

IDAHO COMMISSION ON AGING
Teleconference
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 19, 2026 BOISE, IDAHO

Commissioner Members: Chair Morley, Vice-Chair Commissioner Ohrtman, Commissioner Magera, Commissioner Marquette, Commissioner Bundy, Commissioner Milliken, Commissioner Bartoo

ICOA Staff: Judy Taylor, Bettina Briscoe, Vicki Yanzuk, Birgit Luebeck, Deedra Hunt, Erin Olsen, Fanny Rodriguez-Melnikosky, Greg Floyd, Janet Miller, Jenny Hill, Lynn Fyanes, Michelle Russell, Rachel Kessinger, Scott Carpenter, Susan Bradley

I4A Members: Director Stoddard, Director Holcomb, Director Kaminsky, Director Thompson, Director Hirschi, Director Arnold

Open and Welcome Quorum – Chair Morley

- Chair Morley called Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- Chair Morley brief statement of support for ICOA and AAA work and dedication to Idaho Seniors
- * Motion was made and carried to approve February 19, 2026 agenda.
- * Motion was made and carried to approve November 25, 2025 minutes.

Director’s Update – Judy Taylor

- Legislative Update
 - Zero based regulation
 - Sunset laws – every 8 years
 - Removing laws that are duplicative of federal laws
 - 2026 rescission (one-time)
 - 2027 rescission (ongoing)
 - Maintenance Budgets
 - Enhancement Process
- Advocacy vs lobbying
 - We have legislative authority to advocate
 - Educating in an objective manner
 - Sharing stories or personal experiences
 - Lobbying is a specific ask for support or money
 - We are prohibited from lobbying

- Handout provided
- Local Planning Cycles Area III and Area IV
 - Four-year local plan final draft is due second Friday in July 2026
 - Final accepted draft should be signed, uploaded, and available on the AAA website by the second Friday in October
 - ICOA will issue a formal letter verifying acceptance
 - Area North and Area East will be one year behind to allow for transition
- Must Adhere to ICOA standards
- ICOA Review Schedule
 - Programs have been sorted into risk tiers
 - Teams will go out every year to half of the state
 - 2026: local planning and outreach
 - 2027: ICOA tests review toolkits and provide results for self-remediation
 - 2028: High-risk programs audited
- Homedale Senior Center
 - AAA have a contracted legal agreement with meal sites
 - Authority/Legal standing is only over the programs that funds are given
 - Example, nutrition funds and nutrition programs at senior centers
 - Suggested to have a copy of the organizations by laws and minutes of meetings to verify board member standings

Operations Manager Report – Vicki Yanzuk

- Funding Updates
 - Federal Shutdown
 - Delayed OAA budget approval by minimal time
 - Reduced and Returned
 - Very slight increase in Title B funds, will likely not have a statewide impact
 - SCEP funding decreased
 - Funding returned to ACL – impact still unknown
 - State Holdbacks
 - State Nutrition funds will be decreased from previous years \$805,000
- Spending Updates
 - 42% spent at 6-month mark
- Budget in Process
 - Q2 Budget Transfers
 - AAA's ability to transfer between AAA's – not permitted
 - New CFR requirement reauthorization – ICOA must develop policies and procedures
 - Funds were sent back and reprocessed through IFF and redistributed
 - State Program Report – Older Americans Act Performance System (OAAPS)

- Due every January
- Based on federal fiscal year
- Year to year variance (over 10% must provide an explanation)
- Data available at agid.acl.gov
- Provided examples of reports by OAA
- Transition
 - The crossover of data and funds
- Program Update
 - ICCP – Centralization
 - AAA/Partner Interviews
 - Experience with centralized process
 - Perceived benefits & challenges
 - Workflow challenges
 - Training Needs
 - Observed caregiver outcomes
 - Title D Preventive Health & Health Promotion
 - What is the best model?
Regionalization/Centralization/Decentralization
- Recommendation
 - Funding Workgroup Overview
 - Data: APS Standards/Personnel, Historical Expenditures, Current funding levels
 - Timeline: 1 year implementation and 1 year to re-evaluate
 - Personnel Standards Model: Staff – Lead – Supervisor
 - AAA North - \$282,480
 - AAA Southwest:
 - AAA Central:
 - AAA East:
 - Distribute APS funding to AAA using the recommended personnel model
 - Commissioners approved to permit the work of preparing to transition to this new model. Will be put to an official board vote in May 2026 Meeting

Dementia Training for First Responders and EMS – Lynn Fyanes

- Training was developed to address the gaps found by office of performance evaluation (OPE)
- Protective Placement Hold law passed in 2024 – required to train first responders in how to interact and intervene with persons with dementia
- Five Videos developed to help train first responders based on 11 Module Dementia Skills training available on ICOA website
 - Showed Video 1 and 5 in meeting

Quality of Life in Education – Janet Miller

- Animals and loneliness
 - Loneliness associated with health risks
 - Physical Benefits of animals
 - Increased allergy tolerance & immunity
 - Increased physical activity
 - Reduced risk of heart problems
 - National Survey of both pet owners vs non pet owners
 - 85% agree interaction with pets can reduce loneliness
 - Pet-owning respondents
 - 80% of pet owners say their pet makes them feel less lonely
 - Pet Ownership Statistics
 - Estimated health care costs savings from pet ownership is \$22.7 billion dollars
 - Pets provide emotional support and companionship
 - Interacting with a pet
 - Lowers blood pressure
 - Reduces stress
 - Increases oxytocin
 - Gives structure and routine

Transition Update Area I and Area VI – Sage Stoddard and Tyrell Arnold

- Area I
 - Same Name and Logo
 - Two offices: Coeur d’Alene (CDA) and Lewiston – phone number will only have one that rings in both offices
 - Contracted Services
 - Emphasis on CD Programs – Homemaker, Respite, Transportation
 - Starting RFP for Nutrition Services
 - Starting communications and application process for respite, homemaker, legal and transportation
 - Employees
 - APS – 3 CDA, 1 Lewiston
 - SMP/MIPPA – 1 CDA, 1 Lewiston
 - Ombudsman – 2-3 in CDA, 1 Lewiston
 - Communication
 - Spring town-hall meetings for community members
 - Nutrition Providers
 - Respite and Homemaker Providers

- Commissioner Ohrtman
 - Area staff – regular meetings with both areas
 - Advisory council restructuring
- What is next
 - Getting Lewiston office prepared: IT, furniture, signage, etc...
 - Staff recruitment in April
 - Five staff members in Lewiston – 1 APS, 1 Ombudsman, 1 nutrition, 1 SMP/MIPPA/I&A, 1 I &A
 - Finalize contracts for providers
 - Town Halls
 - Gather information for Area Plan
- Area VI
 - 16 Eastern Counties
 - Updated logo – keeping Area VI number
 - Doing community presentations and advisory board meetings
 - Highlighting continuity of services
 - RFP and RFQ’s have been released for contracted services
 - Pocatello area staff will be remotely
 - Merging areas will allow for better consolidation of duties and access to communities
 - Current rates for services are similar
 - Ensuring staff is aware of services covering new counties
 - Director has begun analyzing new counties’ service data

Ombudsman Program Update – Fanny Rodriguez-Melnikovskiy

- Residents Rights Month 2025
 - Project Managing
 - Planning Stages
 - Committee, with Area III and Area VI Ombudsman
 - Purpose and Goals identified
 - Theme was “Stand With Me”
 - Project Tracking
 - Spreadsheet created tracked planned activities, member assigned and deadlines
 - Budget
 - Maximized resources
 - State office volunteer and ICOA staff
 - Promotion
 - Social media, E-vites, press releases, created a program
 - Shared Director Judy Taylor video and pictures from event

- Local proclamations from Chubbuck and Preston
 - Area IV – local newspaper stories, specialized badges, digital marquees
- Program Data Federal Fiscal Year 2025
 - Ombudsman Activities
 - Community Education: Presentations
 - Each local expected to meet 12 events a year
 - Area VI exceeded expectations
 - Resident Councils
 - At least 6 a year – participation depends on being invited from residents. All areas met this expectation
 - Routine Access
 - A facility being surveyed in each quarter of the year
 - 28% increase statewide compared to previous year
 - Information & Assistance
 - Area I had a duplication data entry error
 - Area VI was fully staffed for the full year and provided twice as many contacts
 - Top complaints received
 - Nursing Facility
 - Response to assistance requests
 - Medications
 - Other rights and preferences
 - Personal hygiene
 - Gross neglect
 - Assisted Living facility
 - Discharge or eviction
 - Gross neglect
 - Other rights and preferences
 - Medications
 - Billing/charges
 - Statewide Complaints
 - 1,079 total
 - 74% resolved
 - Statewide increase in number of beds
 - Expenditures met the federal requirements

Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair – ICOA Commissioners

* Motion was made and carried to approve Commissioner Dennis Ohrtman as Chair.

* Motion was made and carried to approve Commissioner Lois Marquette as Vice-Chair.

AAA Dialogue – AAA Directors/I4A

- Roundtable discussion of highlights from reports, events, and challenges in their areas.
- Questions and discussion followed.

Commissioners' Reports – ICOA Commissioners

- Roundtable discussion of highlights from reports, events, and challenges in their areas.
- Commissioner Milliken would like to access Area II Road to Aging – statewide share out as a package program
- Questions and discussion followed.

Closing Business/Meeting Adjourns – Chair Magera

- Meeting adjourned 2:40pm