

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 07, 2022

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room C310

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-chairman Agenbroad, Crabtree, VanOrden (Bair), Grow, Woodward, Lent, Riggs, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nye
Representatives Troy, Horman, Amador, Syme, Bundy, Giddings, Nate, Green, and Nash

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Co-chairman Youngblood

CONVENED: **Co-Chairman Agenbroad** called the meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (Committee) to order at 8:01 a.m.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:** **IDAHO COMMISSION ON AGING (ICOA), Judy Bicknell Taylor, Administrator; Jill Randolph, Legislative Services Office (LSO) Senior Budget and Policy Analyst**

Ms. Randolph presented the ICOA is designed to plan, coordinate and promote a statewide network to support aging Idahoans live healthy and dignified lives in the communities of their choice. She detailed the total appropriations by account category, with most of ICOA's funding sourced from Trustee and Benefit Payments, then passed through to the six Area Agencies on Aging which provide direct services to older Idahoans (see attachment 1). **Ms. Randolph** discussed money allocated for COVID-19 Relief Act funding spanned both fiscal year (FY) 2020 and FY 2021, where the agency expended more than they were appropriated.

Ms. Taylor discussed ICOA fulfills its mission through planning, implementing, and evaluating programs and services that enable people to stay in their homes safely despite losing functional capacity. It targets services directed toward Idahoans who can no longer manage a household without help, including help with chores, housekeeping, shopping, transportation and meals. She stated ICOA provides short breaks and support to the caregivers of Idahoans living with Alzheimer's or related dementias, and intervenes to stabilize crisis situations for vulnerable adults through the Adult Protective Services Program. **Ms. Taylor** explained ICOA's many accomplishments related to their FY 2022 original appropriation and COVID-19 federal funding (see attachment 2). She recommends FY 2023 appropriation to allow ICOA to be fully equipped to plan, improve, and implement services designed to promote healthy aging, prevent institutionalization despite loss of function, and promote resiliency and safety in those susceptible to abuse, neglect, exploitation or loss of civil rights.

DISCUSSION:

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Taylor** discussed the collaborative program with Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Center for the Study of Aging, coordinating Alzheimer's support; the implementation of a pilot program to support overwhelmed caregivers and Alzheimer/dementia patients; current gaps in services due to staffing shortages; its State Ombudsman program; its partnership with Idaho Legal Aid; and the spending of one time appropriations on meal co-pays.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

IDAHO STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC), Mel Leviton, Executive Director; Jill Randolph, LSO Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

Ms. Randolph explained SILC actively engages in activities that assist in providing Idahoans, across disabilities and ages, a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer responsive, cost-effective, and community based. She detailed total appropriations and actual expenditures for the last four FYs, pointing out the agency does not spend any of its federal funds, and in FY 2022 the federal appropriation was reduced by half (see attachment 3).

Ms. Leviton presented that SILC's budget is straightforward without any maintenance or line item requests, only the required adjustment based upon the state's directive. Its annual audit had no findings. She stated SILC was authorized by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1990 and established in Idaho by executive order in 1993, became an independent state entity in 2005, with 17 to 23 gubernatorial appointed volunteers. **Ms. Leviton** discussed SILC's mission and vision, information packet and website updates, and outlined program successes and struggles over the past year.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES (ICFL), Stephanie Bailey-White, State Librarian and Director of The Idaho Commission for Libraries; Matt Farina, LSO Budget and Policy Analyst

Mr. Farina explained ICFL is governed by the Board of Library commissioners and is organized within the Department of Self-Governing Agencies, with the mission to build the institutional capacity of libraries to better serve their communities. He highlighted it received a \$2.1 million non-cog from the CARES Act for FY 2022, \$307,000 to support the Digital E-Book Alliance and \$2.3 million for grants to local libraries. **Mr. Farina** also discussed appropriations and expenditures from FYs 2018 to 2021, with its budget remaining stable and on average spending 94 percent of their available funds (see attachment 4).

Ms. Bailey-White presented several programs they offer to keep students learning, with one of them being the new Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance program, focused on K through 12 E-Books, which was supported with one time federal CARES funds. She discussed the opportunities they provide for The Idaho Department of Labor, vocational rehabilitation counselors, telehealth sites supported by Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation, professional development, digital access to public schools and tribal libraries, providing public computers, outreach vehicles, hotspots and devices for checkout, and several other enhancements. **Ms. Bailey-White** detailed the FY 2023 budget request and what each line item was going to provide (see attachment 5).

DISCUSSION:

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bailey-White** further discussed the Digital Access for All program, the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Committee, the broadband reimbursement request, the e-book program access perimeters for book “check out” and resources, and that local libraries make decisions over their programs. **Alex J. Adams**, Administrator, Idaho Division of Financial Management, explained the reasoning for the funding shift to the General Fund for the Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (ISHS), Janet Gallimore, Executive Director; Matt Farina, LSO Budget and Policy Analyst

Mr. Farina explained ISHS was established by statute in 1907 and is organized within the Department of Self-Governing Agencies, with five core programs: Idaho State Archives and Records Center, State Historical Preservation Office, the Idaho State Museum, the Old Idaho Penitentiary and Historic Sites, and Administration. He presented the appropriations and expenditures from FYs 2016 through 2022, with the large increases across 2017 and 2018 due to the renovation and expansion of the Idaho State Museum. **Mr. Farina** stated there is one open audit finding related to errors in the Schedule of Federal Awards closing package.

Ms. Gallimore presented an agency overview and the Governor's FY 2022 supplemental request and FY 2023 budget request. She stated the territorial legislature founded the organization in 1881 to collect the history of the territorial era and it is ISHS’s duty to collect the artifacts, archival materials, archeology and related material culture of the state and interpret its history within the context of American history. **Ms. Gallimore** detailed the duties and responsibilities of each core program. She discussed ISHS’s budget being comprised of 50 percent General Fund, 30 percent revenue fund, and 20 percent federal funding. She discussed the \$5 million FY 2022 supplemental request and where that money would be spent, as well as the FY 2023 program maintenance request. She informed the Committee about the history of the statehood document, a certified copy of an Act of Congress approved July 3, 1890 which provided for the admission of the state of Idaho into the Union, that she brought with her for the Committee’s viewing.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC), Eric Anderson, Commission President; Nathan Osborne, LSO Budget and Policy Analyst

Mr. Osborne explained the PUC was organized in 1913 and is vested with jurisdiction to supervise and regulate investor owned electric, gas, water and telecommunication utilities, as well as pipelines and railroads within the state. He summarized five years of appropriations and expenditures, noting that FY 2022 only included the original appropriation (see attachment 8). He pointed out in FY 2019, the PUC began their move to the Chinden Campus and it included office space remodeling, reflected as an increase of \$2.4 million in appropriation from the Public Utilities Fund, with carry over into FY 2022 to complete the transition. **Mr. Osborne** discussed that personnel costs account for 65 percent of total expenditures, operating expenditures for 32 percent, and capital outlay for 2 percent. He

reported there was one audit finding which was corrected as of the 90 day follow up in February 2021.

Mr. Anderson presented the PUC is charged with ensuring adequate earnings, and access to safe, reliable service at fair, just, and reasonable rates, by regulating investor owned electric, natural gas, water, and telecom utilities, and railroad and pipeline safety. He reviewed some of its FY 2021 successes having closed 186 existing cases and issued 399 orders. **Mr. Anderson** discussed the PUC's budget and how it receives no General Funds, instead utilizes dedicated funds through assessments and some federal grants. He reviewed the revision for the FY 2023 budget primarily due to ongoing staffing issues with 12 vacant positions, approximately 25 percent of their Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTPs). (See attachment 9.)

DISCUSSION:

In response to Committee questions, **Maria Barratt-Riley**, Executive Director of the PUC discussed the audit finding which dealt with the pipeline program and its federal grant.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

IDAHO STEM ACTION CENTER, Kaitlin Maguire, Executive Director; Nathan Osborne, LSO Budget and Policy Analyst

Mr. Osborne explained the STEM Action Center was created during the 2015 legislative session to promote the expansion of student engagement in STEM activities and coordinates with state agencies and private industry to facilitate STEM focused events to encourage student participation in STEM coursework and careers. He discussed appropriations and expenditures over the past five years, and the original appropriation for FY 2022 (see attachment 10). **Mr. Osborne** reviewed the agency expends an average of \$5.1 million per year, or 90 percent of its appropriation. There are currently six STEM designated schools in Idaho, and the agency anticipates one additional school this FY and four additional schools in FY 2023. Donations account for 62 percent of the total funds raised, with federal funds at 19 percent and other state agencies at 12 percent.

Ms. Maguire presented STEM is more than science, technology, engineering and math, it is the integration of these subjects and a way of engaging with the world through problem solving, creative thinking, and innovation with a project based hands on approach. Its program helps students build 21st century skills such as communication and analytical thinking, as well as character skills such as fortitude, growth mind-set and leadership skills. She reviewed the STEM Action Center is under the Office of the Governor and is advised by a nine member board with representatives from education, state agencies, and leading STEM industries such as energy and health care. **Ms. Maguire** claimed in FY 2021, the STEM Action Center had more than two and a half million consumer impressions through outreach efforts and disseminated \$1.8 million of state funding for educator grants, out-of-school programs, and professional development. She discussed how their funding was acquired and their public and private partnerships. She detailed how a school would join their program and go through the two to five year process for designation and receive support.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business before the Committee, **Co-Chairman Agenbroad** adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Senator Agenbroad
Chair

Erin Miller
Secretary