

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1700 hours on January 25, 2024 in the Board of County Commissioners meeting room.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Rochelle Blankenship (Zoom), Tom Cox, Charlie Meyer, Brooke Nelson, Lourene O'Brien, Barbara Sanford (Zoom), Ted Shanks and Nate Tyler.
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff King and Undersheriff Lorraine Shore.
- iii. There was a quorum established for this meeting.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- i. Minutes from the September 28, 2023 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

IV. Sheriff Brian King

a. CCSCAC Member Ted Shanks

- i. Sheriff King had a plaque made to present to Ted's wife Judy and he brought it to the meeting to show to the CCSCAC members. Ted was a very valued member of the CCSCAC and will be greatly missed.

b. Legislative Update

- i. Not much movement in Public Safety bills
- ii. Sheriff King participates in a weekly webinar on legislative updates and Recruitment and Retention funding for law enforcement is a primary focus for this session. There are several bills with a proposed 1/10 of 1% sales tax credit that does not affect the sales tax rate and the counties can retain the money for recruitment and retention. This would bring approx. 1.5 – 1.7 million to Clallam County. This would be a significant investment in our county and the State and is much needed as WA State has been last in the nation for law enforcement staffing per capita for the last 13 years. CCSO staffing is .08/1,000 citizens and the minimum ideal staffing would be 2.0/1,000 citizens.
- iii. There is a bill sponsored by the cities to allow a vote by council to raise rates by 3/10 of 1%.
- iv. These important bills to address staffing issues in law enforcement are necessary as violent crime has increased significantly in WA State.
- v. Vehicle Pursuits – Sheriff King does not believe any of the bills will get out of committee. The bills were not ideal and he feels the legislature is not ready to address this topic in this session. Sheriff King believes Pursuits should be based on factors like the type of crime committed. Currently there is a significant increase in vehicles eluding law enforcement, along with a big jump in stolen vehicles.
- vi. Juvenile Access to Attorneys – The current law has hamstrung law enforcement as they are unable to interview any juvenile without an attorney. LE is unable to determine why a juvenile committed a crime

as they are unable to ask them which prevents LE from providing juveniles with the services they may need (help with housing and food). This new law has resulted in adults using juveniles to commit crimes and there is an increase in serious crimes being committed by juveniles. LE cannot investigate crimes in schools due to this legislation. There are two bills to remedy that appear not to be advancing to the floor. Next Friday is the last chance for the bills which would eliminate the affirmative requirement to obtain an attorney before interviewing a juvenile.

- vii. Deceptive Techniques in Interrogation – Bills are aimed at eliminating the ability of law enforcement to use “Ruse” in interview techniques. This bill made it to the floor.
- viii. A discussion ensued on Public Safety and Sheriff King’s #1 priority is staffing. The cost of law enforcement is increasing.

c. Emergency Management

- i. Status of Joint Public Safety Facility
 - 1. Currently in the Schematic Design Phase and the county is continuing to pursue additional grants or appropriations to fund the entire cost of the facility.
 - 2. The JPSF is moving forward towards construction and there are weekly meetings with stakeholders.

d. Jail

- i. Jail Medical – Wellpath was the contracted medical company for the Corrections Facility and they terminated their contract with CCSO. Wellpath cited the following for terminating the contract
 - 1. Difficult time finding nurses
 - 2. High liability in correctional facilities
 - 3. Wellpath anticipated having to increase costs to CCSO from \$650,000/year to \$800,000/year to cover costs of nurses.

As a result of the Wellpath contract terminating, it was decided that it would be more cost effective and a better solution for the Sheriff’s Office, to hire their own nursing staff. Clallam County authorized funding for a Nurse Manager, 2 Full-Time Nurses, 1 Part-Time and a pool of Per-Diem nurses. The cost of these positions is less than the current Wellpath contract and will improve inmate care. The current Nursing Supervisor that was hired by Wellpath is interested in staying with the County.

The jail must provide medical services per RCW.
- ii. Jail Visitation – In-person jail visitation has been reinstated. The video conference visitation is difficult for some people to use and it is not free unless used at the courthouse.
- iii. Staffing – 8 Corrections Deputy vacancies with 6 in background.

e. OPNET Civil Asset Forfeiture

- i. Sale of Nicholas Road Real Property – The property sold on 1/31/24 for \$325,000.00 and \$271,000.00 will go into the Drug Fund.

V. Sheriff Personnel Changes

- a. Appointment
 - i. Admin Manager Lorraine Shore appointed to Undersheriff – 1/1/24
- b. Employee Transfers
 - i. Victoria Landgren – Transferred from Administrative Specialist to Corrections Deputy – Effective 2/1/24

- ii. Sandra Waterhouse – Transferred from Corrections Sergeant to Civil Deputy – Effective 12-1-23
- c. New Personnel
 - i. Corrections Deputy Shaina Gonzales – Hired w/ Start Date 4/1/24
 - ii. Corrections Deputy Bailey White – Hired 1/2/24
 - iii. Corrections Deputy Stephen Portner – Hired 12/4/23
 - iv. Corrections Deputy Logan Bennett – Hired 11/27/23
 - v. Corrections Deputy Roderic Sisk – Hired 11/6/23
 - vi. Corrections Deputy Edward Bauck – Hired 11/6/23
- d. Promotions
 - i. Corrections Sergeant Richard Bray – Promoted 12/1/23
 - ii. Corrections Sergeant Owen McCann – Promoted 12/1/23
- e. Resignations
 - i. Patrol Deputy Dylan Heck – Resigned 1-12-24 (Hired by Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Office)
 - ii. Corrections Deputy Brandon Wessel – Resigned 12-22-23 (Hired by PAPD)
 - iii. Corrections Deputy Christian Sotebeer – Resigned 12-21-23 (Left LE)
 - iv. Patrol Deputy James Gribbon – Resigned 12-4-23 (Hired by Quinalt DNR)
- f. Retirements
 - i. Undersheriff Ron Cameron – Retired 12/31/23

VI. Upcoming Events

- a. Citizen Firearms Safety Classes
 - i. 1/27/24
 - ii. 2/3/24
 - iii. 2/17/24
- b. CCSO Awards Banquet – 3/2/24

VII. Roundtable

Barnard – The ODT Bike Patrol program has been very successful and provides a presence on the trail. Volunteers patrol the Olympic Discovery Trail from Discovery Bay to Lake Crescent. The waterfront on the pier to 4 Seasons Ranch is closed due to slides. The patrol is active all year round and in addition to assisting users, the volunteers report homeless encampments.

The DART program was the 1st in the state to be annexed with Emergency Management. CCSO DART is a model for other programs and the state wants DART to be utilized in the event of a disaster and they are writing DART into their emergency plans. Alan is working on the plans with the state and there is a committee of 9 people who represent DARTS around the state. They hope to add more pilots to the program.

Cox – Asked about OPNET funding. Sheriff King said none of the Drug Task Forces around the state received any Burn JAG money this year which is what funds the task forces. King is hoping the Governor's budget will give 2.6 million to the task forces, which is the bare minimum to keep them funded for the year. They asked for 5.7 million but the money is not being diverted to the law enforcement side.

King – Body cameras have been completely deployed and all deputies are supportive of the program. Everything is in place for the program to be successful and interaction with the public has improved. The public is changing their behavior now that that deputies are wearing body cameras. Every video is viewed by the program coordinator and all Use of Force are reviewed by Chief Bundy. All videos are viewed for a reason.

O'Brien – Asked about the BWC Videos in public records requests. King said Body Worn Camera footage is subject to public disclosure and they educated the defense bar regarding discovery, which includes unredacted footage.

Sanford – Asked that the CCSCAC members receive updated key cards and thanked everyone for doing so much for the community.

Blankenship – Rochelle said Deputy Pickrell is an excellent resource for Jamestown and is an “out of the box” thinker. Pickrell suggested more information sharing among tribes and Rochelle reached out to the other tribes about sharing names of those banned from tribal properties. This was a great suggestion by Deputy Pickrell. Jason Robins has moved to Fish & Game.

Meyer – 11/4/23 Safety Fair involved 31 agencies with 1200 people in attendance. There will be another Safety Fair in October 2024 at Carrie Blake Park. There is a training emphasis during the Spring & Summer on how CERT can help First Responders as the fire threat increases.

There will be live DART training in Sequim for CERT in Spring 2024 with aircraft ground crew orientation training. DART picked up 2 new members at the safety fair and will use CERT on their food runs on 6/8 and 6/22/24.

VIII. Comments from the Public – No public in attendance.

IX. Adjourn