**Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Board Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order at: 9:15 a.m. Mountain Time

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

Board Members in Attendance via Teams: Britt Raubenheimer

ICBVI Staff in Attendance in Person: Beth Cunningham, Mike Walsh, Steve Achabal, Angela Starr, Bailie Weir, Kebbie Young, Rocio Gil, Corey Bresina

ICBVI Staff in Attendance via Teams: Diana Lerh, Linda Upton, Jackie Stallings, Matt Queen, Shane Hyde, Earl Hoover, Kevin Jernigan, Justin Fish, Chris Johnston, Marcie Chapman, Jeff Weeks, Tyler Kuisti

Via Phone – Greg Metsker

Others on Teams: Dana Ard

Others on phone:

Motion to approve agenda - B.J. moved, Britt seconded.

Motion to approve prior meeting minutes – Britt moved, B.J. seconded.

**Administrator’s Report: Beth Cunningham**

Since our last meeting, we were able to fill the two new positions that we opened for the business analyst and the rehabilitation teacher in the Treasure Valley. We want to introduce those two new staff, Nick Jorgenson and Kebbie Young. In addition, we want to let you know that Kevin Jernigan is going to take on the task of filling Greg’s shoes as the ATC Manager. We are now getting ready to post the position to fill Kevin’s OM position and hope to get someone started in January. We had a nice retirement party for Greg last week and I want to thank Al for reading off the wonderful list of words that describe Greg. Also, thank you to all of you who contributed to that.

**Greg** will be missed so much in this agency and not just because he truly exemplifies all of those words used to describe him, but also because he has made us so dependent upon him as the **“go to”** guy and the **“fix it**” guy and the I have an emergency so I call on “Greg” guy. The **“ask Greg, he’ll know**” guy the “I don’t know, ask Greg, he’ll **remember why**” guy and the general **knowledge guy** of this building, the **history of the programs** and how and **why we do what w**e do guy.

Here are some highlights of accomplishments of Greg’s and his team that I would just like to mention:

* Greg keeps the training center running smoothly – which is a big accomplishment
* He maintained a very high level of respect from his team, while also instilling a high level of confidence in them at all times.
* Greg and his team began providing Blindness 101 classes across the state, which were able to help with our pre-ets service provision, as well as providing both outreach and education to the public.
* Greg and his team were able to keep the training center functioning and providing in-person services during covid, which may have been one of the only training centers do so in the country. He scaled classes down to one student per class and kept people safe, while still providing training.
* Greg has experimented with the work readiness class with in the ATC and now has a full-time instructor providing this much needed service.
* Greg was instrumental in getting the ATC network in place. He also was a huge support in guiding me with the advancement, enhancement, and extreme success of the SWEP through the years. His ability to lead and direct the ATC team is phenomenal. He encouraged us to be creative and independent in our roles in the ATC. Greg also supported the creation and operation of the elective ceramics class. The students love attending this class. It allows them to unwind at the end of their stressful day. It also builds confidence and creativity that the students don’t believe they have. As an instructor, Greg was the primary reason for my success in the ATC and in life. He helped me to regain faith in my abilities and to return to employment in my field. These are just a few things that I’ve experienced with Greg throughout the 20 years that I have been associated with him. Greg is one of the most outstanding people that I have ever known in my life.
* I think one of the great qualities of a leader is the ability to make the department run smoothly despite potential challenges. There were instances which could have had a negative effect on the ATC but because of Greg’s leadership over the team, it didn’t. Pre-ETS could have seemed like an insurmountable hill to climb, but with implementing and running things like Blindness 101, at least from my perspective it went smoothly. Because of the in-house nature of the training center and the close proximity we are to one another, Covid was another potential issue that a great leader found a way to make seem effortless. With some of the challenges we have faced, staff retention in the ATC has been incredible under Greg’s tenure and his excellent leadership qualities had an awful lot to do with that. The ATC is the best team I have ever worked with.

I am working on preparations for our **JFAC Hearing**, which is currently scheduled for February 5th. It will be a little different this year, in that our Legislative Services Office analyst will be presenting our budget and we will be turning in our power point and there to answer questions, but not presenting in the way that we normally do. I am working on coordinating with the representative who made the motion to pass our budget last year in hopes that I can explain our line item request which is the AWARE system and all of the reasons that we need it should that be questioned.

**Our line-item request is for general fund revenue one-time state match of 227,910. The ongoing annual state match is 12,780. Which we would need added to our budget.**

Mike and I are looking into the options for the summer program and working to learn more about any requirements by the Department of Purchasing. We need to put together an MOU with IESDB for the Ready, Set, Go program that we do with them each summer. We met with Brian Darcy and Jean Marie Kopecky from **IESDB** last week to discuss that.

In addition, Corey and I met with Brian Darcy from IESDB and with the Prison regarding the Braille program. The last inmate who was working in the previous program has quit providing Braille services and now the prison is saying they will work with us to rebuild that program. So, we will continue meeting to ensure that we can get this service started again.

In November, I attended the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho Conference which gave me a good picture of Idaho’s economy and the growth we are experiencing. Some interesting information included the fact that 40,000. People have moved from California to Idaho. 2045 people moved to Idaho from Spokane, 1154 from Las Vegas and 980 from Seattle. Apparently, we are getting 3 In and Out Burgers. I am not sure where the other locations are planning to be. One just opened in Meridian.

Idaho’s unemployment rate is 3.9 %, we are typically lower than the national rate. We have labor shortages here which should be helpful for our clients regarding employment as long as the medical shortages are not causing a wait for surgeries and services. Affordable housing remains one of the state’s biggest challenges. The median assessment for an Ada County home is 453,000.

In late October/early November, Mike and Corey and I attended CSAVR and Greg attended NCSAB. States are still struggling with spending all of their grants and with staffing shortages. We are fortunate not to be having either of these problems and we are once again not getting monitored next year. Next year, we will resume committee work to continue working on preparing for monitoring at some time in the future. Now that the state system has switched to Luma, many if not all of the processes and guidelines we had written for fiscal needs to be revised due to changes.

I attended the Workforce Development strategic planning meeting week before last. One new thing the state is doing which could be helpful to our clients, as well as to agencies, is that there is a new provision to hire apprentices without an FTP in a temp to classify capacity. We will learn more about how this can work in the upcoming year. Idaho workforce is having the greatest shortages in healthcare and technology. Specific shortages also among warehousing and truck driving.

Lastly, I believe I shared at the last couple of meetings that we hired a videographer to create a video to highlight our summer programs. That was completed in September and I will show it to you now.

(Video)

Thank you! And Merry Christmas !

**BEP Report (Reported by Justin Fish)**

**ICBVI Board Report: FFY 2023 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 program.

We continue to evaluate the sales to respond to the market in the best manner possible to assure the success of the program. The current workplace is a multifaceted equation that has forced us to make many changes around the State to compensate. We are having a hard look at micro-markets and their integration into our program.

**Financial Snapshot**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gross Sales | $322,617.42 | $436.383.03 | $416,144.92 | $459,229.14 |  | $1,634,374.51 |
| Total Net Income | $76,946.92 | $154,720.02 | $83,591.07 | 119,194.80 |  | $390,752.68 |
| Set Aside Collected | $7,796.16 | $15,472.00 | $9,563.09 | 13,773.62 |  | $46,604.87 |
| Average income % | 32.41% | 44.54% | 39.03% | 38.42% |  | 38.60% |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FFY 2022** | **OCT-DEC****(Q1)** | **JAN-MAR****(Q2)** | **APR-JUNE (Q3)** | **JULY- SEPT****(Q4)** |  | **Total** |
| Gross Income | $379,040.06 | $472,618.07 | $499,564.80 | $498,364.39 |  | $1,851,598.71 |
| Net Income | $51,318.22 | $125,208.08 | $128,690.93 | $91,727.36 |  | $398,955.98 |
| Set Aside Collected | $5,318.22 | $12,735.20 | $12,869.09 | $10,198.48 |  | $44,056.83 |
| Average income % | 29.48% | 32.19% | 33.82%  | 32.24%  |  | 31.98% |

BEP UPDATES

Locations surveyed:

* Chinden campus cafeteria: We have received the documentation from DOA stating our priority at the State Chinden Campus. We met with them to get the process of a contract started. We have also met with our teaming partner Roosters to try to negotiate teaming up with us. We will need to have the contacts in place by March 1st when we take over the management of the cafeteria.

* Corrections Department Administration office Boise: We have accepted the facility for a micro market. They are remodeling their breakroom before we install, it should be done in January 2024.

 New set up:

* North Idaho Lewiston: We have transferred all the sites that Coke has been doing over to our contractor Valley Vending. We added some snack equipment to the sites. This expands the route for a potential vendor.

Changes:

* INL AMWTP: We made some changes to reduce the amount of equipment on property. We had 8 machines on the property and now have 6 machines. This makes it more profitable.

* INL ATR: We made some changes to reduce the amount of equipment on property. We had 4 machines on the property and now have 2 machines. This makes it more profitable.
* USPS Idaho Falls: We had to pull out of the site due to lack of sales.

* Gowen Field: The temporary cafeteria is still running strong, and the new cafeteria is coming along. We still don’t have a solid completion date just yet, hoping it will be in the next few months. Kevin is continuing to serve our troops with quality and professionalism.

* Job Corps: They have continued increasing the number of new students each month. Sales have been steadily climbing and things are looking up for the site.

General Updates:

* We are working to create cohesion among our program guidelines by updating our internal controls and operating agreements, and assuring they are in alignment with the CFRs and IDAPA. Arianah and a committee representative are heading up this project and are working on getting things updated in a manner that satisfies RSA. Operating agreements are almost all signed.
* We meet with the vendor committee monthly to address issues around the State. We are currently working on addressing the RSA determination that the SLA’s are not allowed to pay for any equipment under $1,000.00. The SLA is only able to cover equipment over $1,000.00. This puts the burden on the vendor for anything under the threshold. This applies to established vendors and new vendors. RSA will pay for the vending machines but not the add on’s like coin mechanisms, credit card readers, etc.
* We had our biannual IBMC training in September. We had our micro market provider Cantaloupe come in to train on their back office and new accessible platform. If you are in the Boise office, you can check out the kiosk platform in the library.
* IBMC voted to update their benefits package. To date, benefit payments have been varied based on machine-income funds received each quarter. As of July 2023, each vendor receives a flat payment of $800 per quarter. At the end of the state fiscal year, any funds in the Set Aside account above $70,000 are divided equally among the vendors and distributed as vacation pay.

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

This last quarter has been one of continued change and growth. We were able to hire a new Rehabilitation Teacher, Kebbie Young, for the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) caseload in Region 3. Kebbie brings a very positive demeanor and a lifetime of experience in the blindness skills arena. Prior to her employment with ICBVI she served an internship teaching in the ATC. During this time, it was very clear Kebbie has many of the skills in place to be a very good Instructor for the Blind.

Kebbie started off her training participating as both a student and instructor in the ATC and is currently training mostly in the field with both Deeann Sollis and Marcy Chapman. Both Marcie, Deeann and Earl Hoover have also been instrumental in working with Kebbie with the different programs we use as well such as the ORION database, Luma and others.

As mentioned previously, Kebbie is taking over the ILOB caseload, which Deeann Sollis has been diligently managing for the last eight years. Deeann will be moving to the Treasure Valley 1 caseload which will allow her to work with VR, IL and ILOB clients throughout Region 3.

The final transition of these caseloads will take place during the next quarter.

Throughout the last federal fiscal year (FFY2023), our ICBVI Rehabilitation Teachers performed commendably, effectively engaging clients in the VR, IL, and ILOB programs across the state.

In FFY 2023, ICBVI served 630 OB clients and 86 IL clients in SFY2023. This does not include the 204 one-time referrals that were also assisted through the 2023 federal fiscal year. These one-time referrals are made up of individuals seeking our agency's guidance and services without the need for opening a formal IL or ILOB case. In other words, the level of assistance that they are seeking is limited and can be performed within one meeting with the individual.

Throughout the 2023 federal year, RT’s also participated in many outreach activities. Some of these included but were not limited to, sitting on local public transportation committees, participating on transition teams/councils, attending peer support group meetings, attending health fairs and multiple public meetings, as well as sitting on multiple committees and boards. These outreach efforts touched hundreds of individuals by advocating for and educating the public regarding individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

ICBVI is also a very active participant in the development of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for FY 2025 – 2027, which is the guideline for independent living in the state of Idaho. The SPIL also lays out the amount of funding ICBVI will receive with Title B funds which is the main funding source for the IL program. I am pleased to say that this document is close to being finalized and approved by the SILC.

Britt – do you track how people heard about us for the one-time referrals? Steve – not for referrals, for clients we do. It is on the application.

**Sight Restoration**

The VRA team consistently excels in supporting Idaho residents facing financial challenges and in need of medical procedures to preserve or enhance their vision.

As stated in last quarter’s report there was an increase in SR individuals served from SFY 2022. We hope this upward trend will continue in SFY 2024.

**Low Vision Clinic and ICBVI Store:**

Our Low Vision Clinic and Stores have continued to admirably serve clients, patients, and customers throughout this last quarter.

A change that will take place next quarter is that Dr. Hansen will be finalizing the sale of his personal business in Rexburg. He will continue to contract with ICBVI for the Low Vision Clinic and regional clinics. We are currently working out the details on how this transition may affect our clinic and are trying to minimize any interference that the patients may encounter.

Estimated over 1500 patients in the clinic for FY23 including field clinics.

Dr. Hansen has sold his practice in Rigby but will continue to be out in house physician.

**Assessment and Training Center: Greg Metsker**

ATC Board Report 12-18-23

The ATC fall term ends on December 15th. We started the term with 12 students and we finished with the same 12 students. That is somewhat rare to not add or subtract from the original roster during the course of a term. All 12 current students are planning to return for the winter term, and we will add 2 more to the mix for a total of 14 this winter. The waiting list has grown to 9 clients, so even though the current students kept the instructors very busy this term, I felt like we had to add a couple more to whittle the list down a bit. That will make for some interesting scheduling challenges, but we can do it. There are a handful of current students who will be finished at the end of the winter term, so with any luck there will be room for most if not all of the clients on the waiting list to begin in April.

It has been a few years since I calculated the average number of terms that our students are staying in the ATC. A couple of weeks ago I decided to figure that out and see if the previous average of 2.5 terms from a few years ago has changed. It seemed to the ATC team that clients are staying longer these days. I looked at the clients who attended the ATC this past calendar year and averaged their length of stay to get the new number. There were a few clients from this year who will finish training this winter, so I included the winter term in my calculations. For the 24 clients who attended this year, the average number of terms they were in training was exactly 3, up from 2.5 as I mentioned before. One of the students was here for 6 terms, 2 of them were here for 5 terms, 2 were here for 4 terms, 8 for 3 terms, 3 for 2 terms and 3 for 1 term and there are a handful who are here now who will be in training for an indeterminate amount of time so I didn’t include them in this project. That means 68% of our students this past year will have been in the ATC for 3 or more terms by the time they are finished. I haven’t figured it out, but I would guess that the average length of stay ten years ago was probably closer to 2 terms. The longer training times partially explains the waiting list that we currently have. There seems to be a post-pandemic surge in interest in the ATC again, but I also think that having to delay the start date for new students while existing students finish up is also a big contributor to the waiting list. Our policy has always been that if a student is putting in the effort and they are still making progress on their goals, they can continue in training, even if that might just be in one or two of the classes.

Last year I indicated to Beth that I would like to see the number of students who attend the ATC each year be between 30-40. Given that students are sticking around longer, that goal may not be realistic, without making significant changes to the way we do business. Time will tell, but the 24 students we had this year seemed to keep the staff busy and challenged. We provided 6,000 hours of instruction from January 1st to December 8th this year. Scott was the busiest instructor, accounting for 1,300 of those hours. Chris was close behind at 1,250. Given the waiting list, and the fact that we will have 14 students this winter, I think the total number of students served in the ATC next year will be closer to 30 and those instructional hours will be even higher.

The ATC team believes strongly that educating the public about blindness is an important thing to do. The Blindness 101 seminars, the sessions we have done with teachers from Moscow, and the activity days when we are out in public demonstrating what is possible for folks who are blind are just a few of the ways we try to educate the public. In the coming weeks, Mel and Kevin are scheduled to meet with 35 traffic engineers, inspectors, and other Idaho Transportation Department personnel, to help make them more aware of accessibility issues and ADA requirements related to road projects they might be working on. They hope to provide some actual examples of situations they have seen that present problems for somebody who is visually impaired, particularly in construction zones, whether that be sidewalks, street crossings of any other area that pedestrians might need to access. Examples of things Mel and Kevin have seen, and they will share with the ITD staff, are places where caution tape is used to close a pedestrian area and how somebody using a white cane may not be able to detect caution tape before it is too late. Other examples are signs of any kind that are mounted on poles at head level, or in such a way that a cane won’t find them, or temporary road construction signs that are setting on or near a sidewalk or curb cut, that can be trip hazards for someone who can’t see them. I imagine there will be all kinds of questions from the participants regarding any number of scenarios that ITD is working on that Mel and Kevin may be able to assist with.

Lastly, as I’m sure you are all aware, I am retiring soon. My last day in the office will be December 29th. I started working at ICBVI on March 2, 1992, when Ed McHugh was the Administrator and Kevin Nathan was the training center manager. At that time Nancy Ackley was the typing/business instructor (we started teaching computers shortly after I began working here), Cindy Grover was the Home Economics Instructor, Mary Ellen Halverson was the Braille Instructor, Mary Evelyn Smith was the Cane Travel Instructor and I was the Shop Instructor. In those days we had 4 class periods per day, each was 2 hours long, and we went year-round with no breaks. The term system didn’t get started until the early 2000’s. I called it the merry go round system, where clients got on and we told them when to get off. It was usually 9 months of training at least. It’s interesting that our average number of terms for students these days is 3, which equates to about 9 months. Anyway, it has been a privilege to work here all these years. I worked with some incredible staff and clients in that time and have seen so many changes. I have also seen some rather dysfunctional commission boards and have had the pleasure to work with the current board. You all are fantastic. Britt, I thoroughly enjoyed working with you all these years. You are/were a tremendous, stabilizing influence on the board at a time when that was needed. Al, I am sure that your tenure as chair will be just as good. You obviously care a great deal about this agency. I am certain that you all have the best interests of the agency and our clients in mind every time you convene. Your commitment shows. And of course, I like that there are 3 ATC graduates on the board. Thank you.

Draft recruitment is ready and we’re close to it being posted.

**Consumer Input:**

Dana Ard – NFB State convention is March 23 at the Best Western in Burley. We are in the planning stages. We will have a presenter from the Small Business Convention Center and a panel of blind people that are small businesses. We are happy to have anyone from the state join the panel. We will have a presentation on AI and a student panel. NWABA will be there. We have a luncheon on Saturday for young adults (35 and under). We will be doing a scholarship program again - $2,000 each this year which is down a little bit from last year. Last years convention at the Riverside almost decimated our budget. We have our WA seminar coming up and a student is going. Bell and Beyond will happen. We did a fundraiser in October that brought in some funds and also an auxiliary fundraiser. We are partnering with IESDB who will help with transportation and a few staff for us. We are working with the Lions Club to try to get some additional funding. We continue to host monthly events for people losing vision. Tune into Idaho’s Blind on YouTube.

Al – I’ve retired from doing Cycle for Independence. Daniel Solis will be the coordinator going forward. From Idaho ListServ: the American community survey is considering changes regarding how they collect disability data. It will go from 15% to 8%. It will impact numerous areas. The deadline is tomorrow for public comment. Al will send the link to Beth to forward out. The survey will have some questions taken off and some re-worded.

**Vocational Rehabilitation Program: Mike Walsh**

**Federal Reporting:**

The RSA 911 Q1 report was submitted on November 14, 2023.

**Data Dashboards**

*Program Summary*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **PY23 Q1**  | **Prior Quarter**  | **Change**  |
| **Total Participants Served**  | 373  | 388  | -15  |
|   |   |   |   |
| **Quarterly Counts**  |   |   |   |
| Applicants  | 31  | 24  | 7  |
| New Eligibilities  | 27  | 25  | 2  |
| New IPE’s  | 22  | 17  | 5  |
|   |   |   |   |
| **Timeliness**  |   |   |   |
| Eligibility  | 100%  | 100%  | 0%  |
| IPE  | 100%  | 100%  | 0%  |
|   |   |   |   |
| **Total Exiting**  |   |   |   |
| Attrition prior to IPE  | 18.8%  | 12.5%  | 6.3%  |
| Employment Rate  | 62%  | 43%  | 18.7%  |

*Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of Students with Disabilities (SWD) Reported**  |   | **Prior Quarter**  |
| Total number SWD  | 93  | 94  |
| Number of students (SWD) who received Pre-ETS  | 38  | 36  |
| Applied and have IPE  | 35  | 34  |
| Potentially Eligible   | 3  | 2  |
|   |   |   |
| **Pre-ETS by type provided**  | **Count**  | **Percent**  |
| Job Exploration Counseling  | 0  | 0%  |
| Work Based Learning Experiences  | 26  | 29%  |
| Counseling on Post-Secondary  | 8  | 9%  |
| Workplace Readiness  | 31  | 34%  |
| Instruction in Self-Advocacy  | 26  | 29%  |

*Measurable Skill Gains (MSG)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quarterly Measurable Skill Gains**  |   |   |
| Total number of participants  | 373  |   |
| Number of participants eligible for MSG  | 135  | (this is the MSG denominator)  |
| % of participants eligible for MSG  | **36%**  | (We want to be around 40%)  |
|   |   |   |
| Number of participants who achieved MSG  | 10  | (this is the MSG numerator)  |
| MSG Rate for the Quarter  | 7.4%  | = (/)  |
| MSG Rate PY23 YTD  | 7.4%  |   |
|   |   |   |
| **Breakdown by MSG Type**  |   |   |
|   | **Number**  | **Percent**  |
| Education Functioning Level  | 0  |   |
| Secondary diploma or equivalent   | 1  |   |
| Transcript/Report card  | 6  |   |
| Training Milestone  | 2  |   |
| Skills Progression  | 1  |   |

*Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Title**  | Number of participants  | Median Hourly Earnings  | Median Hours Worked  |
| Personal Care and Service Workers, All Other  | 1  | $9.75  | 7  |
| Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators  | 1  | $28.25  | 40  |
| Lawyers  | 1  | $17.19  | 40  |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other  | 1  | $15.50  | 16  |
| Electricians  | 1  | $32.00  | 40  |
| Customer Service Representatives  | 2  | $18.21  | 28.5  |
| Audio and Video Equipment Technicians  | 1  | $16.48  | 40  |

**PY2022 Primary Indicators of Performance**

How does Idaho compare on a national level?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | National Avg  | Idaho  |
| Employment Rate (Q2)  | 56%  | 64.9%  |
| Median Earnings (Q2)  | $5,130  | $4,950  |
| Employment Rate (Q4)  | 53%  | 62.7%  |
| Credential Attainment  | 38%  | 62.1%  |
| Measurable Skills Gain  | 49%  | 56.1%  |

Employment Rate (Q2): 1st quartile (6th in the nation).

Median Earnings (Q2): 3rd quartile (27th in the nation).

Employment Rate (Q4): 1st quartile (4th in the nation).

Credential Attainment: 1st quartile (2nd in the nation).

Measurable Skills Gain: 2nd quartile (17th in the nation).

**Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA)**

Rachel (SDSU) gave a presentation on the CSNA at our In-Service in September. We are still waiting for a final copy of the report. Should get it by the end of this month.

**WIOA Combined State Plan**

We are currently working on the combined section of the plan. Nick and I are participating in a COP (Community of Practice) that meets bi-weekly (the COP is being hosted by SDSU Interwork Institute). There are significant changes to how the plan is structured in the portal for 2024. Jim Doyle is the RSA representative in the COP. The state plan is due March 4th.

**Rulemaking Activity**

RSA has completed their review of the proposed BEP rule change, and we received a copy with their comments. We will be having a conference call with RSA in early January to discuss their comments and recommendations.

**Website**

*Overview Report:*

Last 30 days (Nov 4th-Dec 3rd)

Total Users: 481 (down -21%)

New Users: 430 (down -22%)

\*Bounce Rate: 42.5% (up 6%)

\* *Percental of single page visits (or web sessions). It is the number of visits in which a person leaves your website from the landing page without browsing any further.*

**Assistive Technologist and Business Consultant (Reported by Earl Hoover)**

# Assistive Technology

During this second quarter of PY 2023, I provided AT support as needed and continued to provide Assistive Technology Assessments to counselors. I have also been working with Steve and the RT Staff to provide them with remote hardware and software training to update or refine AT skills. I have participated in regional AT and ICBVI staff meetings via Zoom and Microsoft Teams. I also launched the Pre-ETS Lending Library. I am still working with ITS to image our iPads so they can be used. This library allows us to check out technology on a limited time basis for Workplace Readiness Training and Pre-ETS programs as needed. I worked with the management team to develop an in-person training seminar for our RTs which coincided with in-service this year. Scott Pearl was an invaluable help with facilitating some of the training during this seminar. I continue to provide accessibility feedback to the SCO’s Luma Training Team on their training materials.

# Business Engagement

During this Quarter, I participated in regional meetings remotely using Zoom. I have participated in Business spotlight virtual sessions which highlight a particular business each time. in efforts to continue our partnership with local community businesses and other VR partner agencies. In an effort to build on-going relationships between ICBVI, IDVR, and businesses within the Boise Area and around the state, I am collaborating with Mikayla at IDVR to offer a series of Lunch & Learns over the course of next year. These Lunch & Learns will be provided remotely and will be geared toward disability and employment.

**Fiscal Report: Corey Bresina**

SFY24 appropriation and expenditures: As of 12/11/2023

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   |   | ***Appropriation*** | **Expenditures** | **Yr Elapsed** | **Expended %** |
| Federal - 34800 | PC | 50 | $2,716,700.00 | 1,362,064.78 | 46% | 50.14% |
| (Grant) | OE | 55 | $601,800.00 | $342,537.97 | 46% | 56.92% |
|  | T/B | 80 | $470,300.00 | $326,380.17 | 46% | 69.40% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| General - 10000 | PC | 50 | $973,200.00 | $391,265.20 | 46% | 40.20% |
| (State) | OE | 55 | $120,300.00 | $25,745.84 | 46% | 21.40% |
|  | CO | 70 | $400.00 | $0.00 | 46% | 0.00% |
|  | T/B | 80 | $599,200.00 | $161,024.37 | 46% | 26.87% |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Aids & Appl - 42600 | PC | 50 | $25,400.00 | $1,110.78 | 46% | 4.37% |
| (Store) | OE | 55 | $62,900.00 | $45,821.82 | 46% | 72.85% |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| BEP - 21000 | OE | 50 | $27,600.00 | -$16,741.22 | 46% | -60.66% |
| (Set-Aside) | T/B | 55 | $100,100.00 | $7,709.32 | 46% | 7.70% |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| VR Svc Misc Rev - 34900 | OE | 50 | $28,100.00 | $27,319.43 | 46% | 97.22% |
| (Donation) | T/B | 55 | $56,300.00 | $0.00 | 46% | 0.00% |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Rehab Rev & Refund - 28800 | OE | 50 | $34,300.00 | $0.00 | 46% | 0.00% |
| (SSA) | T/B | 55 | $13,000.00 | $0.00 | 46% | 0.00% |
|   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **$5,829,600.00** | **$2,674,238.46** | 46% | 45.87% |
|  |  | **FFY23** | **FFY24** |  |  |  |
| **Pre-ETS obligation****Pre-ETS draws 100%****Balance of FFY23 15%** |  | 486,965.25 (486,965.25)0.00 | *172,474.95* *(0.00)**172,474.95* |  | 50 - PC55 - O/E70 - CO80 - T/B | 47.22%48.54%0.00%39.96% |

The transition to Luma continues to be challenging. The biggest struggles are still on the Financials and Supply Management (FSM) side. We are chipping away at making the necessary accounting corrections that we’re aware of and also looking for those that we aren’t. The SCO has recently taken a different approach to the way they assist agencies with Luma questions, concerns, and problems. This seems to be helping and we will continue to work with them until we have resolved our issues and shortcomings.

**New Business**

March 12 travel day stay the night before (fly to Mosco Pullman)? Will check on flights and send that out to everyone.

Motion to adjourn – B.J. Stinger.