

Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting

Virtually via Microsoft Teams

May 26, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members: Justice Keith Kautz, Judge Wesley Roberts, Judge Tori Kricken, Tara Nethercott, Art Washut, George Nykun, Mike Colling, Daniel Erramouspe, Scott Matheny, Forrest Williams, Joe Hartigan, and Ronda Munger

| <u>Agenda Items</u> | |
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| Call to Order Justice Kautz | Minutes were circulated. There are no corrections, changes, or discussions relating to the proposed February 24, 2021, meeting minutes. Commissioner Mike Colling made a motion to approve the minutes. Sheriff Scott Matheny seconded. Minutes approved. |
| Incident Reports Summary Joe Hartigan | <p>Not much changed since the end of February. The incident reports are done by the last Standard adopted in 2014. Started in January of 2015. There have been 310 reports submitted. This is a little different as it was run on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year as was done in the past.</p> <p>A breakdown of the total reports received by year: 2015: 51 reports; 2016: 50 reports, 2017: 87 reports; 2018: 37 reports; 2019: 50 reports; 2020: 28 reports; and 2021: 7 reports in the 4 to 5 months of this year. Believe COVID is a factor in these numbers. Working on a process to emphasize the importance of these reports across the state.</p> <p>The 3 reported incidents were for the following: 1 handgun hidden in bushes, 1 vehicle crash-front of court, and 1 verbal threat. A breakdown of the reports submitted is as follows: Johnson County (1), Campbell County (1), and Albany County (1). The incident details were discussed.</p> <p>The annual security report reminder email went out to every county around May 3 with the report form and deadline of July 1st. Another reminder will be sent out around June 15th.</p> |

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| <p>Grant Funds Update Ronda Munger</p> | <p>Document detailing grant fund balances was attached to meeting materials. The Wyoming Supreme Court in consultation with the Commission was appropriated \$400,000 to grant to the counties. All funds have been used except for monies granted to Carbon County for the courthouse remodel. Carbon County was given an extension until 2022.</p> <p>In prior years court security funds were handled by SLIB. This last round of funding was allocated to the Supreme Court’s budget for this Commission to recommend spending.</p> <p>This program included a survey done by the National Center for State Courts and the U.S. Marshal’s office. Things that needed improvement were identified and court security categories were defined. Funds went to the most urgent need. Legislature funded a portion, and the counties were required to provide a match. No money available since the last grant funding from 2018. The Commission has traveled to courthouses to see what has been done.</p> <p>Representative Washut stated the legislature would have a continuing interest in court security and county needs. The ability to demonstrate the security improvements these grants have accomplished will be important in securing future legislative funding.</p> |
| <p>Judicial Education Opportunities for Judges Ronda Munger Judge Roberts</p> | <p>The Judicial Education Committee, chaired by Justice Kautz, held a noon-hour webinar presented by the U.S. Marshal’s Office in April. The webinar was attended by 35 Judicial Branch employees including 22 judges. Workplace security, personal awareness away from the court, and home security was a topic of the webinar. The seminar was well received and a huge success.</p> <p>Training for the Circuit Judges was conducted in May. The focus of the training was the process for efficiently handling sovereign citizens. It was presented by a retired judge from Nevada. Topics of discussion included personal security and home security. A second presenter, a former marine and police sergeant, provided information regarding cybersecurity, personal habits, and security awareness. A video presentation of a nationally broadcast security incident was reviewed. An agent from the Wyoming Department of Criminal Information discussed the concept of digital exhaust, digital footprints, and ways</p> |

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| | <p>to remove your personal information from the internet were discussed.</p> |
| <p>Funding Opportunities for Court Security Justice Kautz</p> | <p>Follow up on a question from the last meeting regarding funding through the Office of Homeland Security was discussed. Justice Kautz and Ronda met with Homeland Security to obtain information about federal grant funding which will start in February 2022. A letter will be sent to local security committees with information relating to future funding opportunities. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security is willing to assist with the grant application process.</p> <p>The possibility of using grant funds to motivate incident reporting was discussed. Reporting is vitally important to the decision-making process. Local committee formation was instrumental in obtaining the initial legislative funding.</p> <p>This Commission and local judges should be informed of incidents happening in the courts. Two aspects of reporting were discussed, including the annual report submitted by the counties and the online incident reporting system for statistical purposes.</p> |
| <p>Local Training Program Justice Kautz</p> | <p>Justice Kautz proposed the idea of in-person training given to the local committees. This would include working with sheriffs and judges to find evening availability of county commissioners, court security personnel, and possibly patrol deputies for training opportunities. Presenters from the U.S. Marshals’ Service could attend by video. The Commission liked the idea of going to local committees because there are new sheriffs, new court staff, and new security personnel who could benefit from this training.</p> <p>The Commission believes it would be good to provide training on the heels of COVID and courthouse re-openings. Training should include what qualifies as a security incident that requires reporting. The letter to the local committees would include this Commission’s concerns relating to incident reporting and local in-person training opportunities.</p> <p>There are reports online that can be viewed.</p> <p>The development of active shooter simulations intended to drive home the reality of the situation could raise awareness of the seriousness of court security so that it is</p> |

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| | <p>taken more seriously. Some counties perform annual emergency training.</p> <p>The security standards developed by the Commission discuss in-house training and require the information be included in the county’s annual report. Ronda and Justice Kautz will reach out to the counties to ascertain interest in hosting future meetings and training. The invitations to attend will include local legislators. Justice Kautz applauded the Commission and stated that Wyoming court security has come a long way because of the work of this Commission.</p> |
| Next Meeting | <p>Meeting date and location suggestions were requested. The Commission is required by statute to meet twice a year, but it meets more regularly. A calendar poll will be sent out by Ronda.</p> |
| Adjourn | 2:59 p.m. |
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| Actions Taken: | |
| 1. | The Commission approved the meeting minutes from February 24, 2021. |
| Actions Items: | |
| 1. | Justice Kautz will send out a letter to the local committees regarding the grant funding available through the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security with a reminder of the importance of reporting, the concerns of the Commission, and in-person training opportunities. |
| 2. | Justice Kautz and Ronda Munger will start scheduling in-person training for local committee members. |
| 3. | Joe Hartigan will send another reminder of the July 1 st annual reporting deadline. |
| 4. | Ronda Munger will send out a poll of member availability for the next meeting date. |