



Serve Idaho January 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. MT

Location: Idaho Department of Labor, 317 W Main Street, Boise, ID 83735 & Virtual

Roll Call was completed by Kristi Keeler. Those present were:

Char Kremer
Katie Mathias
Kristi Keeler
Eric Anderson
Farhana Hibbert
Amy Ridenour
Becky Martin
Cara Nielsen
Kimber Russell
Chelsea Weeks
Stephanie Taylor-Thompson
Michael Strickland
Cieara Davis
Jani Revier
Kelsey Nelson
Kim Ellsworth
Danilo Cabrera
Natalie Hui
Dylan Davids
Emily Straubhar
Angela Lamb



Micaela de Loyola-Carkin
~~Mat Erpelding~~ (absent)
~~Lindy Garland~~ (absent)

Guest: Eddison Black

Agenda Item	Presenter	Discussion	Next Steps/ Action
Call to Order	Kimber Russell, Chair	Called to order at 2:02 p.m. MT	
Roll Call	Kristi Keeler, Secretary	Completed	
Meeting Agenda	Kimber Russell	Farhana moved. Char seconded. Motion carried.	Motion to approve agenda
Meeting Minutes	Kimber Russell	Char moved. Farhana seconded. Motion carried.	Motion to approve minutes
New Committees/ Commissioner Shout Out	Kimber Russell	New committee assignments were shared. If there are problems with your assignment, please reach out to Serve Idaho liaison within the week. Congrats to Katie on promotion within BSU!	
AmeriCorps Member Highlight	Eddison Black	Foothills Learning Center presented to over 1400 children. Great opportunities to network with others in the Boise area. Metric recording is tricky and may need revising.	
VISTA Host Sites	Micaela de Loyola-Carkin, Serve Idaho	New program or project that works to alleviate poverty. Expanded focus areas to include education or healthy futures. Short-term opportunity. Reapply yearly. It could be funded for up to 3 years. ANSER Charter School – 1 member to develop community school model. Culture for Change – 3 VISTA members requested. Economic Development & English Integration, Youth Education & After-School Programming and	Motion to approve VISTA host sites Farhana moved to approve recommendations. Amy seconded. Motion carried.



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		Program Coordination and Systems Management to develop CRM system. Program committee recommended first two applications approved not CRM performance measures don't align. YWCA in Lewiston-Clarkston – 1 member. Develop trauma-informed financial empowerment.	
GARP NOFO Discussion	Emily Straubhar	Competitive process is based on merit. Consistent standards. Pro – receive relatively stable funding. Con – less competitive pressure. Competitive continuation funding instructions will be posted Jan. 30, 2026. Char reached out to Crapo and Simpson's office. Crapo said they had contacted OMB. Char will reach out again. Emily suggested bypassing GARP meeting due to quick turnaround time for competitive submission. Call a special commission meeting to vote on those competitive applications. If an applicant is not accepted for competitive funding, Serve Idaho will absorb the program into its formula funding allocation process.	Motion to bypass GARP committee meeting Char moved to bypass GARP committee meeting for the competitive grants this cycle. Cara seconded. Farhana abstained. Motion carried.
Member Financial Assistance Fund	Micaela de Loyola-Carkin, Serve Idaho	\$6 deposited and it was matched = \$12 k. \$1k requested to date. Separate fund for ages 27 or older \$4k. Website went live in December for members to apply. Past emergencies can be approved. Update will be provided at every quarterly commission meeting by Serve Idaho staff.	
Review State Service Plan & Dashboard	Emily Straubhar, Serve Idaho	2026-2028 State Service Plan approved in October 2025 with changes. Posted on Basecamp and website listing goals and objectives. Emily reviewed dashboard documentation will take place at committee levels. Committee will align to strategic plan and share what goals they are responsible for. Serves as tracking tool. Creating micro-goals based off of this. Report outs will be monitored by Emily and she will update dashboard. Progress will	



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		<p>be reviewed at each commission meeting. Committees will determine which goals align with their committee. Committee chairs should drive those conversations with their committees. If we need to re-align we can.</p>	
<p>Committee/ ED/ AmeriCorps Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program - Governance - Member Outreach - Chair - Executive Director - AmeriCorps 	<p>VISTA host site application is currently open. Share any good fit with Micaela. Serve Idaho AmeriCorps conference is coming up. Commissioners are encouraged to participate.</p> <p>Jani Revier gave update. Legislation is in session. Not aware of anything that will affect the commission. Twin Falls office will be opening!</p> <p>Commissioners are encouraged to find MLK Jr. event to volunteer at in their area. Michael is running a MLK Day event on Monday.</p> <p>Dylan – back with the agency in August since funding freeze. No current NOFO -embargoed copy will be released. NCCC has 45 staff currently. FEMA Corps will begin in February. Disaster Services Unit is now operational. AmeriCorps.gov is still under revision.</p> <p>Emily said there is a scheduling conflict with the April commission meeting so it will need to be rescheduled. Formula funding allocations of 1.7 million. Budget is over 1.7 million currently which would mean a reduced portfolio-size.</p> <p>This will be Eric Anderson's last meeting as he has accepted a new position and is moving.</p>	



Adjourn	Kimber Russell	Char moved. Farhana seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. MT.	
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Minutes submitted by Kristi Keeler.

Minutes approved at May 1, 2026, Commission Meeting