



# **SRC Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2025

Holiday Inn Boise Airport Location, Boise, Idaho

This meeting was conducted both in-person and virtually.

## **Members Present:**

**Tim Blonsky**, Chairperson and Disability Groups Representative  
**Diana Colgrove**, Business, Labor and Industry Representative  
**Linda Thomas**, Parent, Training & Information Center Representative  
**Jami Davis**, State Independent Living Council Representative  
**Jeff DeForest**, Business, Labor and Industry Representative  
**Nancy Grant**, Client Assistance Program Representative  
**Mark Reinhardt**, Former VR Recipient Representative  
**Feather Holt**, Idaho's Native American Tribal Representative  
**Luke Rose**, Business, Labor and Industry Representative  
**Danielle Larson**, Community Resource Programs (CRP's) Representative  
**Janice Carson**, Disability Groups Representative  
**Stephanie Taylor-Thompson**, Former VR Recipient Representative  
**Randi Cole**, State Department of Education Representative  
**Judy Taylor**, Ex-Officio Member, IDVR Interim Administrator  
**Kent Ireton**, Ex Officio Member, IDVR Counselor Representative

## **Excused absences:**

Angie Tuft, Business, Labor and Industry Representative

## **Guests:**

Amber Maxwell, membership applicant  
Darrell Quist, IDVR Field Services Chief  
Donna Butler, membership applicant  
Kara Whitehouse, membership applicant  
Lauren Noble, IDVR Transition Manager  
Linda Brown, IDVR Fiscal Officer  
Matthew Markve, IDVR Planning and Evaluation Manager  
MiKayla Monaghan, IDVR Business Services Manager

Roll Call was conducted, and a Quorum was established.

### **Minutes**

Minutes for the October 29, 2024, meeting were reviewed.

**Motion:** Diana Colgrove made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes as written. The motion was approved without opposition and one abstained vote.

### **Committee Reports**

Tim Blonsky, SRC Chair and Executive Committee Chair reminded the council members that the standing committees will meet on a separate date from the Council meetings as traditionally done in the past.

### **Membership Nominations**

Membership Nominations were considered by the council.

1. The Executive Committee made recommendation of membership as a representative of disability groups for Amber Maxwell.

**Motion:** Tim Blonsky made a motion to approve Amber Maxwell for consideration by the Idaho State Board of Education, which passed without opposition.

2. The Executive Committee made recommendation of membership as a representative of the Workforce Development Council for Donna Butler.

**Motion:** Mark Reinhardt made a motion to approve Donna Butler for consideration by the Idaho State Board of Education, which passed without opposition.

3. The Executive Committee made recommendation of membership as the representative of VR Counselor for Kara Whitehouse.

**Motion:** Nancy Grant made a motion to approve Kara Whitehouse for consideration by the State Board of Education, which passed without opposition.

## **Legislative Communication Presentation**

Jami Davis presented to the council regarding effective and appropriate communication with legislators.

## **IDVR Updates**

### **Financial Update**

Financial Reports were presented by Linda Brown, IDVR Fiscal Officer.

The SRC Financial Report was reviewed.

The Quarterly Budget to Actual Report was reviewed. The \$10 million Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) allotted funds will be reflected in the next quarterly report. Operating expenditures increased during the quarter, which included payment for contracted consultant services, which is analyzing fiscal processes and reviewing documentation to assist the agency with capturing the funds from the allotment.

There was a question as to whether the VR program will be affected by the recent news of federal cuts. RSA has assured the agency that there are contingencies in place in the event there are impactful occurrences.

Judy B. Taylor, Interim Administrator shared financial updates to the council. She explained that bills are paid and then submitted to RSA for reimbursement. This process is being highly scrutinized due to the special conditions that RSA has placed on IDVR. Areas where IDVR has been out of federal law compliance have been discovered through this process, which resulted in requests being disapproved.

Leadership within IDVR have been working to maximize revenue in alignment with state and federal regulations. The field team have been working to think through as they make programmatic decisions and ensure that proper documentation is in place so that the agency can be reimbursed. Areas where expenses can be reduced are also being evaluated and implemented.

RSA has rejected numerous fund requests, which has required the agency to enhance the documentation within case files, Authorizations for Purchase and vendor invoices.

## **Agency Update**

### **Legislative Update**

Council members were encouraged to speak with legislators as Idaho taxpayers but cautioned them not to make requests on behalf of IDVR. Ms. Taylor provided information on proposed legislation for the 2025 Legislative Session.

The Management budget for IDVR has been passed by JFAC.

Ms. Taylor explained the rationale behind asking for a \$2.7 million supplemental from the Idaho Legislature. The supplemental will backfill the state match funds to draw down the 2025 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) Grant, because the 2024 FFY Grant dollars were used to match the additional \$10 million in non-cognizable funds that was provided by RSA due to the agency's budget shortfall in 2024.

Due the special conditions imposed by RSA, a second supplemental of \$1.7 million will also be requested to cover federal non-allowable costs that have already been provided to customers. This is why the IDVR leadership team is working so hard to ensure that in the future, 100% of the federal funds can be captured and ensuring that services are allowable and meet the standards of the Department of Education.

### **Leadership Update**

The process in which the administrator will be hired has not yet been revealed. The Executive Director for the State Board of Education will be providing updates to the Interim Administrator. The State Board of Education will make the final decision on the position applicants.

There will be some reorganization within the agency that will be announced at the next meeting. Team members within IDVR have taken on additional responsibilities and duties. An updated organizational chart will be provided at the next meeting.

The council was asked for recommendations on a ceiling for PreETS, who is served within the budget constraints, and a rate setting philosophy.

It was asked if updates from the Rate Methodology Work Group can be provided to council members. It was established that an update will be

provided at the October SRC meeting.

### **Outcome Data Report**

Matthew Markve, Planning and Evaluation Manager provided data from the most recent quarter. Expenditures have declined and customer satisfaction has increased overall from the previous quarter.

### **IDVR Program Updates**

#### **General IDVR Program Report**

Darrell Quist, Field Services Chief oversees the management team within the field. He emphasized the work that the field has been doing to ensure proper documentation and federal standards are being met.

Counselors are being asked to use critical thinking skills to ensure that planning is occurring so that services to customers are not delayed due to the new process in place, which analyzes the work counselors are doing.

#### **PreETS Program Report**

Lauren Noble, IDVR Transition Manager provided potential student numbers in comparison to the team members that are serving those individuals. Expenditures for SFY 2024 were shared indicating a total of \$3,663,670. 2.9 million would be 15% of the total budget, which is the requirement of WIOA.

Last year's summer programs are being paid from the current year. The division will continue to serve students prior to graduation in anticipation that they will apply for services and be moved from the waitlist by the time they graduate from high school.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) Contract Programs have been paused or cancelled, resulting in a savings of \$4,047,247.

General team members are assisting with service delivery for students as well as increased collaboration with schools, job exploration fairs and group job shadows and resume writing workshops. New students continue to apply for services as potentially eligible students.

PreETS services are being re-evaluated to ensure that they are allowable under the federal grant.

Council members asked questions about how to ensure that there is not a gap between high school graduation and if apprenticeships are being offered. Council members were informed that the five required services can continue to be provided to students until the age of 22, even though they have graduated as long as there is an established educational goal.

There was extended conversation related to the length of the waiting list, whether services are allowable under Order of Selection for applicants and whether there are concerns for achieving the Pre-ETS budget requirements.

Council members will review any additional data to be provided in the next few months and provide advice to the agency related to agency expenditures.

The council has agreed upon and asked that a survey be sent out to the IDVR counselors asking for their feedback as to how funds should be expended.

### **Solicitation of feedback regarding Bylaw updates**

There were no recommendations made regarding proposed Bylaw updates. The Bylaws will be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to the next quarterly SRC meeting.

### **Member Updates**

**Diana Colgrove** – Her daughter was featured in a Tik Tok advertisement. There's not much going on at this time. She is a huge proponent of Project Search. She explained the benefits and advantages the program offers and encourages that this be provided statewide.

**Linda Thomas** – Her role with Idaho Parents Unlimited is new for her. She has a six-year-old that was diagnosed with autism. The SRC meetings are providing her with a level of optimism. She is a mom of three boys. She volunteers with family advocates through COSSA providing advocacy to foster children.

**Jeff DeForest** – He serves in a group for people with disabilities including advocacy within the company and externally. They recently had a big fair that provided an opportunity to advocate for individuals with disabilities.

**Nancy Grant** – Nancy did not have any Client Assistance Program (CAP) updates. However, she reported that all travel has been suspended for DRI and CAP.

**Mark Reinhardt** – Mark is a former VR recipient who will be completing his second associate's degree with his focus being on journalism.

**Feather Holt** – Feather reports that there are no updates at this time.

**Danielle Larsen** – they are spending a significant amount of time reviewing IDVR policies and studying ADRAN to ensure that they will be in compliance.

**Lucas Rose** – Lucas continues to provide transportation that enables his sons to work. Hopefully, the woods products will take a positive turn this year. He feels that the work that the counselors do as well as what is done within the council is very important and he appreciates the efforts that are made and the effects it has on his family and others.

**Max Maxwell** – The Veteran Readiness program travel has been seized, which has eliminated outreach. Currently, they manage the program for the state of Idaho and some of Oregon for veterans applying for the program. There has been 116% increase in applications. When they apply, they are seen within 60 days, which is higher than other states. Only 6% of staff are located in offices. They have been in an ad-hoc service tele-work agreement where people are still coming into the office to provide the services needed. The physical capacity of the Boise office only accommodates 1/3 of the staff. It is the responsibility of Max and other division chiefs to be able to navigate that without impacting veterans to continue providing quality services while providing informed choices. The current challenges include timeliness from other stations that are not able to hire VRC's. They are down on staffing by 34%, with the hiring freeze, they are going to have to adjust their performance to meet the targets. The DEA have had very good internal controls to monitor the production and return on investment to taxpayers for those who are telecommuting. There are stations within their station where half of the veterans have not been

seen with a waiting period of six to nine months. They are piloting a program where they are serving multiple areas.

**Amber Maxwell** – She has been nominated as a potential member and reports that she has a family member with a disability and thanked the council for their recommendation to serve on the council. She works in the private sector that may provide a different perspective. She appreciates the team at IDVR and the services they provide. She is hoping to be a part of the team that will provide the best solutions for everybody.

**Tim Blonsky** – He is feeling privileged to be involved in the advancement of AI technology as it relates to ASL communication, which has mind blowing opportunities, which is changing the world for deaf people.

### **Other Business**

Judy B. Taylor and Kent Ireton were thanked for their service and support of the Idaho State Rehabilitation Council.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned without objection.