt to write a poem that was perfect and hilarious also. Then near the end of November, we hired Caleb to be our new Chief of Rehabilitation Services and we are so happy to welcome him aboard. He comes to us with wealth of great experience and I won't steal his thunder – he will introduce himself after my report.

Also, we hired a new work readiness teacher in the ATC and I will let Kevin tell your more about Kenneth, who began in November. Currently, we are close to posting our Pocatello VRC position -that should happen this month.

Sadly, we do have one retirement on the horizon, Linda Upton has announced that she plans to retire May 29th after approximately 25 years! We will be sorry to see her go.

CSAVR: Corey and I attended this meeting and I also stayed and attended NCSAB. There were some federal updates. It looks likely that the VR program will be moving to the Department of Labor at some point, but nothing is for sure yet. We have received all of our federal grants now that the Government has opened up. One thing that we learned at this meeting was that many states have moved or are in the process of moving into an order of selection. This is a tool VR agencies can use to help slow things down when more participants are apply for services than they have funding available to serve. It will be one of our goals, to get better way to forecast services and our budget, so that in the future, should we ever need to use this tool, we have plenty of time to plan the process and to have it approved.

AWARE (the new case management system)- things are moving along and we are still look at making this switch in February. Steve will provide a little more of an in-depth summary of where we are with the testing and training for moving over to this case management system. I do want to call out the efforts of Steve, Angela, Nick and Tom for all of the work they have been putting into this transition. Jeff, Rocio, Laurie, Dawn Scott, April and Earl have also been putting in a lot of extra time on learning and testing AWARE. Thank you!

Partners/Committees: Over the past three months, I have attended a couple of SILC meetings, One-stop committee meetings, region X meetings, NCSAB meetings and a workforce development meeting.

Corey and I attended the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho one day conference: This was focused on the economy in Idaho including the state of the budget as reported by the Division of Financial Management. Opinions on the Idaho impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB3) and tariffs were also presented by a panel from the College of Idaho, Western Trailer, Simplot, and US Chamber of Commerce. It was noted that the State had a 26% increase in cost for insurance and that 65% of the total state budget goes to Education with 50% of it going to K-12. Our annual enrollments for school children are down as is consistent with the rest of the country. Unemployment is 4.4% and inflation is 3% and what is more normal would be 2%.

Building improvements on the horizon relating to HVAC and lighting (Kevin can provide more details on that). We will probably have to phase it in over a few years.

Director's meeting next Monday 15th.

Agency Goals

Implement AWARE

Fiscal forecasting- create and improve

Writing new internal controls to address audit findings: These are due Dec. 1st – January 15th, 2026. We had a single audit and there were a number of things that were found to improve upon. 1. Internal Controls training. 2. Errors in RSA reporting. 3. Cost allocation plan. 4. Administrative Rules for purchasing. There was a purchase for Pre-ETS for \$30k that exceeded the \$25k cap. Angela has set up a meeting with DOP for us, they are coming on 12/18 to do a training. 5. CEFA closing packages. Corey submitted it and also approved it. Normally I approve it. That is already fixed.

Britt – In Corey’s financial report it looks like RSA only allocated 33%. Are we expecting the full award?

Beth – We expect the full amount as last year.

Vocational Rehab – Caleb Tibbetts

I don’t have a ton to report; I do have some. I wanted to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself and give you some background. This is my third week. I came from IDVR. I was there almost 10 years in a lot of different roles. Started in the Twin Falls area as a general counselor. Pretty quickly became a Pre-Ets counselor. Moved to Boise to become an area transition counselor. After that I spent 2 years as the statewide apprenticeship counselor. Worked really closely with DOL on apprenticeships. The last 2-3 years I was a Pre-Ets supervisor in the Treasure Valley. I enjoyed all those different roles and I understand a lot of different aspects of VR. My vision is to strengthen the program; I’d like to see more apprenticeships and on the job training opportunities. I’m originally from Massachusetts but I’ve been here about 15 years, graduated from Idaho State University, and I married an Idahoan. The first couple weeks were heavy on the ATC. I’ve experienced Braille, computers, ADL, and a little bit of shop class. A lot of O&M. My biggest takeaway was I couldn’t walk down the hallway without walking into something. Now I’m navigating the building and crossing the street.

Al – how much shades training will you do?

Caleb – I’ve been meaning to talk to Beth about his. I plan on asking if I can do a few more trainings here and there.

I didn’t get this to you ahead of time but I reviewed the past reports that Mike was doing. I just had Nick pull some numbers and complete those charts. We’ll send this out to you guys.

Q1 – July, August, Sept.

Open cases were about the same from the previous quarter. 4 new applicants.

Timeliness of eligibilities and IPE's was 100%.

Total students was up by 5. # of students that received Pre-Ets services was almost double. We've served students in all five of the required Pre-Ets.

MSG's – they look fairly low for the time of year but expect those to come up in the next quarter.

Competitive Integrated Employment – agricultural engineer making \$59.87 per hour to a massage therapist making a little over minimum wage.

Independent Living (IL) Program, Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program, Sight Restoration, Low Vision Clinic and ICBVI Stores – Steve Achabal, IL Program Coordinator

IL/ILOB Programs:

For the December board report, we usually talk about the federal fiscal year numbers pretty close to my last report in September.

Primarily for federal fiscal year 2025 IBVI served 673 older blind clients and 109 independent living clients. The OB cases that number is down a little bit from federal fiscal year 2024. And a big part of that I think is RT'S, which is kind of cleaning up caseloads and we'll continue to do that especially with the change to AWARE in really identifying which individuals are kind of active and moving on the caseloads and which ones are in stagnant, especially with their older blind we always have people who kind of want to stick around; they like that safety net. But we can't do that for everybody otherwise the caseloads would be into the thousands. But the rehab teachers are doing a fantastic job. Let alone just serving clients in ILOB, of course they've got their VR cases. That they work with our VRC's throughout the state. That's always been interesting to see how those numbers play out and it's kind of a feast or famine usually VR as well as all the programs going to slow down this time of year. I expect, especially with the nicer weather, to increase some of the services and getting out, which is actually kind of a good thing with AWARE going live in February. This is actually a great time to be able to meet that transition. Another important thing at this time we can't account for on our federal reports is the one-time referrals and that's a significant number. We had 208 one-time referrals just in the OB program. These are going to be individuals that may call or doing information or referral over the phone, but a lot of times we're going out and maybe only having to meet with a client or a person once or twice.

So we have not in the past opened up a file or a case for them. That will change when we move to the AWARE system. We'll be able to start counting those numbers, which will be a really nice addition, I think. Along with the 208 OB, one time referral 16 were IL referrals. And you know, I

think it's important to point out, and I've mentioned this, I think the last few December board meetings, but I like to reiterate it. I think the rehab teachers and the VRCS in the regional offices as well is here, have a really good working relationship. Spoken a little bit with Caleb, Mike and I really tried to enforce that the RT's , the VRCS, the VRA's are meeting at least once a week to, you know, be on the same team you know and communicate about clients and stuff. I think Caleb and I are probably in the same mindset to continue that. But with the IL program, our numbers were a little bit higher in the past, but I think now what we've really tried to what the rehab teachers have done a really good job at is when working with a lot of our IL individuals course, many of them have multiple disabilities, not just vision loss. And many don't even see you know how they're able to do some independent living things. Let alone you look at vocational goals or think the job jobs are even something on their radar. And I think with that collaborative effort and that communication a fair number of clients are moving possibly into VR instead of just IL or moving after they get those IL services into VR. The other part too is sometimes we have a VR client who have been closed and maybe it's just some IL things that they need, and so again I think it's just important to have that communication and that collaboration to help those working together to try to meet the needs of our clients and residents of the state and residents. Really, a lot of the rest of the report for ILOB just tells about the work that the rehab teachers have done with outreach in each of their areas as well. Many of the rehab teachers sit on either committees or boards advocating for transportation, access, public access for individuals, vision loss in their local communities. All of the rehab teachers have gone to all sorts of different senior fairs, community fairs, different things of that nature, trying to get the word out and then also just getting out to other professionals, whether it be in the school systems, doctors, ophthalmologists, retinal specialists, optometrists, different things of that nature. So, our outreach efforts are always important. I think that it's really important to also note that this is an important part of their jobs. We're not out there enough. I think a lot of people, we're not a secret, but it's kind of like a secret that people, it's like, oh, I never even knew about your agency. And you don't know how often our staff hears that. It's imperative for us to get the word out of what we do and who we are. We're not IESDB. We're not NFB any of those types of things. Those entities are fantastic. But we are Commission for the blind, visually impaired, so it's important that we get our message out.

Britt - First of all I want to say it's really great that some of the IL clients seem to be moving to VR. I think that's a real testament to the self-confidence that they're being given through the program. You've got to have that self-confidence to even think about employment and that's really cool. My question, and maybe this was a question that should have been for Beth. Beth mentioned that the VR program might be moved under Department of Labor. Has there been any indication of whether or not IL or ILOB would be the same, or would they be left as they are or moved elsewhere?

Steve - So currently ILOB is placed under RSA with VR. IL is placed under Health and Human services. This has posed some obstacles in the past because unfortunately IL and ILOB at the federal level, I don't think they really talk to each other. With the possibility of Department of Ed going away, my assumption would be that OB would probably be placed under Health and Human services, but at the last ILOB program manager's

meeting last week, there hasn't been any indication of exactly where the program would move. I have not heard anything about the IL program moving outside of HHS, though at this time.

Britt - So I go back to the continuing resolution. Was HHS covered under the clause? Not every agency was covered under that. Do you know if HHS was covered?

Steve – IL was covered. It's been difficult to get federal information from the IL program. So, I've sent emails. I've tried to speak with individuals and really haven't gotten a lot of feedback there. At the federal level, for ILOB we had our main contact name is Nikki Jeppords. Nikki was not laid off, but back in January, she was riff' d. And we really didn't have much contact at the federal level. She's back, which has been great. I think we've established a really good working relationship with her, but she's just inundated with all the backlog stuff. Some of our clients in the IL Program we're facing now with some of the federal funding changes is those individuals who were accessing the personal assistant services. A lot of those have been the funding for that's been significantly cut.

Beth - just to add a little bit, OB was included in both the President's budget when that came out, we were concerned because we had our NCSAB national lobbyists had mentioned some concerns that it could get cut, but it was in the president's budget. And then when, with the continuing resolution, it is included.

Steve - as in every year, I mean roughly, I think we get around \$71,000 from Part B funds for the IL program. We have a \$225,000 for OB with a 10% match, so roughly \$250,000. We surpass that especially in OB every year in those programs to be able to provide services to clients. And I give a lot of kudos to Beth and to Corey, identify where we are able to utilize other funds to be able to continue to provide those services. There are some states that have waiting lists for their OB program. Each state runs their OB program a little differently. Some states will have more conservative requirements, maybe like legal blindness. In order to receive services. Or there's some states or some areas in states that we'd like in the Seattle area and stuff I believe there's a waiting to be able to provide OB services. We've been really fortunate to not have to go down that road, at least at this point.

Beth - and I'll add one more thing and that is that this year at our JFAC hearing we will be requesting an increase to the amount of money we can bring in to our Social Security reimbursement fund because the allowable was \$46,000 or \$47,000. So, we're trying to bump that up to I think \$110,000. In anticipation that with the ticket tracker in AWARE that we will be able to start seeing more Social Security reimbursement and we often ear mark that money for OB. So that is how we get more funding.

We'll move on to sight restoration. We received no federal funding for the program. The VRAS primarily manage the cases and they do a fantastic job. People on a short-term basis really have a financial need and the services, whether it be cataract surgery or other procedures that can help a

person either maintain or increase their vision. It's just the vast majority of individuals are just so grateful and it really makes a makes a big difference. Like every board meeting, I always want to give a lot of kudos to our VRA's because they do an outstanding job with the program. Working with local vendors, physician facilities trained to identify the best rates, best ways to help individuals. And across the board, I think every VRA has gone above and beyond their role really. For the state fiscal year 2025, we serve 50 clients, not all were closed successfully. But we did a great job, utilized almost all the funds. I think in sight restoration the \$120,000.

Low Vision clinic and ICBVI stores. We just actually finished the low vision clinic this week with Dr. Hansen. We had throughout 2025 and we'll continue to do it in 2026. We have the regional clinics that Dr. Hansen. Collene, go up to Lewiston and then over to Twin Falls. In state fiscal year 2025 96 patients were seen. Which I think is still pretty amazing, especially for just a part-time clinic. We're looking at three to five clinic dates per month. And so that's a testament to both Dr. Hansen and Lynn and Colleen and the work they do in the clinic. That does not include the individuals that Dr. Hansen sees over in Rigby that might be coming from either Pocatello or Idaho Falls. Sometimes we'll have individuals that can't make it in the Boise for the dates that the Boise clinics open and so they'll head over to Rigby to see Doctor Hansen, either from Boise or Twin F. But that doesn't happen a lot. The other thing too, Dr. Hansen, I think, should get credit for as well, is there's many times where maybe we might be seeing a person either at the Twin Falls location or if they come into Boise and maybe they order bioptics or just need a fitting or something like that? It's not uncommon for Dr. Hansen to meet with them off of the Interstate and do a quick fitting. They really go above and beyond. It's been a great partnership with Dr. Hansen.

About AWARE. Personally, I didn't realize how big of an undertaking it would be. For all of our programs, we're getting there. You know, we've already completed a lot of major phases of the adaptation phase was a huge one. We did a lot of validation testing. We completed our UAT testing in November. When we had different findings that Nick and Tom were able to fix. Our next major phase that we'll be going into in January will be the pilot testing. Staff will have to input information both into the AWARE system as well as the legacy system and make sure that all that data and stuff is coming up correctly. And then we'll jump into going live in February, which will be really cool. I'm really happy to have Caleb here. One, I think he's going to be a really great VR chief. But the other part is his knowledge and expertise in the AWARE system. I think Angela has done a fantastic job with Mike's retirement. A lot of stuff has gotten dumped on her plate. But it'll be really nice to have someone who knows the AWARE system can go through that adaptation, making sure everything's lining up correctly. And then also with the training and I know Jeff has done a lot of assistance and Rocio as well. We conducted trainings in October and November for non-screen reading users and then the separate training for screen reading users in our for the IL and OB programs. Personally, I want to give a lot of kudos and thanks to April Mills. She spent over probably last weeks over 240 hours. She helped develop a lot of the training curriculum. Conducted or facilitated the trainings that took place for the rehab teachers. Has worked on recordings for these for spring reading users of videos for our non-jaws users. She's also been working on manuals and flowcharts and stuff, and so without April, I really don't know where we'd be on the training. She's done a fantastic job on that. The all of the rehab

teachers are really responsive, they've cleared schedules and have made the trainings, a major priority. And I also wanted to thank Earl Hoover as well. He's been extremely helpful. Like any program there's always going to be some obstacles, some hurdles. But those trainings lasted almost three weeks. We met 2 hours a day for three weeks straight or close to three weeks straight. All the staff had patience. We went through it as a group and I'm really proud of everyone's responses to it. We're just going to try to make the best product that we can when we get go live in February, I believe February 16th is the date for that. That being said, the other person I'd really like to thank for at least myself, and I don't know without him how we would have been able to accomplish this huge undertaking is Tom. Tomas Duke. He's been imperative.

And literally I really don't know if we would be able to manage this undertaking without Tom, which is kind of scary because ITS wanted to take his position last year. Tom, Nick, myself, Caleb sat through 15 hours of training last week for just the report section from as far as data goes, and that I think is going to be incredible. The information that we're going to be able to pull from AWARE I think it's also going to be a much more vibrant system for our VRA's, our VRCS as well as our RTS to utilize the system.

AI- I know it was quite a bit of money up front and then isn't there an annual fee?

Beth - Yes. And just to remind people, if they've forgotten, that we got about \$989,000 from IDVR. They gave us that money and we went before the legislature and asked for the match, which was around \$238,000 which they gave us to get the program and then the ongoing is somewhere I don't around \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year or something.

AI – what is PPR?. The PPR report is our federal report for our IL program we used to call the 704 report. That is a report that we actually do in conjunction with our DSE, which is IDVR, the SILC and then the three SILS. We receive the Centers for Independent Living or the SILS receive, usually from the Part B and Part C funding. We received just part b funding and that's what the PPR report focuses on is just that the Part b funding. As of yesterday, our section has been completed and submitted.

Britt - Steve, going back a little bit in your report to the sight restoration program, I know in our area the local electric Co-op has been pretty active over time at alerting their clients to the site restoration if necessary. The Electric Co-op might have gotten into that because my husband is on the board. He's the president of the board, has been for 20 somewhat years, but they also were very active in the community. And people that are struggling to figure out how to pay their bill. Not that they don't have money, but they're losing their eyesight. So, they're having difficulty with the online system or driving anyway. I don't know if you do outreach to electric co-ops. I know they have an annual or they used to at least have an annual meeting in Boise. If you're interested and it's something you don't currently do, let me know and I can check whether or not they think it would be worthwhile.

Steve - I would love to. I'm not saying we don't for sure, just not aware of it. You know any of those types, especially at local area sources, the resources for individuals I know that we refer a fair number of people to thing to different entities like the Lions Club because we don't just do

glasses, don't do just contacts, things of that nature. So, it's always nice if we're not able to help somebody, at least to give resources and of course usually for site restoration we have pretty tight financial guidelines for people to be able to be eligible.

Assessment and Training Center – Kevin Jernigan, ATC Manager

This fall term is the first one since the winter 2024 term that the ATC has all positions filled. Kenneth Moitui started as our job readiness instructor on November 10th and is fitting in nicely with the ATC staff. He has a background teaching braille, ADL's, assistive technology, and is currently working on completing his O&M training program at Texas Tech University so his talents will be put to good use with our students.

We have 12 students in the ATC. One student had to terminate his training shortly after the start of the term, so we brought a new student in to fill that spot on November 3rd. We have one student from Twin Falls, one from Idaho Falls, and the rest are from the Treasure Valley. Two students are full-time students, while the rest are part-timers. We currently have a 5-person waiting list. We expect to have another 12 to 13 students at the start of the winter term.

We have provided services to 21 students since July of this year. A few of those have been in collaboration with our Treasure Valley RT's to provide some more O&M to their VR clients. Additionally, we have provided 9 pre-training assessments and tours for potential students.

I am happy to announce that we are now allowing clients from the regions to start attending in-person pre-training assessments and tours again. The in-person assessments policy of covering the cost of travel and per diem for a regional client to attend in person was changed in October 2024 so those clients would attend a virtual tour instead. From October 2024 to now, we have only had 2 virtual pre-training assessments. We did have 2 clients from the Twin Falls region attend in-person assessments. The demographics of the ATC student population has seen a drop in ATC students from the regions since the virtual tour was put into practice. Over the past 3 terms, we have only had 3 different students who are not from the Treasure Valley region. One of those students is from Idaho Falls and has been an ATC student since fall 2024. The other two students have come from the Twin Falls area. All three of the students attended in-person pre-training assessments and tours. This is all to express the importance of allowing potential ATC students to attend in-person pre-training assessments and tours so they can gain an in-depth experience of what training will be like should they decide to join the ATC. I believe when a potential student attends the assessment and tour in-person it not only allows them to meet with each instructor to learn more about each class and our non-visual training philosophy, but they also can get the perspective of training from other ATC students in training. I believe it gives the hope and confidence that by becoming an ATC student, they will be able to get back a lot of the independence they believe they have lost forever. The virtual tour will remain an option for the regional clients.

The adaptive gardening project has been put to bed for the winter but will be back in the spring. Chris and Efren are working on building the program up with more garden designs and growth for the future.

During the last board meeting, I had mentioned a training collaboration between the ATC O&M's and OT's, PT's, and nurses from St. Als. The training was about an hour long and went well. There were about 30 St. Als staff in attendance, and all felt like they could benefit from another one that allowed for even more hands-on training so they can do a better job meeting the needs of patients they end up working with who happen to be visually impaired or blind. We are trying to get St. Als staff to attend one of our Blindness 101 trainings in the future, but their schedules make it difficult to do that so I am not sure it will happen at some point or not.

Speaking of trainings, the ATC and Boise VRC's hosted another Blindness 101 during the September term break. Chris did a great job collaborating with Jeff and Rocio to coordinate this most recent training. We had 12 participants in attendance. We had representatives from IDVR Boise, Nampa, and Meridian, as well as a few from Ada County Highway District. We had a few HP staff who showed an interest in attending as well but couldn't make it work with their schedule. The survey results were very positive and indicated that the participants enjoyed the training and found it to be beneficial. The biggest complaint was that they want more hands-on time in the classes.

The HP folks ended up meeting with some of our students at a later date during a discussion group to learn how our students use accessible technology and suggestions for designing more accessible office equipment.

Two final trainings took place after the midterm. Efren provided a presentation to a group of 5th graders in Boise where about 20 students had the opportunity to try traveling non-visually. Lisa coordinated a tour visit for the Boise School Districts TVI instructor to bring her students in to meet with the ATC instructors and learn about the ATC. There were about 10 students in attendance, and they met with each instructor for about 10 to 15 minutes. The students seemed to enjoy the tour.

We were approved up to \$800k. Total estimate is \$2.5 million. We're also getting the exterior of the building painted. I'm hoping to get the lights replaced. I'm testing dimmable lights but I don't know what the estimate will be.

Al – Before you went to virtual tours what was the attendance from other areas in the state?

Kevin – The last person we had on tour was in October 2024. Before that we usually had 1 or 2 from other areas.

Financial Update – Corey Bresina, Administrative Services Manager

SFY26 budgets and expenditures: As of 12/2/2025

(42.47% through the year)

Fund	Name	Account Category	Budget	Actual Expenses	Encumbrances	Amount Remaining	% Actual	% Remaining
10000	General	CAPITAL	29,100	2,289		26,811	7.87	
10000	General	OPERATING	153,600	70,308		83,292	45.77	
10000	General	PERSONNEL	1,023,950	403,662		620,288	39.42	
10000	General	T&B	575,883	182,304		393,580	31.66	
21000	BEP	OPERATING	27,600	0		27,600	0	
21000	BEP	T&B	100,100	27,292		72,808	27.26	
28800	SSA	OPERATING	34,300	50		34,250	.15	
28800	SSA	T&B	13,000	0		13,000	0	
34800	Federal	Capital	1,439,719	982,755		456,964	68.26	
34800	Federal	OPERATING	2,933,000	1,182,937		1,750,063	40.33	
34800	Federal	PERSONNEL	534,792	278,123		256,669	52.01	
34800	Federal	T&B	28,100	22,249		5,851	79.18	
34900	Misc Rev	OPERATING	56,300	44		56,256	.08	
34900	Misc Rev	T&B	62,900	16,056		46,844	25.53	
42600	A&A	OPERATING	27,700	10,794		16,906	38.97	
42600	A&A	PERSONNEL	27,227	27,127		100	99.63	
		Total	7,067,271	3,205,991		4,069,162	45	

*Cognos, Agency Content, Statewide Reports, Budget Development, Budget Dashboard – Normally, but it disappeared recently. Sourced from Luma this time.

		FFY26	FFY25	50 - PC	1,597,393.35	40.1%
Pre-ETS obligation		190,706.10	575,451.75	55 - O/E	380,189.76	62.5%
Pre-ETS draws 100%		0.00	(284,329.89)	70 - CO	29,416.01	52.2%
Balance of 15%		190,706.10	291,121.86	80 - T/B	487,762.98	38.1%

Federal fiscal year 2026 started on October 1st. The current award for VRBS26 is \$1,271,374 and is roughly 33% of our total amount (\$3,804,230 estimate). Our current award for OLB26 is \$75,195 and the total award is estimated to be the usual \$225,000. The award for ILB25 is \$73,092. We have spent the 2025 OLB and ILB awards and are still working on spending the VRBS25 award (\$1.8M available balance).

The State FY 2027 budget was submitted to DFM and LSO back in August. Our General Fund request total is right at the 3% cap limit of \$ 1,800,100. We have line items requesting ongoing increases for dedicated Funds 28800 and 42600. We anticipate getting an increase in SSA reimbursement for 28800 due to a new "Ticket Tracker" system and we would like to utilize \$65K of the cash balance in 42600 for two vehicles that have reached "replacement" status.

For State FY 2026 the Governor issued an Executive Order for a 3% mandatory one-time holdback of \$54,100 for the General Fund. These funds have already been reverted. Additionally, this will also be the amount of ongoing holdback for SFY27.

Britt – Does the holdback affect our MOE?

Corey – We have enough state and dedicated funds to meet the match.

Al - Our General Fund request is at the 3% limit?

Corey – The max is 3%.

Consumer Input –

Al – the 2026 Cycle for Independence will be the Saturday after Memorial Day, 5/30. I do the permitting and insurance and it takes all those months to get things arranged.

I read that an Idaho ER doctor is delaying his retirement and donating his salary to restore eyesight for people around the world. He learned about cataract surgeries and that they are the leading cause of blindness worldwide and often times surgeries can prevent it.

My name is Rene Ramos; I'm a third session student.

My name is Aaron; I'm a first term student. I've been very impressed with the ATC and ICBVI; my instructors have been great with a lot of personalized attention.

Al – Are you guys full time?

Both – Yes.

Rene - I'm staying in the dorm.

Rene – Since becoming visually impaired, I'm very interested in computers, ADL, and shop class. But Braille is very important.

Al – How long has it been since you lost your sight?

Rene – I’m not completely blind. I am a diabetic and have been losing my vision over the last 10 years. The experience here will help me get by.

Al – Are you going back to work?

Rene – Yes.

Aaron – My vision is pretty stable. I’m probably legally blind. I used what sight I had with modifications and assistance. I never really learned to cook for myself or woodworking. Now I’ve used all the tools in the shop and made a nameplate. To be able to make meat loaf and pizza from scratch. Lisa has been great.

Al – Our NFB Christmas party is this Saturday from 3-5 at the Good Shepard Lutheran Church. My wife and I will pick up the turkey and the ham. We also donate cash to the Boise Rescue Mission.

VR Success Story – Linda Upton - Isabella Nunez was a referral from IDVR here in Twin Falls. She was a co-case. She graduated from high school and attended summer programs and a staff one summer. I closed her successfully in 2021. She now works for IDVR in Burley and attends Utah State University, getting her master’s degree in Rehab Counseling. She was awesome to work with.

Isabella - I wanted to showcase some of the programs she introduced me to. She sent me to Tools for Life, College Days, Camp Vista. One of the neat things was Helen Keller Institute in New York. I learned about AT. One of the main things I learned was that there is a lot more accessibility in larger cities. I was also able to be SWEP staff two years in a row, which was great experience for me and built up my resume. I was able to become a job coach and then a CRP and then IDVR. I appreciate all the support from ICBVI.

Rene – How old were you when you came to ICBVI.

Isabella – I was 18.

BJ – When do you graduate with your Masters?

Isabella - Spring of 2027

Britt – Congratulations and hope you consider working for ICBVI in the future.

BEP – Justin Fish, BEP Supervisor

BEP Board Report: FFY 2025 4th Quarter: Jul, Aug, Sep.

Our goal is to provide great food service to government employees, have our vendors be successful in their business and assure the success of the Business Enterprise Program. The sales for the 4th quarter slightly dipped but the overall numbers for the year improved. The BE-Program is growing and continuing to provide great opportunities for our clients.

Financial Snapshot

FFY 2025	OCT-DEC (Q1)	JAN-MAR (Q2)	APR-JUNE (Q3)	JULY- SEPT (Q4)	Total
Gross Sales	\$418,883.25	\$454,537.24	\$546,821.93	\$524,300.04	\$1,971,199.35
Total Net Income	\$125,435.03	\$119,603.18	\$154,983.15	\$167,093.30	\$567,243.48
Average Income %	38.84%	48.36%	41.74%	41.16%	42.53%
Set Aside Collected	\$12,648.89	\$11,960.32	\$15,498.32	\$16,709.33	\$56,829.73

FFY 2024	OCT-DEC (Q1)	JAN-MAR (Q2)	APR-JUNE (Q3)	JULY- SEPT (Q4)	Total
Gross Income	\$327,584.63	\$432,556.51	\$493,266.89	\$550,717.96	\$1,804,125.99
Net Income	\$45,527.91	\$136,909.71	\$133,161.65	\$209,070.27	\$524,669.54
Average income %	-129.14%	48.12%	41.55%	44.54%	-1.27%
Set Aside Collected	\$5,322.12	\$13,691.13	\$14,416.79	\$20,894.49	\$54,324.53

BEP UPDATES

Facility survey:

- INL: We inquired and sent a proposal to the INL Arora project about the possibility of providing services. The Arora project is a nuclear power plant that recently broke ground on the desert property.
- Department of Corrections training facility Meridian: We are looking at the opportunity to switch the facility from vending to a micro market.

Facility set up:

- Mountain Home Airforce Base: After a little rocky start, Tony and his teaming partner are settling into the contract. The Airforce point of contact was on maternity leave so communication was broken down for the first couple of weeks till she came back. Now that we have been there a couple of months it is becoming much more routine.

Facility Changes:

- We picked up the equipment from the Lewiston Library due to them canceling the service.

General Updates:

- We have a client that has started the BEP training program to become a licensed Vendor.
- BEP Rules: We are working with DEFAC to get the rules to the floor for a vote to finalize the rules rewrite. There was a hiccup and the deadline is tomorrow. The current rules posted online is not the exact one we submitted. Arianah is making the corrections. Hopefully we'll get it submitted. If the legislature makes changes it has to go back to the feds. We held off on internal controls until the rules are approved.
- Internal Controls: Arianah and the committee representative Travis Beck will be able to start the internal controls project soon as DEFAC has approved the rules in the 2026 legislative session.
- We meet via conference call with the vendor committee monthly to address issues around the State. This ensures that the SLA is actively participating with the vendor committee. We go over various issues around the State and problem-solve as a team.

Consumer Input continued

My name is Ryan Augusta. I live in Moscow, Idaho. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I've worked with the staff in the Lewiston office for the past several years. My visual impairment was a retinal detachment. I had surgery where they re-attached it. I originally called and asked for an eye patch on eBay which we couldn't purchase from. The budget couldn't be approved and it was frustrating for everyone including me. I'm a CNA so I'm providing this input as a consumer but also as a care provider. Waste is neglect and neglect is abuse. So, if we're not able to provide the basic essentials of care then we're over complicating the system. After speaking with quite a few people on this, a greater oversight would indemnify everyone because we realized that the current conflict is based on a policy clarification. I'm here today specifically because I had asked for an oven mitt. Per the previous director so the original answer was no. The work around was if it was for employment. I was asked to lie. I'm not going to lie. If we have to lie to fix the system, we're not making it better. We need to be accountable to the system. I know this as an in-home care provider. I'm not accusing anyone. I'm just saying we have to be diligent when it comes to policy clarifications and when it comes to waste and neglect and we need to provide oversight and we have an opportunity for improvement. That is really the only reason I'm speaking today.

New Business

March Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in Boise.

BJ moved to adjourn