

Idaho Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2011

Board Members present: Britt Raubenheimer, Chair; Travis Beck, Vice-Chair; Kent Ireton and Mike Gibson

ICBVI Staff present: Angela Jones; Raelene Thomas; Nancy Wise; Nanna Hanchett; Greg Metsker; Lisa Van Ry; Doug Raper; and Jeff Terry

Guests present: Jan Gawith; Susan Bradley; Elsie Dickerson and Bill Morgan

Motion to amend the agenda on the Program Reports section as Trina Ayres was unable to make the meeting, Angela Jones to give the fiscal report. Made by Commissioner Gibson, seconded by Commissioner Beck – all in favor.

Motion to approve the minutes from November 18, 2010. Made by Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Gibson – all in favor.

Administrator's Report – Angela Jones

Dr. Sarah Marossy has had some medical issues and has chosen not serve on the ICBVI Board as a Commissioner. A get well and thank you card will be sent to her. Our hopes for Dr. Marossy is that she will return to good health and will want to stay involved at some level with our ICBVI office in Coeur d'Alene.

During our recent single audit by Legislative Services Office, the auditor discovered that we had a \$900,000 cash balance. Neither Trina nor Angela had realized the balance was that high. The balance is due to receiving an annual COLA for our VR Basic Support Grant from our federal grant for at least 10 years without ever receiving additional spending authority. We received an additional \$122,000 in on-going spending authority, which will bring our cash balance more in line with what was intended. We have also gotten questions from the Joint Finance Appropriation Committee regarding our sizable donation that we received this last fall. JFAC requested that we put a plan together of how the agency was going to spend the money, which we turned in this last week. With the proposed cuts on the state level, the ICBVI General Fund budget will be cut 2.2% or \$28,200 for state fiscal year 2012. This cut will most likely come out of the Sight Restoration funds, but we are still looking at other ideas. Some of the other state agencies experienced cuts of more than 5%. Commissioner Raubenheimer asked about ICBVI's current yearly amount in the Sight Restoration program, which is \$179,000. In the previous years we have had to cut Sight Restoration, which has led to more clients being served by the VR program and which also has given higher priority to clients who have a job and need to maintain employment. We are able to meet our match.

On a national level, President Obama has consolidated some vocational rehabilitation grants, such as Projects with Industry, In-Service Training Grant, and Supported Employment, into the basic support grant. They are also looking at a nationwide project so that Jaws or Zoom Text users could access these