

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee

March 13, 2026

WW53, Capitol, Boise, Idaho



Senator Melissa Wintrow, presiding cochair

Committee members in attendance: Senators Melissa Wintrow (cochair), C. Scott Grow, Dave Lent, James Ruchti, Representatives Jordan Redman (cochair), Douglas T. Pickett, Ilana Rubel, and Steve Berch. Also present were Ryan Langrill, Director of the Office of Performance Evaluations; and Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) staff.

Audience members in attendance included: Senator Mark Harris, Representative Clay Handy, Deputy Director Sasha O'Connell, Payette County Sheriff Andy Creech, and Office of Emergency Management Operations Manager Rob Feeley.

Senator Wintrow called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Representative Pickett moved that the committee release minutes from September 25, 2025. Representative Rubel seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Representative Rubel moved that the committee release minutes from December 2, 2025. Representative Pickett seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Director Langrill explained the topic presentation and selection process for OPE evaluations.

Senator Harris presented a request to review the impacts of growth on agriculture and infrastructure in Idaho. Representative Berch asked Director Langrill to speak on the project's feasibility for OPE, who answered that this would be a feasible and normal-sized project for OPE.

Senator Harris presented a request to review the fund balance management of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL). Representative Berch asked if the project could be expanded to cover the functionality of DOPL. Senator Harris said they would like to focus on the financial aspect, and a future request could go over functionality. Director Langrill said this would be a feasible study and likely a smaller project for OPE. Senator Grow commented on the recent solutions to address the over- and under-funding of agencies under DOPL.

Representative Redman presented a request to review "up coding" in managed care hospital billing since the state changed to a diagnosis-based system in 2021. They want to see how the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) is trying to catch coding errors and set up a plan for managed care rates. Representative Berch asked if DHW was asked to do this analysis. Sasha O'Connell, Deputy Director of DHW and State Medicaid Administrator, said that there are requests in DHW's budget to look at this issue, but they do not currently have the support needed. Representative Berch asked if DHW had more resources, could this be done by them.

Director O'Connell said they've asked for additional resources for this, but OPE's staff could help them get going in the right direction. Director Langrill said this study would be feasible and would be a larger project.

Representative Redman presented a request to review the Your Health Idaho plan selection, including finding out the number of uninsured Idahoans and why they're uninsured, and an analysis of the taxpayer costs of providing healthcare for them. Director Langrill said this study would be feasible and would be a larger project.

Representative Handy presented a request to review the Boards of Community Guardians in Idaho, including finding ways to improve the program, such as how to get more community volunteers. Representative Rubel asked for a ballpark estimate of the population currently in this program. Representative Handy said in Rupert, ID there are 12 people on the board with 2-3 people each and they turn away requests monthly. Senator Wintrow asked if this was more a systems request. Representative Handy agreed, noting that the review could examine counties who are successful in the program and find ways to support counties that don't have a board. Director Langrill said this would be a smaller project.

Senator Ruchti presented a request to review oversight sexual assault in women's correctional facilities. This would include evaluating processes for preventing, recording, investigating, and responding to staff sexual misconduct. He noted that this request came about because of the Investigate West article series on this topic, but this evaluation would not investigate the allegations in those articles. Representative Berch spoke about the lack of transparency in this issue. Director Langrill said OPE has the authority to access the records from the Department of Correction, along with subpoena power. Director Langrill said this study would be larger, due to travel, but is feasible.

Senator Ruchti presented a request to review the drivers of incarceration, especially as the incarcerated rates and costs have increased. Representative Berch asked if the report would include recommendations for reducing these factors and Senator Ruchti agreed. Director Langrill said this would be a medium-sized review.

The committee selected their top three options via paper ballot, which was then compiled and presented by OPE Principal Evaluator, Casey Petti. The committee then discussed the study options. Representative Berch asked if OPE had capacity for the top four projects. Director Langrill said yes.

Representative Berch moved that the committee assign OPE the following requests: Boards of Community Guardians, Factors Driving Growth in Prison Population, Impacts of Growth on Agriculture, and Oversight of Sexual Assault in Women's Correctional Facilities. Representative Redman seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The committee discussed how to prioritize or assign additional studies outside of session.

Director Langrill went over the evaluations that could be optional for a follow-up review. He noted that there would be a follow up to Children's Residential Care in June.

Senator Ruchti requested a follow up for the IHLA report. Representative Pickett asked about the timeframe and Director Langrill said IHLA will need time to start a new school year with the

changes the legislature has made. He noted that early December of 2026 could be a possible option.

Senator Ruchti moved that OPE conduct a follow-up study on IHLA. Representative Berch seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The committee discussed a follow-up of the Direct Care Workforce report.

Representative Pickett moved that OPE conduct a follow-up study on Direct Care Workforce. Representative Rubel seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Director Langrill said this follow-up could be released by June or September, depending on findings.

Report presentation: *Challenges Facing Idaho's 911 System*

Director Langrill introduced the report, describing the first part of the report which focused on the Next Generation 911 system and was released in September 2025.

Representative Rubel moved that the committee release the OPE report *Challenges Facing Idaho's 911 System*. Representative Pickett seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Tasha Schreiter, Senior Evaluator, presented the OPE report *Challenges Facing Idaho's 911 System*.

Representative Berch asked if staffing was the primary funding concern during the transition to Next Gen 811. Ms. Schreiter said technology and equipment were also a large concern for the transition. Ms. Schreiter said one of the funding concerns was that the change in cost for NG911 was substantial.

Senator Wintrow asked about how 911 centers manage calls with understaffing, Ms. Schreiter explained that some staff work extreme overtime, making it work how they can, including having managers or enforcement officers step in to help.

Senator Grow asked about the Idaho-Utah population comparison in call volume, noting Idaho's larger system. He asked who has the authority to consolidate and make this more efficient. Ms. Schreiter said since this is managed at the local level, there is no central authority for consolidation. She also noted that it can be costly for centers to consolidate, even if they want to. Senator Wintrow asked if spending the up-front costs might save money later. Ms. Schreiter agreed, but short-term costs are a barrier.

Representative Pickett asked about how often there are texts to 911. Ms. Schreiter said that it is an option in Idaho, but most people are still just calling.

Senator Ruchti asked about why Nevada and Wyoming had more 911 calls than Idaho. Ms. Schreiter didn't know.

Representative Berch asked if the evaluation included how much money for funding 911 centers needed. Ms. Schreiter said that no dollar amount was assigned in the report, due to the lack of data available.

Senator Lent commented about the \$1 line fee being enacted in 1988. He asked if any additional costs incurred since that time have been taken on by the counties. Ms. Schreiter said yes. Senator Lent and Senator Wintrow talked about the state's role in influencing the fee and helping solve the problem.

Representative Berch talked about the essential service in the EMS report that put the burden on the state to support and if that could be applied to 911. Director Langrill said that in the EMS report, EMS was not designated as an essential service and as such, did not guarantee service to all Idahoans. Representative Berch asked for OPE to possibly recommend that 911 be declared an essential service.

Payette County Sheriff Andy Creech, Chairman of the Idaho Public Safety Communications Commission Board, spoke about the changes and needs of Idaho's 911 system. Funding for consolidation will be needed, especially for radio infrastructure. Legislative action will be needed to maintain the system beyond 2030.

Senator Lent asked if there is a dollar amount for the radio upgrade needs. Sheriff Creech said no, the problem is complex and differs depending on location.

Representative Berch asked where funding was most lacking. Sheriff Creech said that for IPSCC grant funds are an issue, especially with the NG911 services updates. Counties also ask for funding for additional technology.

Senator Wintrow asked Sheriff Creech what his top priority would be if he could have the legislature fix one area. Sheriff Creech said the statutory authority for IPSCC would help, especially for managing grants and contracts.

Rob Feeley, Operations Manager at the Office of Emergency Management speaking on behalf of the Military Division, spoke about the importance of the recommendations. He emphasized striking a balance with local and state authority.

Representative Berch asked about the amount of funding necessary to meet the needs of 911. Mr. Feeley said the gaps in data are a big challenge, and the first step would be to get that data to understand what is needed.

Senator Grow asked Ms. Schreiter about the \$1 phone fee from 1988 and if it applies per cell phone. She said any phone line, landline, wireless, and VoIP.

Representative Berch requested more details on costs and funding. Director Langrill talked about what could be done to get more information quickly about the subject, depending on what areas the committee wanted OPE to look into.

Representative Berch made a motion for OPE to do a feasibility study on the cost aspects of the 911 program raised by the report. Senator Ruchti seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

Director Langrill introduced OPE's newest evaluator, Creston Dupree.

Director Langrill talked briefly about the state administrative office space review released in January. He told the committee that the evaluation on career technical educators will be out after session. He also reminded legislators that OPE can do 24-hour background reviews, which take about 3 business days.

Senator Wintrow noted that any possible further reports would be discussed by the cochairs and Director Langrill.

Senator Wintrow adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.