



Idaho State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center, Boise, Idaho
April 21, 2026 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SRC Chairman, **Tim Blonsky**, Disability Groups Representative
SRC Vice-Chair, **Diana Colgrove**, Business, Labor, and Industry Representative
Amber Maxwell, Disability Groups Representative
Brandon Dopf, Former VR Recipient Representative
Danielle Larsen, Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) Representative
Donna Butler, Workforce Development Council Representative
Feather Holt, Native Tribal Representative
Jami Davis, State Independent Living Council Representative
Janice Carson, Disability Groups Representative
Jeff DeForest, Business, Labor, and Industry Representative
Kaylauna Forell, Business, Industry and Labor Representative
Lucas Rose, Business, Industry and Labor Representative
Nancy Grant, Disability Rights/Client Assistance Program Representative
Randi Cole, State Department of Education Representative
Sarah Gornick, Parent Training and Information Center Representative
Stephanie Taylor-Thompson, Former VR Recipient Representative

Ex Officio Members

Judy B. Taylor, IDVR Interim Administrator
Kara Whitehouse, VR Counselor Representative

Guests

MiKayla Monaghan, IDVR Internal Operations and Stakeholder Relations Manager
Darrell Quist, IDVR Bureau Chief of Employment Services
Lauren Noble, IDVR Bureau Chief of Pre-ETS and Business Services
Andrew Grey, IDVR Program Analyst
Heidi Smith, IDVR Business Analyst
Chelsea Barrett, IDVR Counselor

A quorum was established.

Call Public Meeting to Order

SRC Chair Tim Blonsky called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Review of Packet Materials

Review of December 2025 Meeting Minutes

The December 2025 Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION: Diana Colgrove made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes as they were written and presented. Randi Cole seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Review of January 2026 Meeting Minutes

The January 2026 Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION: Luke Rose made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes as they were written and presented. Diana Colgrove seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Membership Applications

Diana Colgrove, SRC Vice Chair and Membership Committee Chair, reported that the Executive Committee met and are in agreement to make a recommendation for SRC membership of Chelsea Barrett as an ex-officio member, VR Counselor Representative.

MOTION: Luke rose made a motion to accept the recommendation for SRC membership. Tim Blonsky seconded the motion.

The motion caried by unanimous vote.

Interim Administrator Updates

Judy Taylor will be completing two years of service as Interim Administrator to IDVR in June 2026 and provided high level updates for the following agenda topics:

Order of Selection

The Strategic Leadership Team reviews the waiting list and makes weekly consideration of how many individuals will be transferred off of the waitlist This process is taken very seriously and will continue to be addressed on a weekly basis, including projections up to the next four years.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

The agency is committed to accomplishing the requirements of the Corrective Action Plan and return to good standing with the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). All of the deliverables are woven throughout the CAP for many of the objectives that are significant. The focus on objectives has occurred for the past two years. Most of the deliverables will not be obtained until all are completed, which is why there does not appear to be progress, although the team has been developing policies and manuals for RSA review throughout the past couple of years.

Legislative Update

The legislature has concluded the 2026 session. It is an election year, which creates desire from candidates to hear from local constituents.

In State Fiscal Year 2026 there was a 4% recission of state dollars. In State Fiscal Year 2027, which starts July 1, there is a 5% recission of state dollars.

IDVR's priority is to first use state dollars to cover expenses not allowed under the Federal Grant, considered to be non-match state dollars.

Match is the second strategy of utilization of state dollars, which allows us to draw funds from the federal grant. A reduction in state funds minimizes the amount that can be drawn from the federal grant. This affects the strategy for waitlist management.

Other administrative updates

A chief financial officer has been hired to replace the current vacant position who will start on April 27, 2026. MiKayla Monaghan will ensure that she will have an extensive orientation plan around the complexity of the federal grant. The technical assistance center will be working closely with the financial officer.

The Administrator position has been posted and the recruitment will be driven by the State Board of Education.

Budget and Financial Update

The SRC Expenditures Detail for 2nd Quarter Federal Fiscal Year 2026 were reviewed and explained.

The amount of expenditures for interpreter services has exceeded the budget for the SRC including interpreter costs. There are minimal costs to support the Council, however it includes meeting space and travel. Virtual options allow for lesser expenditures related to travel.

A no cost strategy was used to conduct the CSNA survey, resulting in significant savings.

The IDVR Quarterly Budget to Actual Report by Fund. The breakdown of expenditures within each category was reviewed. It is projected that personnel expenses will be covered within the current budget. One time salary savings contributed to the rescission of expenditures as well as ending the contract with the consultants who provided guidance the agency to address funding strategies.

It is anticipated that there are enough funds to cover expenditures through the end of the state fiscal year.

Caseload numbers dropped due to reduction of the amount spent toward individuals receiving services, which was less than what was anticipated. The focus is to return to bigger caseload sizes by transferring individuals from the waiting list to plan development.

The agency is now spending the 2026 federal grant. There will be a maintenance of effort penalty by not utilizing the entire 2025 grant, however due to the amount of state appropriations received, IDVR would not have been able to access the entire grant, and therefore, will not have a noticeable impact on grant funds.

General Program Updates

IDVR Bureau Chief of Employment Services, Darrell Quist, presented the General Program updates.

- Office Location Consolidations
Treasure Valley consolidation has been completed. There is one more consolidation

scheduled for eastern Idaho when the Rexburg lease expires.

There has been an expansion to the Boise office to compensate for those team members relocated from the previous Meridian location to the Nampa and Boise offices.

- Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (QRP) Standard is a requirement of every VR agency. The degrees and certifications considered have been expanded to include master's level education. There are non-delegable tasks include determining eligibility, disability priority and signing of Individual Plans for Employment (IPEs) including a comprehensive assessment, which helps the counselor to ensure that an appropriate employment goal has been established prior to the IPE development. Case closures are also conducted by a QRP.

QRP will provide counseling to participants in all areas of the state. As needed, they will travel to locations like Pocatello where we currently do not have team members who meet QRP standards.

- The number of individuals transferred off the waitlist as of 4/20/26 is 676. When they are transferred off of the waitlist, they begin to work with an assigned counselor to develop an IPE.
 - There are 1,403 individuals currently on the Most Significant Disability Category (MSD). This is the only disability category which is partially open at this time.
 - 1,329 are in the Significant Disability (SD) Category.
 - 607 individuals are in the Disability (D) Category.
- Of the 676 on the waiting list, 222 have either not followed through or have indicated that they are no longer interested in services.
 - 24 are employed, with 4 of those individuals that are currently expected to be successfully rehabilitated
 - 33 who are in job search, some of which may be collaborating with a counselor or a Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) to find employment.
 - 89 are receiving other types of varying services including training and assistive technology.
 - 300 are eligible and engaged in developing an IPE

Counselor capacity would allow for another 590 people to be served from the waitlist. There is some capacity within the Pre-ETS counselor caseloads as well.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS)

Lauren Noble, Bureau Chief of Pre-ETS and Business Services, provided the Pre-ETS update.

- Individuals being released from the waitlist who meet the definition of a student will be placed on Pre-ETS counselors caseloads, as capacity allows, those that are under the age of 23 will also be placed on Pre-ETS counselor caseloads. It is anticipated that this will provide better consistency for the student who may have received Pre-ETS as a potentially eligible student.
- 3,011 services were provided to students through direct services by Pre-ETS team members for the last quarter. This was a significant increase over the last year and included a large number of Work Based Learning Experiences.
- Spending for the Pre-ETS is roughly at 8.5% of the FFY 25 grant (October 1, through current

date), with the goal of 15%.

Statewide upcoming events:

- Team members are engaging in collaboration with the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (ISDB) and doing a statewide one-day event in local areas where students will meet with a Pre-ETS team member and an individual from ISDB to do preparation activities, work readiness training, as well as job shadows.
- Later, there will be opportunities for them to participate in a large-scale Reality Town event on campus.

Eastern Idaho upcoming events

- The eastern Idaho team has created a curriculum called “Fuel your Future”, which encompasses each of the five required services (Work readiness training, work-based learning, self-advocacy, job exploration counseling and counseling on post-secondary education). There will also be a virtual class that students can attend statewide.
- Collaboration with Pocatello Regional Transit and the Idaho Falls transportation program will provide travel training with students to learn how to ride the city bus.
- Partnering with Life (Center for Independent Living) in their summer program
- Facilitate students using Life’s virtual driving simulators
- Work-based learning experiences for students on an individual basis

Boise area upcoming events

- Career preparation
- College preparation
- Weekly mock interview sessions
- Resume and interview skill workshops
- Local volunteer opportunities
- Reality Towns
- 3-day thrift store work learning experiences to be held at the Boise office (basic and advanced)
- Tours of Boise State University of College of Western Idaho including setting up necessary accommodations
- Bus training
- Advanced literacy workshop

Lewiston upcoming events

- Community engagement
- Volunteer opportunities
- Partnering with business services to tour employers in the area

Nampa and Coeur d’ Alene upcoming events

- Bus training
- Services to students in rural areas
- Workshops
- Computer literacy
- Job shadows within the community
- Partnering with the Disability Action Center and LINC to foster those connections with students

RSA has provided approval for employer reimbursed work-based learning experiences. The next step will be to provide training to team members.

Supported work-based learning experiences that are necessary for students who require more than natural support on a site have not been approved yet.

Business Services Update

Lauren Noble, Bureau Chief of Pre-ETS and Business Services, provided the Business Services update:

Business Services data was shared with council members showing a total of 1153 Outreach Communications. These are services provided to businesses which include accessing untapped labor pools, business information and support, and business training and education.

The business services supervisor has hired two new specialists to fill the two current vacancies, and these individuals are scheduled to start on April 27, 2026. They provide business services support to the Employment Services and Pre-ETS teams within IDVR along with their role as the primary point of contact for employers in the community.

The business services team has been focused on:

- Collaboration with One Stop Partners
- Scheduling and attending Business Tours
- Student focused activities
- Sending out monthly newsletters to share information about business services activities including information related to the DREAM series of training.
- Business Office hours to the internal team to provide information on current job trends
- Individual training for employers who have requested this

Internal Operations Updates

OOS Data Report

Heidi Smith, IDVR Business Analyst, provided the 3rd quarter OOS Data report, which reflected the number of individuals that have been removed from the wait list.

There has been a steady trend of new applications over the past few months. The service disability category percentages for within eligibility determinations have shifted to 10% to 15% in Disability (D), 25% to 30% in Significant Disabilities (SD), with the major percentage remaining in the Most Significant Disabilities category.

Participant Satisfaction Survey

Heidi Smith, Business Analyst, presented the quarterly Participant Satisfaction Survey results.

Overall satisfaction score with satisfaction of experience with IDVR is at 63%, with satisfaction of CRP services at 71%.

It was noted that there were negative comments in the survey responses, creating concern

among council members. The sub-committee responsible for oversight of the surveys has not yet met to make recommendations in follow up from suggestions provided at the previous quarterly meeting.

Other Business

Austerity Measures

There was discussion related to the possibility of withholding travel expenses for SRC members who are non-voting members.

- Some members do not claim travel expense reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses to help reduce costs.
- It would create more non-voting members from the Treasure Valley area rather than providing a statewide balance of representation.
- A later start could reduce lodging costs for those flying where they could fly in and return the same day.
- Council members expressed agreement with having virtual meetings in January or summer months to reduce costs for meeting space and travel. It was determined that this should be an agenda item for voting at the next meeting.

Sub-Committee Meeting

The sub-committee within the Executive Committee responsible for revision of the council by-laws will meet prior to the next quarterly meeting of the Council.

Council Member Updates:

Diana Colgrove

There is a huge gap in recipients related to the wait list and Order of Selection make those gaps more visible. She suggests that there be more visibility and communication related to the process of being placed on the wait list.

Employers are scrutinizing applicants more thoroughly, which makes it more challenging for those with disabilities without any VR services to help them.

Her daughter will be participating in the USA games this year and has been training with a coach for this exciting event.

Randi Cole

The executive team within the Department of Education is travelling throughout the state in their post legislative session tour with focus on artificial intelligence standards, guidelines, professional development for teachers, civic standards and an assessment which will be a part of graduation requirements.

The high needs fund passed this session, which will provide \$5 million to school districts to support students who require significant supports.

The Special Education Team is also travelling through the state to conduct data drill downs, which is where they look at student and district level data, all around student performance indicated and how to read and analyze the data. This will provide information to develop improvement plans for pre-K

through 12 special education services.

Pathways to Partnership Project, which is a partnership between the Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, IPUL, all three centers for independent living and several school districts around the state working on increasing collaboration, creating resources, increasing and streamlining services to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The end goal is to increase competitive integrated employment.

A conference has been scheduled regionally and statewide. There will be more information to come.

Special education is revamping the secondary transition teacher mentoring program. It deceased with previous leadership changes and is now being re-implemented.

Sarah Gornik

Sarah shared that Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL) is also involved in the Pathways to Partnership Project, which has increased learning for families as their children are preparing for adulthood after high school. Sarah's son is preparing to transition out of high school.

They are partnering with the State Department of Education to expand their parent lead project, where they will be hiring a parent coordinator to help expand the parent mentor project across the state, which will involve parent mentor training for school districts that would like to implement parent mentors.

Beginning January 1st, the Youth Empowerment Services Project (YES), the contract holder for families receiving mental and behavioral health services through the Department of Health and Welfare with the advocacy in education agency for families. They have hired a court specialist in northern and eastern Idaho, which will make them a statewide help to families

Feather Holt

As of February 2026, the Nez Perce Tribal VR program has gone into Order of Selection. They are working with the American Indian VR Training and Technical Assistance Center to update their policies. They will be hiring two additional positions.

Jami Davis

SILC continues to collect information on the Statewide Needs Assessment Survey; the survey is available on their website. They will be hosting their first virtual Town Hall on April 30th. They will be listening to the various challenges within local communities.

They are in process of setting up a Region X (Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska) living independent network conference to include centers and board members. They have extended an invitation to Rebecca Hines, who is the commissioner for the agency on disability. She has been open to learning about various disabilities and services.

Luke Rose

Luke stated that there are children with special needs that don't have supportive parents. He and his wife have been involved in their children's special education. He expressed concern about how children with disabilities transition to navigate in finding employment without supports.

He will provide an update on whether he will be able to continue to serve on the Council with the change of ownership in his company. He is looking forward to retirement.

Brandon Dopf

Brandon agrees about the importance of parent involvement and the needed resources. He just got back from Boston University where the world's first AI conference focusing on sign language. Various groups of people from all over the world attended including linguists, educators, government officials, companies, software engineers. He had the honor to be a presenter at the conference. It was such a great opportunity because everyone shared a connection about the importance of ethics behind developing AI technologies for the community who is deaf and hard of hearing. In the past the community had to suffer in a variety of ways when technology would advance without thinking about us, but rather as an afterthought. His company has just hired 7 new people and plan to create an additional 20 jobs. It is exciting to create new jobs in Idaho, especially for deaf people.

Tim Blonsky

His AI company partnered with 360 Direct Access and has worked out really well. There is some exciting things coming in the next few months related to AI. He did not attend the conference as he would rather focus on the work. They are looking at using AI for in-home technologies that will be accessible. It is cool to see the Idaho involvement. He is working at an ADHD agency, who has recently been cyber attacked, which has had a big impact on the number of people that were following them.

Amber Maxwell

Amber provided an update from the Veteran Readiness and Employment program continues to grow by 20% to provide support to multiple states including Idaho, Nevada, California and Hawaii. Current caseload ratio is 140 veterans to one counselor. Overall, the local program maintains quality and accuracy beyond the national average and produces 150% for rehabilitation closures. The Boise office maintains close collaboration with congressional stakeholders and community partners to ensure the highest level of rehabilitation services. A lot of the success is due to internal controls and continuing evaluation of policy and feedback from program recipients.

Stephanie Taylor Thompson

As a former VR recipient, she continues to advocate for IDVR and sharing the great work they are doing as well as the SRC. She is reaching out to individuals who have connected with her to support them as they face challenges and celebrate successes.

Danielle Larsen

It has been business as usual at RISE. RISE and IPUL did an open house at several of our locations to help families prepare for transition from youth to adult services.

Kaylauna Forell

She recently attended the IDVR Career Quest, which was a great experience. She was impressed with the students and the questions that they asked during the event.

The meeting was adjourned without objection. Next scheduled meeting: July 21, 2026.