

Idaho Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2010

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 VanRy, Doug Raper, Larry Henrie, and Melanie Hertling

Guests present: Jan Gawith, Carol Baron, Ramona Walhoff, Susan Bradley, Phillip Schuler, Don Nepple and students from the ATC – Cameron, Floyd & Rob

Motion to approve the agenda for August 26, 2010 made by Commissioner Gibson, seconded by Commissioner Beck – all in favor.

Motion to approve the minutes from July 1, 2010 conference call made by Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Gibson – all in favor.

Administrator's Report – Angela Jones

Thank you to the Board for allowing her the time off, she is feeling 200% better and her health is good. Thank you to Greg as he stepped up to the plate in her place and did a good job. Thank you to the Management Team

The RSA 107 Reviews that were conducted this year are currently being reviewed by Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner, before being released to any of the states. We are not sure when we will receive our written report.

Brian Darcy, who was the Transition coordinator, has been appointed as the new Administrator to the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind.

The week of November 7th, Angela will be going to San Diego for the CSAVR & NCSAB Conferences. CSAVR has hired an outside entity to handle all of their accounting, due to the recent accounting problems. The NCSAB also was affected by this situation, as they had CSAVR staff handle their accounting, but they expect to collect some of the money that was lost.

We will not be getting a federal COLA (cost of living allowance) this year, but the good news is that we will not experience any decreases at this time.

We will begin working on our zero based budgeting for 2013, which will begin July 1, 2011. We will meet with our Division of Financial Management Analyst, David Haun. Before the meeting

we will be reviewing our agency statutes to make sure that we are following them and not going outside of those statutes in regards to services to the public.

ARRA – we currently have \$109,000 left in IL and \$89,900 left in ILOB to spend this year. We have spent around \$199,000 of the ARRA VR monies which puts us at 50% expended. We are right on track. There is some fraud happening nationally with ARRA. Angela feels that we are doing a really good job in tracking our ARRA spending fiscally. A lot of our expenses with the VR ARRA has been due to travel of the roving assistive technology staff to other parts of the state.

We found out recently that the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation would be returning monies to RSA for re-allotment due to not being able to match the money with state general funds. We decided that we could safely match at least \$100,000, and we were given this money to use through the next year, to be fully expended by the end of September 2011. Later on, we realized we could have matched an additional \$200,000, so we applied for re-allotment through the Department of Education and will be awarded these additional monies to use by the end of September 2011. Angela has asked the managers for a list of how they could spend this money in the next year, so that we spend it wisely and on time to benefit clients.

We received a donation from a former client in the Twin Falls area who received older blind services from one of our Rehabilitation Teachers. The family was concerned that the state would take general fund monies from ICBVI if we received this donation. Angela has talked with the Governor's Office and has expressed the former clients' wishes for the money to be used for older blind and also those who cannot afford assistive technology. We will be coming up with ideas on how to honor her for this donation here at ICBVI.

We have received \$250,000 from the State of Idaho Permanent Building Fund for repairs on the outside of the building, which will include the entry stairs and stone wall on the front of the building, and replacing some of the flooring in the bathrooms.

There was legislative intent put into our appropriations bill for SFY 2011 suggesting the agency consider sharing our regional office space with the Industrial Commission. This intent was also listed on the appropriations bill for the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR). We received an email from the Industrial Commission asking us to fill out a spreadsheet with our number of staff, square footage being leased, and cost per square footage. They will then set up a meeting for the three agencies to discuss sharing space. ICBVIs average cost for leasing space is about \$9.00 per square foot, whereas the Industrial Commission's average is about \$14.41 per square foot, and IDVR is about \$13.17 per square foot. Both of these agencies pay over \$200,000 a year for leases, while we pay around \$35,000.

Consumer Input:

Ramona Walhoff: In June, the Lions Club funded the summer camp for kids and ICBVI sent Heidi and Brian to help out. They deserve a lot of credit for participating in this camp. The NFBI has seen a huge need for kids who are blind or visually impaired. There has been discussion about putting together regional groups for parents of kids who are blind or visually impaired to

develop relationships with teachers and others who can help them become more educated and aware of issues that their kids may face. Ramona felt it was imperative to begin this education and awareness with parents when the kids are at pre-school age to start early intervention. This will help kids be better prepared by the time they reach high school and can become a client at ICBVI.

Cameron (ATC student): Cameron talked about his experience being involved in the SWEP program for the last three summers. He felt that it was a good experience and he enjoyed helping a few of the new SWEP students get acquainted. Cameron is the youngest person in the ATC this terms, and he likes being with the older students. He is able to assist some with computer questions, as he has worked on computers since he was in 2nd grade.

Jan Gawith: We need to be looking at anything we can do with parents to help them know how to educate their kids on blindness. Maybe a parent support group on a regional basis would be very helpful. We need to continue to encourage parents to participate in more seminars, meetings and conferences regarding blindness. The NFBI is putting a parent list together in order to help parents around the state communicate better.

SWEP Update – Larry Henrie:

This year we had 24 applications for the SWEP, but four of these applicants did not participate for personal reasons. We had 7 women and 13 men. The program ran from June 7th to July 30th. Because of the larger number of clients, we increased the staff by three from last year. Again this year the staff's performance was excellent. During the training week, the staff paid close attention and demonstrated the training throughout the program. Many of the staff are now students at the U of I (University of Idaho), BSU (Boise State University) and NNU (Northwest Nazarene University). Their areas of study are Teaching, Social Work, Psychology, Medecine, and Human Resources. We chose these particular people because they may be working with clients that have a visual impairment and they will obtain some knowledge of blindness and how to work with the person properly. Christi Clark was Larry's assistant and she did an excellent job and was very dependable.

We were housed again at the Boise State University Suites. This is a great environment for the students/clients to live and work in. The SWEP program wants to thank BSU for the gracious treatment everyone received while on campus. Commissioner Gibson commented that he always receives very positive feedback from the BSU Housing staff.

Larry was pleased with the job coaching and reporting this year. Larry had open dialogue with Community Partnerships of Idaho (CPI) in March and explained in detail the program's expectations of the job coaches. CPI did a good job getting us what we needed in job coaches.

The clients all got along very well and worked together as a team this summer. During meal prep, clean up and activities, there was an attitude of cooperation and participation. We had one young lady who has severe MS and a job developer had previously told her that she would never be employable. However in SWEP, she was a success at her first position with the

Division of Building Safety. We also experienced a larger amount of media exposure this summer. Channel 12 did a great news article on the clients at their job sites, and the Idaho Statesman did a front-page article. We also have the SWEP video streaming on YouTube on the internet, which can be accessed under the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired public website.

This year we had several new employers participate in SWEP, including the Grove Hotel; Ada County Housing Authority; State of Idaho Division of Building Safety; Boise State Radio Station; and Zamzows. Zamzows would have liked a participant for each store. This year we had more job opportunities than we had participants. All of the employers were pleased with their participant and all agreed to participate again next year. The employers were pleased with the way we visited the work sites and the open communications with the program. Many of the employers gave their client a wonderful letter of reference and some even offered an evaluation. Computers for Kids was extremely pleased with the performance of their client. They are expanding their data security area and spoke with Dana and Larry about requesting a visually impaired client to work for them when they get that segment up and running. This year's and last year's clients made a big impression on them.

This year we had the honor of having Chairman Raubenheimer stop in for a visit with one of the clients at their job at the Grove Hotel, and having Commissioner Marossy join us for tubing at Lucky Peak and for Frisbee Golf at Ann Morrison Park the following evening. Commissioner Marossy took some great pictures and made sure the program and each of the clients received copies. Some of the pictures have been framed and will be hanging in the Hall of Frames in the ATC hallway. Thank you for doing that, and everyone really enjoyed having you there. Some of our other activities were camping, rafting, tubing, the auto rally, and the pool party at Ramona Walhoff's home. This year we shifted more of the focus of the responsibility of the activities back to the clients. They paid for more of the activities than in the past years.

The banquet was a lot of fun and the clients prepped the food and did an excellent job. We had a head count of 176 people at the banquet. The clients and staff took up a donation and presented it to the New Heights Christian Fellowship in appreciation for use of their facilities.

Larry thanked the board and Angela for allowing him the opportunity to direct the program again this year, and agency staff for their support and help and to Greg and the ATC team for their great job of training the staff and putting up with him while this program was running.

Some History of ICBVI – Jan Gawith:

When the Gem State Blind heard about the program being run in Iowa, blind people started to make themselves known to legislators. People from Iowa came out to work with people here. The Commission was voted in to existence in 1967. Before that time, services for the blind were provided by the Department of Public Assistance. Dana Ard was one of the first people to receive services at ICBVI. The first Administrator here was a student from the Iowa Center. That Administrator offered Jan a job here, teaching Braille, although she was in college at the

time. Jan was the fourth person hired here at ICBVI (they had an Administrator, secretary, accountant, and braille teacher). Later on, they hired a travel (O&M) teacher and a counselor, who taught home economics out of Jan's apartment. The first building with ICBVI offices was shared with the Department of Administration and was near the current LBJ building. Most of the staff back then worked about 60 hours a week. In 1973 we hired a wood shop teacher. When ICBVI moved to our current building, there was a swimming pool in the basement and a basketball court on the floor above the pool. Growth happened within the ICBVI due to working with legislators and the Governor. Back then people were more available to meet with face to face than they are now. The very first vending opportunity for the ICBVI was at in the Capital.

ICBVI Videos were shared with staff during their working lunch. Links to the video's located on You Tube are below.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um3LX2hkZFw> and Summer Work Experience Program <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WJmVAWmxbs>

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Nancy Wise – Independent Living

The Rehabilitation Teachers are currently working with over 400 IL/ILOB clients, and have provided one-time information and referral services to over 450 people. They also have conducted VR assessments and have successfully closed 270 clients since October 1, 2009. The teachers continue to work on their check lists to complete the beginning assistive technology training with Laine and Larry.

Clients continue to benefit from loaner unit CCTV's purchased with ARRA stimulus money, providing them the opportunity to increase their confidence in using this machine before actually purchasing one. Most regions now have flat screen CCTVs and portable 6" CCTVs. Lewiston also has a Victor Reader and the KNFB reader to demonstrate and loan to clients in the Lewiston area, and he reports, "It makes my job much more satisfying when I have the best and most current tools available for people with blindness and low vision. I know that the clients of Region II appreciate it as well. These items along with the laptop computer and adaptive software allow all the teachers to get the technology and information out to individuals sooner, which improves both the ICBVI's and my own credibility." We really have made tremendous strides by updating equipment over the past several years. The Rehabilitation Teachers are keeping track of those CCTVs that are purchased due to the client trying out the loaner in their homes. The ARRA money has also helped with funding for rural low vision clinics around the state. We are hoping to be able to find funds to continue this effort after the ARRA funding runs out.

Regional Happenings

Clara Doctor has resigned from her position after leading the Moscow support group for the past 12 ½ years. Clara, the group's founder who just turned 90 earlier this month, has been instrumental in recruiting and maintaining a vibrant and active group that meets every

Wednesday at the historic 1912 Building in Moscow. Each week Clara contacted members to invite them to the meeting and let them know what activity or who the speaker is for that meeting. Some of the activities that Clara has scheduled include bringing in a number of guest speakers from the community that include eye care professionals, representatives from a number of social service agencies, politicians, and a representative from the VA who was in town from Washington, D.C. She has also made it a point to make sure that the rehabilitation teacher is frequently included and that he provides up to date information about the ICBVI, technology and visual aids to group members. Other projects that she has adopted are collecting money for the homeless in the community, spreading the word about the ICBVI and continually recruiting new members. Clara's leadership will be missed, however she has recruited the very capable Maggie Flynt to assume her position as the group leader, and she has graciously accepted.

Other news to pass along is an update from a story shared last fall about a 15 year old transition student who was able to work with the Lewiston office under the umbrella of the ICBVI for the Idaho Department of Labor and their youth employment program. As the 15 year old was able to do last summer, he continues to provide tutoring in Braille for a 12 year old visually impaired student who is unable to get that training elsewhere due to his age and the lack of available resources. This summer we have expanded the 15 year olds duties to include providing information and instruction in regards to the assistive technology that is available for the blind and visually impaired. This work has included introduction into the use of screen readers and magnifiers, digital downloading of textbooks, the use of PDA's to listen to books and using a KNFB reader. This experience is turning out to be incredible for the 15 and 12 year olds, as well as for the Rehabilitation Teacher. The 15 year old is gaining valuable work experience and confidence, not to mention the benefit of sharing information and developing relationships with others in the community. The 12 year old is getting a head start with Braille and technology, and the interactions with the older boy have been very helpful for his self-confidence as well as for easing his transition and adjustment to his vision loss. As for the experience for the Rehabilitation Teacher, watching and seeing the personal growth of these two individuals is as rewarding an experience as one can hope for in their professional life.

The success of our regional low vision clinics requires a tremendous amount of organization and extra effort on all staff involved and couldn't happen without Dr. Hansen, Joni, Brian and the staff.

Lewiston regional low vision clinic has been scheduled for October 14 and 15th.

Michelle Grandstaff, Rehab Teacher in CDA, is continuing her partnership with the VA in preparing another senior training day, plus assisting with another rural IL low vision clinic October 18th using ARRA funds.

Additional rural clinics include the Twin Falls region September 13 and 14 providing low vision evaluations to VR and IL clients. Jeanne-Marie Kopeki from IESDB shadowed Dr. Hansen in the

morning. She thanked Brenda and Linda for the opportunity to shadow the clinic and stated that she enjoys working with them.

Dr. Hansen talked with Ray Conover of Professional Driving School. Out of the three driving schools in our area, Ray seemed very interested in learning about bioptic driving. He is borrowing a loaner bioptic so he can learn how to instruct with this aid. He has worked with persons with deafness in the past and is very interested in learning to instruct people with visual impairment. He started class instruction with a young client this week.

April Mills, will assist Dr. Hansen in the rural IL low vision clinic scheduled in Pocatello September 20th. Residents as far as Franklin are coming to Pocatello. April also offered to travel to Twin Falls one day a week to follow up with new referrals and existing clients while the teacher position is vacant. Brenda, the organizer has scheduled all appointments and also assists in ordering products for clients.

Heidi Gainan continues to hold the fort down in Idaho Falls, providing service to over 50 IL/ILOB clients. Heidi has also assisting in 2 rural low vision clinics in the Salmon area.

IL Boise/Treasure Valley

Nancy has referred over 250 people to Candy and Brian since October 1, 2009, and they currently have open cases on over 90 clients. Brian continues his supervision of Philip Schuyler who is pursuing his Master's degree in O & M through the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Candy and Jackie presented to 300 Job Corp participants at a technology fair June 23rd. We (Candy Harris, Doug Raper, Susan Bradley and Nancy) participated in the "Hands around the Capital Event" celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Candy attended the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities "Determined to Vote" training conference August 19-20. This training will provide our agency with resources and hands-on training that could enhance our efforts in serving our constituents.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Nanna Hanchett:

VR Transition- This is taking on a whole new meaning at the moment here at ICBVI and we're not referring to school age transition students for once!

Twin Falls

Norma has been doing double duty for the past several months as she has been covering the caseload in Twin Falls since Ralph's departure. She has been driving to Twin Falls each week for two days at a time to handle all of the VR client issues. She is in essence running both caseloads as she is working the entire process from start to finish i.e.: taking new applications to closures. Norma has done a great job, and this smooth process has been coordinated and aided by Brenda's hard work as the VRA. Through their dedication and hard work, the Twin Falls VR caseload has been served well.

Linda started as the VRC in Twin Falls on August 2, 2010. She spent the first week in Boise. Linda spent 3 mornings with the ATC staff getting to know ATC from the VR role. She spent the remainder of the time in training with Nanna and a little bit with Dana and Mike learning the VR process. She will have ongoing training as she learns the VR process.

Lewiston

Mike has also graciously agreed to assist in caseload coverage during this transition time. Guyla is also working hard to coordinate VR services and client issues with Mike. Mike traveled to Lewiston at the end of July to meet with clients and remains in close communication with Guyla.

Jeff Weeks has been hired as the new Senior VRC for Lewiston. His start date is August 23, 2010. The first 4 weeks, Jeff will be in the ATC doing sleep shade training in all classes. Jeff will then stay for another two weeks in Boise training with Nanna and VR staff on the VR process. He will begin covering the Lewiston caseload in October.

Idaho Falls

Josh Southwick resigned his position effective August 6, 2010.

Nanna also wants to recognize Sherry for volunteering to help wherever needed! Dana will be working closely with Nanna to provide training to new staff as they come on board to help them become productive VR counselors and Beth (intern) will be helping to cover Dana's VR caseload. She also wants the Board to know that the whole ICBVI team has been very supportive during this transition in VR.

Other VR stuff- Dana and Nanna met with Dr. Roberts to discuss his work with ICBVI as the medical consultant and to discuss some needs the counselors were identifying. Dr. Roberts was happy to continue working with ICBVI as the medical consultant and signed a new agreement with ICBVI. He is also willing to meet at the Commission to discuss cases and answer questions. Dana is doing a great job of coordinating this work with Dr. Roberts.

Federal Updates

The ICBVI State Plan was submitted to RSA by the July 1 deadline. David Jones, ICBVI RSA Liaison has provided feedback and there have been no requested changes to the State Plan, and we anticipate formal approval by the end of September.

In-Service Training Grant 2011-2015 – this was written and submitted by the required deadline. No feedback to date and we anticipate a response by the end of September as well.

RSA 113 Report for FFY 2010 3rd quarter report was submitted in July and we also updated the RSA on how we will handle Indicator 2.1.

ICMS Upgrades

This new system will be a huge upgrade for ICBVI and will increase efficiency of case management. Raelene and Nanna continue to work closely with IT in the development of the new system. Most of the VR program is well under development as is IL/ILOB. Sight Restoration still needs to be completed. Nanna and Raelene are working with the IT team to finish content development of pages for VR/ SR, and to evaluate and organize testing and training needs for the ICMS upgrades. This will become a bigger focus and time requirement as the fall and winter months approach.

In-Service

Nanna and Raelene are in the process of finalizing the agenda for ICBVI's fall In-Service Training for staff. Raelene is taking care of all planning details and is doing a great job as usual. The training is designed around the needs of ICBVI staff. This year's in service will be held October 4-6, at the Owyhee Plaza in Boise.

ARRA VR

Doug has been working on a variety of projects and activities.

Outreach- Doug has created two videos for the Agency so far, ICBVI services and SWEP. He is in the process of working with ATC to develop a video specifically for ATC and will then work on developing one for BEP. The focus of these videos is outreach. This outreach can focus on several different stakeholders. Transition Students and families and schools may use the SWEP video to get a better feel for that program. VR Counselors may use the ATC video to help clients get a better feel about what the ATC is all about before they come to the training center. This video has the potential to be a very valuable tool for the counselors. The agency video has many applications and broad range of audiences. A BEP video will help clients get an overview of BEP and help determine if that is a program of interest.

Doug is also in the process of developing some posters for the agency to use and will have the videos that we have created dubbed in Spanish to help better reach and serve the Spanish speaking population. The PSAs will also be dubbed.

Doug and Nanna are also developing a training outline for the new VRCs to learn outreach and effective employer contact. Doug has been working with some specific employers in developing effective relationships and employment opportunities. The following is an update that Doug wrote related to the activities he has been doing.

Media Outreach-Doug Raper:

We were able to get coverage of the SWEP program in the Statesman and on Fox 12 during this year's program. They both did great positive stories on SWEP and our students. Doug sent out news releases and followed up with phone calls to all of the local media. Next year we hope to get even more coverage.

Pet Friendly Magazine did a story on some of our staff and their dog guides. The article featured Laine, Dana, and Kristine. Doug wrote part of the story, but most of it was a description of their relationships with their dogs written in their own words. This story came out this month. Doug found a copy of their magazine in a coffee shop and contacted them about doing a story.

In September, the Idaho Women's Journal will publish a story on the "Women of the Commission". This story will feature Dana, Laine, Candy, Lisa B., Mary Ellen, and List Van Ry. Interviews have been done with all of them and pictures were taken here at the Commission. This will be a much more in-depth article and should bring the Commission much more exposure. Our first contact on this was at a Chamber meeting, and was followed up by a phone call.

Doug also had the chance to work on the committee that planned last month's ADA anniversary celebration "Hands Around the Capitol". Doug sent out news releases to all the local media and was able to get ADA Task Force Executive Director, Bobby Ball, on Channel 7's View Point program as well as their news cast, on KBOI Radio and in the Statesman prior to the event. We also had coverage from the Statesman, Channel 7 and Channel 2 the day of the event.

Besides the PSAs we have had since January, we now have a nine minute general video on the Commission and another video on the SWEP program. We are working now to get all of them translated into Spanish, which will be a big help in working with the Spanish speaking community. We are also working on videos for the ATC and for BEP and hope to have a new PSA in January.

Employer Outreach-Doug Raper:

Doug was able to talk with the owner of a new phone bank recently at a Boise Metro Chamber meeting. Doug put her together with Dana and it looks like they are interested in hiring some of our clients. They would be able to work from home on these jobs.

Doug has been working with the HR Department at St. Luke's in Twin Falls trying to find a way to open some doors there. Laine, Linda and I met with them last month and right now we are trying to get their computer system to work well with our software. They are very interested in working with our clients and making this happen. This would open some doors to St. Luke's in other areas including Boise. This whole process began with a job fair in Twin Falls where Doug had the chance to talk to them and give them some of our information.

There is a new phone bank that has opened in Twin Falls. Doug has talked to their HR people and was told they would like to open a partnership with us and hire some of our clients. Doug will meet with them soon and will take either Larry or Laine to look at their system.

Sight Restoration

Even with hold backs within Sight Restoration (SR), the VRAs have done a great job of assisting 92 individuals successfully. Some of the unsuccessful cases in SR were due to the client not

fitting the eligibility criteria. Some of the individuals who applied for SR fit under the VR program. This year we have already hit our maximum of the funds we can spend in SR.

Fiscal Report – Angela Jones for Trina Ayres:

Trina is finishing up the 2012 budget and we should have it ready September 1st. There were no significant changes as we did not ask for any enhancements to the budget this year due to the previous year's holdbacks. Angela is meeting with the Managers at least once a month to review and stay on track with budgets. Raelene will be reviewing authorizations on a monthly basis. We will have the \$100,000 from IDVR and the \$200,000 received from re-allotment that we will need to spend by the end of September 30, 2011.

Assessment & Training Center – Greg Metsker:

There are currently 16 students in the Assessment and Training Center, including 6 full time and 10 part time. Jeff Weeks, the new Lewiston area VR Counselor has also started training with us this week and he will be in the ATC for approximately a month. We were expecting to have three SWEP participants transition into the ATC when SWEP was finished, but two of those clients changed their minds at the last minute so only one client came directly from SWEP to the ATC.

As is always the case, we have quite a few clients who are interested in attending the ATC next term, but we will have to wait and see how many of them are actually able to make it in for training. At this point we have 11 full time clients on the list and 9 of them are interested in living in the dorms. It would be neat to have that many students in the dorms. Greg has talked with several of the Commission on Aging employees who are now sharing the 3rd floor of our building with us, and they have enjoyed getting to know some of our students. This term we are fortunate to have several very outgoing clients living on the third floor who immediately introduced themselves to the ICOA employees and helped them feel at home. In fact, our students even started making coffee in the mornings to share with the ICOA staff, and on occasion they have taken food that they prepared in the ADL kitchen upstairs to share.

The ATC staff, Doug and Greg are working on a draft version of the script for an ATC video. Doug got us started by creating the first draft and I have been adding to it to make sure the video includes everything we want clients to know about the center. Greg is in the process of reworking the script again, and viewing other videos from different programs around the country to get more ideas on how to do this right. He has watched videos from the Carrol Center, the Iowa Center, the North Carolina Center and also from a program at Louisiana Tech. The primary objectives of the video are to give people a feel for what the ATC is like, and to make sure they know that the ATC is part of our Vocational Rehabilitation program and that our ultimate goal is to give them the tools they need to get back to work. Greg is hoping that we will be able to include testimonials from several former students who are currently working and who can talk about how the ATC helped them gain, or retain employment.

Greg thanked Steve Achabal and all the ATC staff for filling in for him this summer while he was attempting to fill in for Angela. Greg was able to forget about the ATC and all the details of keeping the center running because he knew that those guys would just take over and get the job done. We have an incredible team in the ATC!

Business Enterprise Program – Lisa Van Ry:

TSA/TSB Snack Bar

We have begun to remodel this small snack bar in Idaho Falls. It is also an INL property but managed by CH2M rather than Battelle Energy Alliance. We are having new cabinets built, laminate around the sink repaired and adding some new equipment to support a new menu. We spoke to the property manager, put out a survey for customer input, and also are working with the vendor to meet his needs. We sent a restaurant consultant we met in Washington state at a regional BE training to assess the snack bar and to work with the vendor to improve service and the menu and to assist in efficiency with the plans to remodel. We will be very shortly placing the project out to bid and sending it to state Purchasing for approval.

BEP Video

Doug Raper is working on a video of the BE program and has sent us an outline. We plan to include in the film three different facilities or opportunities for blind individuals.

BEP Annual Meeting

The annual BE training and Idaho Blind Merchant meeting will be held here in Boise on September 10-11, 2010. Friday afternoon's keynote speaker will be the Executive Vice President of the National Automated Merchandising Association (NAMA). NAMA is the national trade organization for the vending industry. Dan will report on current legislation affecting the industry, market trends, standards of service, the Balanced for Life "Fit Pick" program and keys to profitability in this economy. He sent a survey to all of the vendors ahead of time to get an idea of what he can present to help them, what interests them most and what Lisa sees from a program standpoint that would assist vendors. We are looking forward to his presentation.

Second, for new vendors in snack bars there will be a restaurant consultant working with them on Thursday and Friday of the week of the meeting to introduce new items for their menus, cooking techniques with their new equipment, and management skills to assist them in their facilities.

We as a group will spend time Friday evening brainstorming where the program in Idaho will go. We will explore our opportunities for development and prioritize which ones to pursue as well as explore any new ideas.

INL

At this time Lisa is still working with Peter Nolan, Attorney, and providing any documents that may help him to assess our situation with the INL. This issue is not dead yet.

Katrina McDonald and amending the Randolph Sheppard Act

A significant amount of time was spent at the RSA Randolph Sheppard conference considering what we'd like the BE programs of the future to be. Katrina McDonald, a lobbyist for the Blind Entrepreneurs Alliance, said she would defend the law until they walk over her dead body but she will eventually die and we'll die with her. We were all divided up into groups and each group spent time on different issues. It will be interesting to see what happens in the future with this.

New Business – Meeting Dates:

Our next ICBVI Board Meeting will be held on November 18th as previously scheduled. An email will be sent to the board regarding a tentative date for our February 2011 meeting, which looks like February 17th. We will keep the same time frame for our November 18th meeting, which is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Raelene Thomas on 9/9/2010