

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 27, 2017  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None  
**GUESTS:** Jen Swindell, ID Ed News; Jane Donnellan, IDVR; Misty Swanson, ISBA

**Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**Jane Donnellan**, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR), presented the IDVR update. She stated the IDVR program structure includes, Vocational Rehabilitation, Extended Employment Services, and Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Their mission statement is as follows: "Preparing individuals with disabilities for employment and community enrichment." IDVR is under the US Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation Services Administration, and the State Board of Education, and have eight regional offices throughout the state of Idaho. Their delivery system is as follows: The individual plan, the employer resource, competitive applicants, and the jobs. Eighty-four percent of IDVR customers who achieved or maintained employment reported their wages as their primary means of support. This demonstrates a greater level of self-sufficiency which is IDVR's focus.

**Ms. Donnellan** stated they have a broad range of wages and positions that their customers fill, from childcare workers to pharmacists. They aim to increase access and opportunities for employment, education, training and support, particularly for individuals with the greatest barriers to employment. IDVR has varied pre-employment transition services, such as, week long camps at U of I McCall Outdoors Science School and BSU Prep Academy to give them a college experience as well as career readiness training. They have partnerships with CORE programs, school districts, Department of Education, Department of Correction, Department of Juvenile Corrections, Department of Health and Welfare, and other community organizations. She explained that IDVR provides additional support in training, coaching, and assistive technology training to employees with disabilities, and assist businesses in hiring and retaining qualified employees.

**Steven Snow**, Executive Director of Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, presented their update. He explained they were established in 1991 and are entirely funded by the State of Idaho. They are the interdepartmental and interagency planning and advisory body for the Departments and Agencies of the State for programs and services affecting people with hearing impairments. They strive to provide, as much as possible, a normal quality of life. There are 203,000 deaf and hard of hearing people in Idaho, and twenty percent of the state's population has a hearing problem. They work with the emotional issues that arise as people lose their hearing by helping them adjust and cope whether they may be infants or adults. They give public awareness, training, and education to agencies such as police officers on how to react and assist deaf and hard of hearing people when and if the need arises.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

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Representative VanOrden  
Chair

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Ann Tippetts  
Secretary