

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2026

Location: Hybrid – Idaho Supreme Court Building – [Zoom Link](#)

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission Members Present:

Ashley Dowell, Chair, IDJC	Thomas Sullivan, Judge, Magistrate Court*
Tracy Basterrechea, Chiefs of Police Association	Carson Tester, Office of the Governor
Monty Prow, Health & Welfare	Denton Darrington, Public Member
Russ Wheatley Sr., Public Member	Eric Fredericksen, State Public Defender
Erik Lehtinen, SAPD	Christine Starr, Comm of Pardons & Parole
Jonathon Brody, Judge, District Court*	

Bree Derrick, Department of Correction
Grant Loeb, Prosecuting Attorneys Assoc.
Greg Wilson, Department of Education

Comprising a quorum of Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (Commission)

*Non-voting members

Idaho Criminal Justice Commission Members Absent:

Kieran Donahue, Vice Chair, ISA	Joe Alfieri, House Jud, Rules & Admin
Melissa Wintrow, Senate Judiciary & Rules	Darren Simpson, Judge, District Court*
Bill Gardiner, Idaho State Police	Bruce Skaug, House Jud & Rules Admin
Todd Lakey, Senate Judiciary & Rules Chairman	Bernadette LaSarte, Public Member
Bart Davis, U.S. Attorney, District of Idaho*	Seth Grigg, Idaho Association of Counties
Jeff Nye, Idaho Attorney General's Office	Sara Omundson, Idaho Supreme Court*
Ross Edmunds, Office of Drug Policy	

Others Present:

Kelli Brassfield, IAC
Jen Rupe, Idaho Attorney General's Office for Jeff Nye
Doug Hart, Canyon County for Kieran Donahue
Fritz Zweigart, ISP for Bill Gardiner
Jason Spillman, AOC for Sara Omundson

Agenda <i>Who's Responsible</i>		Meeting Outcomes/Decisions Reached	Due Date
9:00 am	Call to Order— <i>Chair Ashley Dowell</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Roll Call— <i>Chair Ashley Dowell</i> • Review Commission's Vision and Mission Statement and Values— <i>Commission Members</i> 		
Commission Management			
	Action Item – Approve January 30, 2026, Minutes	<i>Jen Rupe made a motion to approve the minutes from January 30, 2026, with amendments, Doug Hart seconded. Motion carried.</i>	
Promote Well-Informed Policy Decisions			
	Neurocognitive Holds and Placements - Judge Sullivan, ISC and Jared Larsen, DHW	<p>Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are increasing in Idaho faster than the system's capacity, with approximately 30,000 Idahoans currently living with the disease. The aging population, with individuals 65 and up growing over 56% in the last decade, contributes to over \$200 million in annual Medicaid costs. This situation creates a systems issue, not just a healthcare one, leading to increased strain on law enforcement, emergency departments, and crisis-based system responses.</p> <p>Data from 2025 shows 248 neurocognitive holds placed across the state, with 160 resulting in hospital stays, highlighting system strain due to limited options for safe discharge. Variations in utilization were noted across the state's seven health districts, suggesting inconsistent interpretation and resource access rather than solely a difference in need.</p> <p>The data indicates that 65% of holds were placed by healthcare providers and 35% by law enforcement, reinforcing that this is a shared public safety and healthcare responsibility. While many</p>	

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		<p>hospital stays were short (under five days), extended stays of 11, 30, or 60+ days occur, which are often system bottlenecks related to discharge and placement rather than clinical necessity. Furthermore, more than half of the crises being addressed by the hold were not tied to an identified medical trigger, suggesting behavioral symptoms, caregiver strain, or lack of community support are primary drivers.</p> <p>The subcommittee recommended strengthening support for family caregivers by expanding respite services and improving navigation resources to prevent crises upstream. They also recommended developing stabilization options beyond the hospital setting to reduce unnecessary hospital stays and investing in the workforce through training and expanded capacity. Finally, stronger coordination across systems is needed, including shared protocols and better data alignment, as no one system can solve the issue alone.</p> <p>There was an inquiry about the costs incurred are when people are stuck in discharge and the overlap between neurocognitive holds and Title 66 mental health challenges, with Jared Larson offering to provide cost estimates at a later date.</p> <p>The legislature finalized the appropriation for rural health transformation funds, which presents an opportunity to target gaps in the system regarding neurocognitive illnesses in rural areas of the state. While hospital systems in the valley have high expertise and interest, there are identified gaps in rural parts of the state that could be addressed by leveraging these federal funds.</p> <p>What are the costs of hospital stays? Will work on that. This will help determine how to address step down care.</p>	

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	<p>Support for Victims - Christine Starr, COPP and Bernie LaSarte</p>	<p>It is encouraged that victim service providers in Idaho to proactively complete protection order applications for victims, noting that the process takes less than a minute and incurs no cost for the card. The organization has created a centralized resource hub that includes links for the Department of Correction, the Commission on Parns and Parole, and appellate-side information for victims whose cases are continuing due to offender appeals, offering a victim questionnaire to enable continuous updates on the appellate site. They also provide a consistently updated list of victim service providers, including advocacy centers and email addresses, along with a map of Idaho districts to help victims who may not know their precise location, aiming to make reporting easier.</p> <p>The subcommittee focused on addressing the gap in services when victims transition from working with county victim witness coordinators during the hearing process to postconviction providers once an individual is sentenced. The solution implemented involves the Idaho Department of Correction Victim Services and the parole commission sending out letters monthly to victims of those sentenced for felony crimes, informing them of their postconviction rights and resources. The letters serve two main purposes: ensuring victims know their rights and resources and highlighting the importance of keeping contact information updated for future notices regarding hearings or release.</p> <p>The team is in the early stages of investigating restorative justice practices and programs, with an initial focus on a program called the "apology letter bank". This program allows individuals in custody to submit apology letters to their victim services, ensuring the letters are not sent directly to victims until an initial communication and screening process determines if the victim wishes to receive them. The letters will be reviewed for appropriateness to ensure they do not retraumatize victims, and they have established options for how</p>	

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		<p>victims can receive the letters, such as reading them together at a conference or having them read directly to them.</p> <p>It was noted that the level of education and services for victim service providers was not uniform across Idaho, prompting a consistent effort over the past three years to address this issue. The goal is to provide training for little or no cost, either online or in local communities, to ensure training parity regardless of the provider's location in Idaho. Through an Idaho State Police grant active since 2023-2024, the team has traveled to communities across the state, offering high-risk domestic violence training, stalking and strangulation training, and currently providing trauma-informed investigations training.</p> <p>Partnerships, such as with Building Hope Today, have been instrumental in creating accredited online trainings for coordinators. Online training, like the "hidden in plain sight" training on grooming and trauma in child sexual abuse cases, has been well-received and saves on travel and training costs for participants. Additionally, partnerships with organizations like the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance help to promote safety and resilience conferences, and local conferences are also advertised to coordinators.</p> <p>The team created a victims' rights video intended to serve victims and support colleagues statewide, which some agencies have expressed interest in using for jury education to help people understand the roles of various individuals in the courtroom. The video aims to address the common experience of individuals experiencing harm at the hands of criminals and then being thrust into a complex and often overwhelming judicial system.</p> <p>The group determined that two potential options for a unified victim database already exist, involving the Vine system and the court system, but acknowledged other potential solutions. Successful</p>	

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		implementation will require new legislation outlining responsibilities, as well as options for victims to opt in or opt out of the database.	
	<p>Subcommittee Updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sex Crimes - Tracy Basterrechea, ICOPA and Erik Lehtinen, SAPD 2. Human Trafficking Presentation - Jen Rupe, Deputy Attorney General; Major Jens Pattis, ISP 3. Riders Presentation - Bree Derrick, IDOC; Judge Simpson 4. Public Safety Positions - Chief Deputy Doug Hart, CCSO and Wendi Secrist, Workforce Development Council 5. Coroner System - Kelli D. Brassfield, IAC; Senator Melissa Wintrow 	<p>Project charters – It was noted that updated versions were received from all subcommittees and they looked fantastic. She reminded the members that updated charters should be returned prior to each commission meeting, noting that they are available to assist if subcommittees need support in identifying objectives or key milestones.</p> <p>Sex Crimes – They have begun the process of information sharing and educating one another. The committee has members with extensive experience in prevention, and they are conducting presentations to bring everyone to the same base level of knowledge on the challenges they face. This subcommittee will present at the May meeting.</p> <p>Human Trafficking – House Bill 518 passed, granting the Attorney General's office additional jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute the offense of trafficking itself. House Bill 860, the parental consent act, was also revised to close a loophole that prevented children from consenting to forensic exams when a parent or guardian could not be identified or was the offender.</p> <p>Riders – The subcommittee met on April 1st to review the results of their survey conducted with judges. The committee is planning a meeting for mid-June to complete the data analysis and review of the existing program, which will serve as the foundation for exploring future policy options and changes.</p> <p>Public Safety Positions – Adding new entities to the group and will meet on April 17th.</p>	

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		Coroner System – The subcommittee canceled its February meeting due to legislative session demands. They reported that the decedent photo legislation, which keeps images and photos of deceased individuals exempt from public disclosure, was passed this legislative session. Next of kin can request the images, but the law maintains discretion for prosecutors to determine if they should be released.	
	Other Commission Business	Send additional documents Send project charters	
12:00 pm	Adjourn		

Regularly scheduled meeting to be held in Boise, Friday, May 29, 2026

“Collaborating for a Safer Idaho”