

ICBVI Board Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2026

Meeting was called to order at: 9:01 am Mountain Time

Board Members in Attendance in Person: Al Schneider, B.J. Stinger, Mark Watkins

Board Members in Attendance via Teams: None

Board Members Absent: Britt Raubenheimer, LeAnn Gelsky

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

ICBVI Staff in Attendance via Teams: Dawn Ristau, Jeff Weeks, Matt Queen, Justin Fish, DeeAnn Solis, Jackie Stallings

Others in Attendance in Person: Brooke Dupree, DFM

Others on Teams: Ramona Walhoff, Dana Ard

Motion to approve December minutes – Mark moved; BJ seconded.

Motion to approve agenda – BJ moved; Mark seconded.

Beth Cunningham, Administrator

We have had some really positive things taking place lately that I am expecting others to update on such as the Seeds of Change planter project, luncheon and the Sight Unseen Project. Also, our summer programs are under way and hopefully someone will be providing some information about those too.

I am going to jump right in to a not very positive update and let you know that RSA reviewed our most recent state audit from the Legislative Services Office from last November. Many of the findings were corrected in December but a couple of things were more complex.

1. The cost allocation plan that we have been using since 2010 is no longer approved and can no longer be used. This is how we had been costing out our indirect expenses across the different programs and grants. This plan was originally approved in 2010 by the US Department of Education -Indirect Cost Division. Annually we had been sending a letter to this division certifying that we are still utilizing it. For some reason this information was not being relayed to RSA. They told us that we must immediately begin using a de minimus indirect rate in the meantime while waiting for either a new approved cost allocation plan or a negotiated indirect rate. Therefore, beginning April 1st we began using the de minimus rate of 15% for indirect costs. This is much lower than our typical month for indirect costs which is generally 25%-35%.
2. Second, there were some numbers that were received from the state accounting system the first year that Luma became our new accounting system that were later changed, so we were unable to reconcile some of the numbers that we reported to RSA in fiscal reports from FY 24.

Due to these issues RSA determined they would put us on something called “route payment” while they take a closer look at all of our fiscal processes including procedures and internal controls. They called a meeting with us and we invited one of the state auditors to attend that so that he could lend some credibility to the claim that we made that the numbers from the state accounting system (Luma) were changed during that first year. He indicated that we were not the only agency who had experienced that issue. Nonetheless, they want to see all of our numbers from FY 21-25 reconciled, as understand all of our processes and ensure that we are doing everything according to the requirements. Therefore, with the “route payment” process we submit now is basically our request to draw (federal funds) and is accompanied by a transaction list that has every item we are requesting reimbursement for listed and then they will typically send back questions about the different items. In addition, they could request additional documentation such as the client plan etc. to ensure that all expenditures pass all of the tests for reasonable, allowable and allocable to the grant. This, of course, is causing a delay in the receiving the federal funds that we need to reimburse the expenditures that we are making.

Therefore, the impact this is having on us financially as well as relating to the documentation and increase of internal controls “checks and balances” will likely be mentioned a little more in both Corey and Caleb’s reports today.

Of course, we are going over all of the bills prior to sending them to ensure all of our t's are crossed and "I's" are dotted. In addition, we are requiring additional work to be done by the VR team to ensure the same. We have also initiated "intensive technical assistance" by the VRTAC team out of San Diego State and George Washington University. We have met with them a couple of times and have sat in on a couple of meetings that we had with RSA over the past couple of weeks. This is a free technical assistance service that is paid for by RSA. We have a basic training with them later this week and we will continue working with them to rebuild our processes and ensure that we are doing everything correctly. In addition, by Friday, we will be submitting a plan to RSA as part of the requirements they have put in place which will let them know how we plan ensure compliance with all federal financial requirements and the reconciliation of the previously submitted reports from FY 21-25 over the next 180 days. After we get the first draw request approved, then we expect that the next ones will go more smoothly and more quickly. In addition, we are also hopeful that after this 180 days, RSA will feel assured enough to cease the requirement of the "route payment" process. I do feel very confident and reassured by the quick response we have had by the VRTAC team, which is made up of very competent individuals who have a lot of experience as VR providers prior to being in their current roles providing training and guidance. One of them, the one who is providing us with training this Thursday, actually used to work for RSA and was on the team that last monitored us in 2010. So, that is the simplified overview of what has been going on over the past few weeks. In addition to this, we have our state auditors back doing another audit now. We do hope and expect that they will close out some of those findings that I mentioned were corrected in December. It would be nice if they were not here quite yet, and came back in 180 days when everything has been completed, however that is not how their timing works.

Other updates include our Liaison to the Governor's office has left and been replaced. Our new Liaison is Lauren Smeyser. She is an attorney and was previously in the role of overseeing Rule updates for the State

Lauren's new title is Director of Operations for the Office of the Governor and she will serve as the Governor's policy advisor for our agency. I got to meet with Lauren last week. She is very bright and wants to learn about our agency and what we do. She plans to be more involved and have a meeting with me on a monthly basis. In addition, she plans to have quarterly meetings among our agency and the other agencies that she represents which includes the DD Council, the SILC, the agency on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Aging. There may be a couple more in this group. She is a week away from having a baby, so she plans to take some time off and I will meet with her again in September.

The new Engagement Survey just went out and I am hoping that we will have positive results like the last two years and I am hopeful that we will meet the goals we set last year including to increase the participation in taking the survey.

Personnel update: Earl has been selected to a promotion and has taken over Linda Upton's job in Twin Falls.

CSNA – Univ. Illinois

ICBVI- will be updating our strategic plan this summer

OSERS and RSA to move to the Department of Health and Human Services

Caleb Tibbetts, VR Chief

Quarter Highlights

- VIEW Summer Program launched on June 14 and is serving students statewide
- State Plan modifications were submitted to RSA and performance targets finalized for PY2026-PY2027
- Successful closures rebounded in Q3, matching Q1 performance levels

Staffing Updates

- Linda Upton retired after many years of service to ICBVI
 - Earl Hoover was selected as the new Twin Falls VR Counselor
 - Earl has served as the Statewide Assistive Technologist and Business Consultant at ICBVI for the past 8 years and previously completed a two-year counseling internship with the agency. Has his CRC. Will continue to work out of the Boise office and travel to Twin Falls as needed.
- Earl – I bring along 20 years of experience. I'm currently serving 44 clients and I'm focused on building that up with community outreach. I'm serving that region mostly remotely but traveling there one week per month. It

works because most of our interactions are virtual or over the phone. So far it's going really well and I'm excited to be doing it.

Program Performance Overview

Program Year 2025 – Third Quarter Update

Current Open VR Cases

Pre-Cases	VR Cases	Total Cases
19	375	394

Applications

Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
19	20	15	54

Eligibility Determinations

Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
18	12	20	50

Initial IPEs Developed

Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
15	5	12	32

Successful Closures

Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
11	4	11	26

Pre-ETS Cases

Q1	Q2	Q3	Current
99	99	86	86

Students in Post-Secondary Education

College Students	CTE Students	Total
58	19	77

Program Performance Trends

- Applications remain steady, with 54 received year-to-date
- Eligibility determinations increased in Q3, resulting in the highest quarterly total of the program year
- Initial IPE development rebounded in Q3 after a slower second quarter
- Successful employment outcomes increased significantly in Q3, matching Q1 performance
- Active student participation remains strong, with 86 students currently receiving VR services

Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs)

Q1

Eligible Participants	MSGs Achieved	MSG Rate
124	4	3%

Q2

Eligible Participants	MSGs Achieved	MSG Rate
125	18	14%

Q3

Eligible Participants	MSGs Achieved	MSG Rate
114	34	30%

MSG Highlights

- Pushing to get to our 61% threshold

- MSG performance increased from 3% in Q1 to 30% in Q3
- Staff continue to focus on documenting educational and training progress to improve performance outcomes

Performance Indicators

- Idaho's PY2026 and PY2027 performance levels have been negotiated and approved
- The negotiated levels establish performance expectations for both ICBVI and IDVR
- Agency leadership will continue monitoring performance trends to ensure progress toward negotiated targets

Expected Performance for Idaho Title IV (IDVR and ICBVI) PY2026-2027

Indicator	PY2026 State Expected Level	PY2026 Negotiated Level	PY2027 State Expected Level	PY2027 Negotiated Level
Employment (Second Quarter After Exit)	61.30%	61.40%	61.30%	61.60%
Employment (Fourth Quarter After Exit)	60.20%	60.40%	60.20%	60.60%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter After Exit)	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,300	\$6,300
Credential Attainment Rate	56.50%	56.60%	56.50%	56.80%
Measurable Skill Gains	60.00%	61.00%	60.00%	61.20%

Pre-ETS Summer Program Updates

- VIEW Summer Program began June 14 and will run through July 18
 - 12 students are participating in instruction in self-advocacy, work readiness training, paid work experiences, independent living instruction, and blindness skills training
- Planning is underway for College Days, scheduled for July 19-24 at Idaho State University
 - College Days will provide students exposure to postsecondary education opportunities and campus life

General Program Updates

- Conducted a review of inactive cases, resulting in closure of cases that were no longer engaged in services. The number was in the 20's. This does effect our rehab rate and other numbers. This helps ensure program resources remain focused on active participants
- Rehabilitation Services Chief and Administrator attended the CSAVR Spring Conference
 - Conference sessions focused on employer engagement, performance accountability, and emerging trends in vocational rehabilitation services. It was great to connect with some other states. We spent a lot of time with our Region 10 partners.
- Rehabilitation Services Chief participated in the Idaho Transition Team Workgroup alongside NTACT:C partners to strengthen transition services for students with disabilities
- Began implementation of Aware's Employer Services module to improve tracking of business engagement activities and employer partnerships

Looking Ahead

- Completion of the VIEW Summer Program and College Days
- Continued implementation and optimization of Aware
- Ongoing focus on improving Measurable Skill Gains and other Performance Indicators
- Continued outreach to employers and community partners throughout Idaho

Earl – a lot of our employment partners were not available for whatever reason. This year we're partnering with Boise Co-op, Riverside Hotel, Grove Hotel, Boise Zoo, Habitat for Humanity, Boise Bike Project, Sage International. The students are learning customer service skills, mechanical skills – how to fix bikes, etc. Grove and Riverside, students are in the kitchen and housekeeping. Zoo Boise students get to work with day camp programs, exhibits. Boise Co-op stocking shelves. Humane Society – one student studying to become a vet so she's interning in their medical clinic. Students must apply for the program. When we get those applications, we look at what are their interests, experience, and goals. Then build partnerships with businesses that support those. This helps us build better community relationships.

Al – what is happening with the work that Earl used to do? Beth – The RT's are doing a lot of that work. We are considering changing Earl's position but it will include Business Services. We plan on filling it in the Fall.

Steve Achabal, ILOB Coordinator

Aware Update

We are 4 months post going live with the Aware system, and overall, it has been a large success. Since going live on February 12, ICBVI management and staff have done a wonderful job adapting to the new system. Tom has done an amazing job with troubleshooting and, when needed, finding work arounds. Staff have done an excellent job during the transition in utilizing the system for all VR, IL, ILOB and SR cases, and I appreciate their patience and adaptability to the new system and some new processes.

We know there will likely be issues that will arise in the foreseeable future, which is understandable with such a transition into a case management platform such as Aware. That being said, we will continue to move forward to resolve any issues that may occur. Overall, I believe the general consensus from staff and management is that the transition, and the Aware platform itself, has been a positive evolution.

IL/ILOB Programs

As in past June reports, since end of state fiscal year data is available, I always like to take the opportunity to showcase a few examples on how our programs effect the daily lives of some of the individuals we serve. Personally, it is my favorite report since it is the true reason on why we are an agency. To help improve the lives of Idaho residents who are blind or visually impaired.

The first example touches on an ILOB client we will call Jean. Jean was served out of our Pocatello office and worked with April Mills. April first met Jean at her home in the spring of 2023. Jean was 61 at the time of their meeting and was found eligible for Independent Living Older Blind program because she experienced significant challenges associated with Age Related Macular Degeneration. Jean stated she was also diagnosed with glaucoma, but medication had been helping and she did not have any issues with field loss.

At the time of application, the client was living with her longtime partner, Jack, and her adult daughter, Angel. Jean acknowledged that both family members were helping her to compensate for her vision loss; but she felt capable of doing more if given the right opportunity and education.

In the beginning, Jean had originally requested services for adaptive cooking and support to pay for bioptics. As April and the consumer got to know each other and worked through the rehabilitative process, it was clear that Jean could benefit from more skills training and ILOB services.

Jean's goals eventually expanded and she received significant advocacy training, learned how to access public transportation to address severe weather travel needs, and leveraged adaptive technology like using a low vision blue tooth keyboard and appropriate visual enhancements to operate her android tablet and phone.

As Jean built her skills set through repeated use, she gained confidence to resume many of her primary roles in the home. In a series of very unexpected life events, roles switched and Jean eventually became the primary care provider for Angel first, and later Jack. Angel was the first to pass away of a heart attack. Jack later suffered a stroke and lived out the remaining months at home with Jean and the support of hospice workers. Without the services and increase in her independence, Jean would not have been able to serve as the role of caregiver for her loved ones. Even the possibility of her living on her own would have been in question, and doubtful.

When April called to close Jean's case earlier this month, the now 64-year-old, reported that she was doing well living alone, in large part because of all of the services she received from ICBVI. She added that she would be going to Rigby to see Dr. Hansen again for her annual bioptic check-up to be able to continue her driving privileges, and that she still used all of the tools provided to independently manage bills, read, and take care of household chores. Jean notes that she would have made do without services if none were available, but having access to well-trained staff and robust services has made all the difference in her life.

An example for our Independent Living program success touches on an IL client named Sarah. Sarah is a 37-year-old female living with Stargardt disease. She is a devoted mother, and over the past several years, she has faced many challenges, including going through a difficult divorce while trying to rebuild her life, and continue supporting her family. During this time, she had to put her business on hold, and the stress of balancing responsibilities became overwhelming. She was deeply concerned about how she would maintain her independence and provide for her and her child.

Sarah lives with her son and has a history of surgeries and ongoing health issues, requiring frequent travel to medical appointments to maintain her physical health. Additionally, she assists her parents with their follow-up care and medical appointments. Sarah reported that the ability to drive was essential for maintaining her independence and supporting both her own health needs and those of her family.

For nearly two years, Sarah was encouraged her to participate in the IL program by Twin Falls Rehabilitation Teacher, Diana Lehr, but she was hesitant to move forward. This year, after continued conversations and support, she agreed to open a case with ICBVI. Diana listened to Sarah, empathized with her pain and fear, and soon started working with her providing IL services.

Diana provided instruction and demonstrations in various low vision strategies, including magnification, contrast enhancement, appropriate lighting, glare control, and the use of large print materials. Signature and envelope guide, bold line paper, bump dots and 20/20 pens were also introduced.

Training was provided in multiple daily living areas. These included techniques for organizing using electrical outlets, keys in lock, and marking appliances. Sarah did indicate that she did utilize the Talking Book program and was familiar with the service. She was also given the opportunity to learn more about the local support group, which she stated she was not interested in attending at that time.

Sarah had also seen Dr. Dwight Hansen who recommended the use of bioptics as a practical alternative that would allow her to once again drive legally as well as single vision reading glasses enabling her to be able to read effectively, and access written communication independently.

Sarah demonstrated that she did not have the financial means to be able to purchase either of the items, and the costs of both devices exceeded the \$500 cap, as dictated in Idaho statute. Diana wrote up an excellent justification for the need of both devices, and since there were available funds in the IL T&B budget, approval of exceeding the \$500 cap was approved.

Sarah did receive both aids, and with bioptic training has been able to regain the ability to drive, as well as perform many other tasks independently such as assist her parents with medical appointments and issues, grocery shop independently, access written communication, and begin rebuilding her business and personal goals.

Sarah is extremely grateful for the support she has received and feels empowered to take control of her future. These services have helped restore her confidence, independence, and hope as she works toward creating a stable and successful life for herself and her family.

Al – I'm on the transportation board and Idaho is the only state in the union that have no dedicated funds for transportation. There are federal funds available but they require a match.

Sight Restoration Program:

Marty, a 50-year-old resident of the Magic Valley area, faced the possibility of losing his vision and the ability to continue working in his chosen profession.

Two years earlier, Marty had undergone a successful corneal transplant in his left eye. At that time, he was fully employed and financially able to manage the insurance deductibles associated with the procedure.

When Marty began experiencing rapid vision loss in his right eye, he immediately contacted his ophthalmologist. After an examination, he was told that he needed an emergency corneal transplant to save the vision in his right eye.

The news was devastating for Marty and his wife. Because of his declining vision, Marty could no longer perform the duties of his previous position. His employer had reassigned him to work better suited to his condition, but the change resulted in reduced hours, lower pay, and fewer benefits. As a result, the nearly \$9,000 in deductible costs required for the transplant seemed impossible to afford.

Because of previous collaborations, the team at Idaho Eye and Laser Center suggested that Marty contact the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to explore possible financial assistance options.

Marty came into the Twin Falls office and worked with VRA, Amy Zapata to review the program and to fill out all of the required SR paperwork. Amy was able to determine that Marty did in fact meet all of the requirements to be eligible for the SR program. After receiving and forwarding all relevant medical data, ICBVI consulting physician Dr. Roberts, concurred with appropriateness of the corneal procedure.

Given the costs of the procedure, the very large deductible, the fact that once Marty's left eye has a successful corneal transplant it would never as robust as a normal healthy eye and remains vulnerable to lifelong complications, and the fact that Marty and his wife were in great financial need, Amy requested that the lifetime spending limit for Marty be waived. She sent the justification for this request to the IL Program Coordinator. This request was granted, and the collaboration between Amy, Idaho Eye and Laser Center, and the client started so the client could get the highest quality care at the lowest possible costs.

Marty's surgery was successful, and he will continue for a few more months with his necessary treatments, at which time his SR case will be closed successfully.

Marty has reported that he and his wife are extremely grateful for ICBVI, the SR program and the work that Amy did for them. Marty has been able to continue to be employed, as well as performing independent daily tasks, like driving, which he was not able to do before the procedure. Because of the support from ICBVI and the SR program, Marty's independence and quality of life has been positively impacted, which is why our SR program is so important and has helped so many Idaho residents over the years.

Low Vision Clinic and ICBVI Store:

Referral volume at the Low Vision Clinic has increased over the last month, with the majority of all June clinic appointments being fully scheduled, and the many of the July clinic slots also filled. After experiencing a gradual decline in referrals earlier in the calendar year, this rebound is an encouraging sign, and one the team is working to sustain.

This quarter also included a regional clinic held in Twin Falls on April 13 and 14. These off-site clinics are critical to increase the clinic's access to other clients and clinic patients in other parts of the state. It is also very helpful for bioptic drivers in those areas who must submit updated medical documentation to the Idaho Department of Transportation on an annual basis. The April clinic served individuals in that region who otherwise face significant barriers to accessing specialized low vision care. As will the Lewiston clinic, usually in the fall, does the same for Idaho residents in that part of the state.

Our ICBVI Stores continue to reliably serve clients across Idaho, offering essential adaptive and low vision products. The Store Manager plays a central role in coordinating inventory with regional VRAs, maintaining compliance with established store procedures, and providing operational support to staff as needed.

Success Story – Nicole Hill, ATC client

I lost my vision when I was 13. The social worker got me connected with ICBVI. Matt and I connected within months. The transition was very hard. Heidi taught me Braille and cane travel. I've been working with ICBVI for 13 years. I did SWEP two years. One most helpful thing was that Matt got me some technology which made all the difference in my ability to do school. I did most of Alison's programs. After I graduated HS I went to the training center for almost two terms. I enjoyed baking and working with Lisa in ADL and Scott was fun. I enjoyed shop. Kevin was my O & M Instructor. ICBVI has helped me get my Bachelor's Degree in social work. I did my internship in Idaho Falls. I got my Masters in social work in one calendar year. As of Feb. 2nd, I have been working as a VR Counselor.

Assessment and Training Center – Kevin Jernigan, ATC Manager

The first announcement for this board report is that our job readiness instructor, Kenneth Moitui, resigned from his position in April. The ATC manager and Kenneth came to an agreement that this position wasn't a good fit. We have decided to go in a different direction regarding job readiness. Scott will be covering job-readiness topics in his computer class for the time being. In the future, we may go back to hiring a job readiness person through a temp agency like we did with Beth Pederson a few years ago.

The Seeds of Independence program is well underway. At the end of April KTVB did a news story about the program and the funds that were donated by the North End Boise Lions Club. The club donated just over \$1700. With that money, materials were purchased to build the planter boxes for the project. The students and some of the ATC were involved in this process. Chris, Ed, and Efren all chipped in with hours spent cutting and prepping the wood to build the planters. The project has expanded to include various flowers, two types of lettuce, spinach, peppers, herbs, tomatoes, onions, beets, carrots, and garlic. At the end of May, a social was put together where students, staff, and members of the North End Lions Club got together to set up the garden and enjoy an outdoor picnic. I encourage you to head out to the courtyard at some point today for a self-guided tour.

The month of April was a big month for projects. As part of the Capital Building Funds and Deferred Maintenance programs, our Boise office had the stucco band repainted and began work on refurbishing the front porch soffits, roofing, and gutter

system. The refurbishment of the water feature is in the works as well, but this one is taking more time due to the delicate nature of sandstone and how much the water feature has deteriorated over the years. They can't just put plaster over it as this is part of the reason the water feature has accrued the damage it currently has. We have also replaced all the fan coil units on the 4th floor along with about 40 window screens. I am happy to announce that we have received approval of \$1.5 million to replace fan coil units in the rest of the building. This project will more than likely get underway in the spring of 2027. We have received additional approval to start the process of upgrading the lighting in the building so that eventually all of our lights will be LED and adjustable. Our current lighting uses T-5 bulbs, which were never designed to be dimmable and thus has caused quite a few issues over the years. The lighting project will more than likely get underway in 2028.

The ATC started the spring term with 10 students; 2 students from Lewiston, 1 from CDA, and 7 from the Treasure Valley regions. We were down to 8 students by the end of the first week. Both students had unexpected situations that caused them to stop their training. As has been a fairly common trend for ICBVI this fiscal year, the overall numbers for the ATC were down compared to FY25. In FY25, the ATC provided 4,656 classes. In FY2026, the ATC provided 3,268 classes. This type of cycle seems to occur every couple of years where student numbers are down, but then eventually increase. We served one less student this year compared to FY25 and had 17 individuals attend a pre-training assessment and tour. Of those 17, 10 became ATC students. We have had a lot of students who chose part-time training versus the full-time option, which also makes an impact on the numbers.

Our summer term will kick off on July 7th and will end on September 18th. The summer term is scheduled to start a little later this year due to the end of fiscal year as well as the 4th of July weekend. Melanie and Lisa always conduct a big Walmart trip the Monday before the term starts. In this case that would have been June 29th, which means they would not have been able to use the P-card. To avoid this scenario, the term had to start a week later. We anticipate having 5 students for the summer term. We are going to take advantage of the low numbers by doing some outreach training with VR clients. For example, Scott and Lisa will be providing some virtual computer/phone training, Melanie and Efren will provide some more in-depth O&M to some of the RT's VR clients who aren't in a position to commit to a full term of ATC training. Due to travel restrictions, the outreach O&M will more than likely only be offered to Treasure Valley clients, but potentially Efren could travel to the regions and provide some more in-depth O&M with VR clients in those areas.

This spring term, we only had 2 individuals attend ATC pre-training assessments and tours and both students will begin their training in the upcoming term. One has chosen a full-time schedule and the other chose a part-time schedule. Despite the low

student numbers for the summer term, we have 6 students on the list, but all have requested to start or pick up their training again in the fall term.

On June 29th, the ATC will host a Blindness 101 in Boise for a group of Boise State representatives. They represent the Educational Access Center, Office of Compliance and Ethics, Health Services, Dean of Students, Center for Teaching and Learning, Extended Studies, Academic coaching, Teaching, Learning, and Community Engagement and they hope to learn how to better serve their blind and visually impaired students. In this particular training, Chris made arrangements for a former ATC student who is currently a BSU student, to present on his experience as a visually impaired student at BSU and then conduct a Q&A with the participants. This was something the participants thought would be very beneficial. I would like to thank Kebbie for her willingness to help us out by covering the braille class.

The ATC also provided a weeks' worth of non-visual training to the summer staff for our summer programs again this year. In total we had 19 summer staff attend the training. This training could not happen without the coordinated efforts of Alison, Rocio, Jackie, Earl, and the ATC staff. Chris, Melanie, and Scott will be working as job mentors again this year for a short while before the summer ATC term begins. They are mentoring students at the Boise Co-Op, Habitat for Humanity, and the Idaho Humane Society. Lisa and Chris worked their magic getting the summer staff's non-visual skills going so they could create a fantastic Italian meal. Efren and Mel spent a lot of time creating all of the travel routes for the participants. This was not an easy task as Valley Ride made changes to numerous bus routes after that process was completed, which caused Mel and Efren to go back to the drawing board and recreate some routes. An unexpected construction project that shut down Main Street between 9th and Capitol which also didn't make their life easier.

Consumer Input

Dana – I had knee surgery in February and then my physical therapist broke my kneecap. Nicole is the first vice president of the Snake River Valley chapter. And Nicole has been able to come in and sort of help get that chapter going again and along with the president.

We had WA seminar – we are looking at threats to the Rehab Act. 7 states want it taken away so we are watching that. We are also watching BEP because there have been threats there. They have postponed again making government websites accessible. NFB members met on Zoom because the weather was horrible. They presented on our bill that you can read on our newsletter. We had our state convention in April. I couldn't come because of my wheelchair. I had someone read my report. 59 people were at the convention. There were three ATC students. We talked about changes that we want to see in our organization. Joe Groger is starting a chapter in Owyhee and Canyon county that I believe is called the Vineyard Trails chapter. Our national convention in July 3-8 in Austin, TX. We are watching legislation and helping with VIEW on Saturday with activities. Funds from Cycle for Independence help fund some of our programs.

Beth – we had a directors meeting and they are requiring agencies to choose someone to be in charge of accessibility. The state of Idaho is doing that and now we have a year.

Jackie- Bell Camp is an NFB/ICBVI program. We have 21 kids this year coming to McCall. We could use one more guy. We have teacher, Christa, who has done a great job. All kids will be engaged in Braille throughout the week.

Ramona – this year we have two Teachers of Tomorrow from Idaho. The bike ride this year; we did have enough income to divide it up. We had more than three hundred riders. We have between 60 and 70 volunteers. Our lunch was provided by the Caldwell Alliance. We always need more volunteers. It's a good way to educate the public and they tell us they like to come back year after year. We do have about 12 shorts on our YouTube channel, Idaho's Blind. One of shorts recently got 91,000 views. We have a lot of opportunity with interviews and shorts. On this set up if people don't talk too fast, it's a lot easier to understand. Some of the reporters should slow down.

Al – Cycle for Independence was May 30. The income was \$18,000 which is split between our chapter, the state affiliate, the national chapter. We also have a transportation account. If you are a member you can up to \$300 for transportation whether it's Uber or bus rides or whatever it is. So those are the ways we split up that money. The VIEW picnic is June 27th. We have beat ball, tandem bike riding, yoga. State convention – Chris Johnston made some beautiful wooden flags. We auctioned items and the first one we got \$1,300 for it from one of the food workers.

Sue – I am here to talk about my experience as a student. Chris Johnston started a garden club and I have a passion for that. The idea is to get students involved in planting and growing plants. The Lion's Club gave us a donation of \$1700. There are 24 garden boxes in the courtyard. Lettuce, spinach, beets, onions, etc. Flowers growing as well. Chris set up a drip system so everything is getting watered. There are grow lights in the basement for starts. It's a community thing and its nice to see that

interaction with the commission. What are the rules or policies of having folks come that aren't students? How do we do that so we're not breaking rules of the commission or state. Beth – it's mostly risk management. We had a presentation from them in December and they said that if we have a repairman come on site, we have to have a contract with them. We can't have people doing dangerous things in and around the building. It also brings up issues around confidentiality. If they want to come do some watering, they should contact Kevin, Chris, or Efren. This incorporates everything that we are learning in the ATC.

Beth – I think we want to keep it going.

Ramona – the best thing to do is to join the club to show that blind people have brains and interests.

Al – Shane Ostermeyer – he lost 400 pounds in two years. He had health issues and he decided to change his life. It's mostly due to working out at the Y and next on his list is a marathon. Also – there was a story on Gareth on tv because he does competitive gaming. Rocio – Gareth is doing College Days and is starting school in the fall.

Tony Bridges – BEP is becoming very successful. We are being recognized as more of business attitude. We recently took over Chinden location and we got a vendor there, Travis Scott so far it's very successful. I run LBJ location and also the Mountain Home AFB mess hall. That is a great success for our program. Our other vendors are succeeding in their locations and the SLA is always looking for new vendors. I would like to move away from a disability attitude and leaving a meeting feeling bad. I would like to better educate those who speak on our behalf so we can continue to grow. We would like it understood that we are treated equal. I will be on a call today discussing the RSA move to HHS. I will keep the BEP supervisor updated. I am the chair of the program so I speak on behalf of the vendors. IBMEC – Idaho Blind Merchants Elected Committee.

Sight Unseen – Marcie Chapman

It was held last week. They are a new organization that provides art for the visually impaired. I taught some of the classes. Sight Unseen partnered with Idaho Dance Company and they held it at Create Gallery which is an art gallery. They also had an area for tactile art and an audible recording that took you through the tour. Martha Channer ran the event. They had other pieces like a QR code that played an audio recording by the artist about their piece. The dance and movement classes Beth observed. In the evenings, myself and Earl and Alison taught classes. Alison did a meal prep class under shades which went really well. Earl did a class called Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Blindness but were Too Afraid to Ask. I taught a bracelet making

class and a yoga class. We performed the movement piece on Saturday evening. Scott Pearl came and played piano. I loved being a part of it.

Fiscal – Corey Bresina, Administrative Services Manager

SFY26 budgets and expenditures: As of 6/22/2026

(97.5% through the year)

Account Category	Fund Code	Fund Name	Spending Authority	Total Obligations	Remaining	% spent
2_OPERATING	3_10000R	General Fund Roll Up	212,600.00	182,588.26	30,011.74	86%
2_CAPITAL	3_10000R	General Fund Roll Up	29,100.00	29,035.52	64.48	100%
2_T&B	3_10000R	General Fund Roll Up	575,513.05	505,415.30	70,097.75	88%
2_PERSONNEL	3_10000R	General Fund Roll Up	946,600.00	946,400.23	199.77	100%
2_OPERATING	3_21000R	Randolph Shepp Fund Roll Up	27,600.00	23,040.02	4,559.98	83%
2_T&B	3_21000R	Randolph Shepp Fund Roll Up	100,100.00	56,029.17	44,070.83	53%
2_OPERATING	3_28800R	Rehab Cost Reco Fund Roll Up	34,300.00	81.46	34,218.54	0%

2 T&B	3 28800R	Rehab Cost Reco Fund Roll Up	13,000.00	-	13,000.00	0%
2 OPERATING	3 34800R	Federal Grant Fund Roll Up	1,439,719.06	1,212,589.25	227,129.81	84%
2 CAPITAL	3 34800R	Federal Grant Fund Roll Up	27,227.13	27,127.13	100.00	100%
2 T&B	3 34800R	Federal Grant Fund Roll Up	533,867.97	313,032.24	220,835.73	59%
2 PERSONNEL	3 34800R	Federal Grant Fund Roll Up	2,918,400.00	2,879,540.33	38,859.67	99%
2 OPERATING	3 34900R	Misc Revenue Fund Roll Up	28,100.00	26,615.59	1,484.41	95%
2 T&B	3 34900R	Misc Revenue Fund Roll Up	56,300.00	44.00	56,256.00	0%
2 OPERATING	3 42600R	Adaptive Aids Fund Roll Up	62,900.00	59,970.50	2,929.50	95%
2 PERSONNEL	3 42600R	Adaptive Aids Fund Roll Up	27,600.00	27,600.00	-	100%
		Total	7,032,927.21	6,289,109.00	743,818.21	89%

	FFY25	FFY26
Pre-ETS obligation	491,585.86	569,493.75
Pre-ETS draws 100%	344,102.63	0
Balance of 15%	147,483.23	0

50 - PC	\$3,853,540.56	99%
55 - O/E	\$1,504,885.08	89%
70 - CO	\$56,162.65	99%
80 - T/B	\$874,520.71	89%

The grant balance for VRBS25 is now down to \$559,105.91. However, we have stopped spending this award to reduce the amount of our Pre-ETS obligation. The 15% balance for this grant is down to \$147,483.23. This decision reduced our obligation by \$83,865.89.

The updated award amount for VRBS26 is \$3,275,419.39, the updated award amount for OLB25 is \$225,000, and the updated award amount for ILB25 is \$73,092. All 3 are now at 100% of our total amount.

Luma Fiscal Year End (FYE) 2026 is June 30th and will again be challenging. So far, Accounting has been able to make the adjustments and corrections that we were aware of, and we’re still looking for those that we have missed. Recently, we were able to transfer \$59,000 in salary savings out of General Fund PC and into General Fund O/E. These funds will be used to pay for O/E expenses prior to fiscal year end. Another transfer or two might be made this week to utilize the additional salary savings in our Federal Fund.

BEP – Justin Fish, BEP Supervisor

BEP Board Report: FFY 2026 2nd Quarter: Jan, Feb, Mar.

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 2026	OCT-DEC (Q1)	JAN-MAR (Q2)	APR-JUNE (Q3)	JULY- SEPT (Q4)	Total
Gross Sales	\$375,940.76	\$520,443.33	0	0	\$896,384.09

Total Net Income	\$96,655.68	\$173,960.53	0	0		\$270,616.21
Average Income %	37.36%	54.57 %	0	0		45.97%
Set Aside Collected	\$11,242.18	\$17,396.05	0	0		\$28,638.24

FFY 2025	OCT-DEC (Q1)	JAN-MAR (Q2)	APR-JUNE (Q3)	JULY- SEPT (Q4)		Total
Gross Income	\$418,883.25	\$454,537.24	\$546,821.93	\$524,300.04		\$1,971,199.35
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

BEP UPDATES

Facility survey:

- City of Nampa, City Hall was surveyed and excepted for vending service.

Facility set up:

- City of Caldwell, City Hall has been installed with vending machines and doing well. The facility was assigned to Theresia Hout.
- City of Caldwell, Airport has been installed with vending machines and doing well. The facility was assigned to Theresia Hout.
- City of Nampa, City Hall has been installed with vending and doing well. The facility was assigned to Theresia Hout.
- Chinden Campus was opened June 11th under the management of Travis Beck and runs under the name of Morgans Cafeteria and market in respect to Bill Borgan. Bill Morgan was a licensed blind vendor in Idaho that walked across America to bring awareness that the blind community can do anything they put their mind to.

Facility Changes:

- No Changes have been made in the second quarter.

General Updates:

- We now have two clients that have been in the training program and have completed the online portion of the training. They will now go through the on-the-job training before they become a Provisional license. Once they have a provisional license they can bid on a facility. Once they run a facility for six months they will become a fully licensed vendor.
- Internal Controls: Arianah and the committee representative Travis Beck will be able to start the internal controls project now that they have been passed in the house and the Senate.
- 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.

The Chinden campus cafeteria was awarded to Travis Beck on April 15th.

Ramona – what is the process for recruiting vendors. Justin – we use our counselors. Educating them about what we're looking for. Arianah has worked with the VR program to put systems in place. Externally we don't really have any recruiting ability but we are open to it.

Changes at Chinden – we turned all the register booths around so they are customer facing. We have kiosks and kitchen display systems. When you order from a kiosk it sends it to the various stations. So, they order and pay at the kiosks and then wait for their order to be called. We are opening the pantry back up and added microwaves, toaster, etc. Now we have brown baggers eating there and buying add on items like a drink or some chips.

Summer Programs – Alison Steven

Students started work yesterday. We did a staff training week and now the students will work for four weeks. Visually Impaired Experiencing Work. We have 12 students. We hired 19 staff to cover shifts at the dorms and drive back and forth to work. Boise changed streets the day we started so the ATC had to figure out all the transportation changes with that. The new added holidays have caused us to have to figure out transportation on those days. We have kids at the Co-op, hotels, Boise Bike Project, Boise Zoo, Restore Habitat, and Sage Academy. We did rock climbing, the new horticulture therapy program at the Botanical Garden. We did a tour of the Capitol and toured the Anne Frank Memorial. They went tandem biking in the rain and went hiking. They went on their bus routes. Then we are headed to Pocatello to do College Days. We have three teachers. Bell Camp has 19 kids in McCall the week after College Days. Everything is going well.

Al – rent the park? Kevin paid it in February.

Justin – have you contacted the blind vendors? Alison – yes but nothing has worked out. Justin – Chinden Campus might be something to consider next year.

New Business

Next meeting: Idaho Falls. Drive on September 15 and stay overnight. Meeting on the 16 and drive back.
Angela will check on Coeur d' Alene room at Chinden Campus for future meetings

Adjourn

BJ moved 1:06 pm