

Clallam County Sheriff's Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021

I. Call to order

- i. Alan Barnard called to order the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee at 1703 hours on May 20, 2021. This meeting was held in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room.

II. Roll call

- i. The following members were present: Alan Barnard, Rochelle Blankenship, Tom Cox, Charles Meyer, Lourene O'Brien, and Barbara Sanford.
- ii. The following staff members were present: Sheriff Benedict, Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King, Admin Manager Lorraine Shore, Det. Sgt. Eric Munger, Det. Stacy Sampson, Det. Jeff Waterhouse, Det. Brandon Stoppani, Inspector Josh Ley, and Det. Jeff Pickrell.
- iii. There were no members of the public present at this meeting.
- iv. There was a quorum established for this meeting.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

- i. Minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

IV. Chief Criminal Deputy Brian King

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (IIT)

Chief King provided a PowerPoint, explaining what an IIT, is to each member of the Sheriff's Advisory Committee prior to this meeting and he reviewed the PowerPoint during this meeting. A copy of this PPT is provided as Attachment "A" to these minutes.

Chief King explained that the Sheriff has the final say in selecting an IIT member. Chief King's presentation was to ensure the Sheriff's Advisory Committee is aware of the selected IIT members and have consensus and agreement on these members.

Sheriff Benedict advised the CCSCAC that the CCSO Detectives will not be investigating any CCSO Use of Force that rises to the level requiring an IIT. Clallam County cannot have their own IIT due to the close working relationships with other agencies on the Peninsula.

The Clallam County Sheriff's Office will be joining the Kitsap County Emergency Response Team (KCERT). Sheriff Benedict reached out to Kitsap County to include CCSO, Sequim PD, Port Angeles PD and Washington State Patrol in KCERT. Membership in KCERT requires Sheriff Benedict to provide a list of members to the KCERT Board.

In the event of a major use of force incident, the CEO of an agency will call KCERT to get resources for the IIT. The IIT member will travel to join up with the agency IIT to investigate the use of force. CCSO will most likely only assign two detectives so as not to tie up all resources. Those detectives will join other detectives from agencies to make up the Independent Investigative Team.

Definition of IIT – Independent Investigative Team

A team of qualified and certified peace officer investigators, civilian crime scene specialists, and at least two non-law enforcement community representatives who operate completely independent of any involved agency to conduct investigations of police deadly force incidents.

The members of the Clallam County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau presented their qualifications for the IIT to the members of the Sheriff's Advisory Committee. Chief King advised the CCSCAC members that the IIT candidates did not have any disqualifying work history/misconduct that would adversely affect their membership on an IIT.

Chief King provided a PowerPoint of each Detective's qualifications as well as questions for the CCSCAC members to ask each detective to determine if they are qualified to be on the IIT. Attachment "B"

IIT Questions

The exact questions for the IIT Oral Board will be as follows:

1. What training and experience do you have that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?
2. What is one specific case that you were involved in, and what was your role in that investigation, that has prepared you to be a member of the IIT?

CCSO IIT Members:

Detective Sergeant Eric Munger

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Det. Sgt. Munger the above questions and he provided a synopsis of his training and experience. He gave an overview of a Homicide involving a toddler that he investigated as an example of a specific case that prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

Detective Stacy Sampson

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Det. Sampson the above questions and she provided a synopsis of her training and experience. She gave an overview of a Child Abuse case she investigated as an example of a specific case that prepared her to be a member of the IIT.

Detective Jeff Waterhouse

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Det. Waterhouse the above questions and he provided a synopsis of his training and experience. He gave an overview of a Triple Homicide case he investigated as an example of a specific case that prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

Detective Brandon Stoppani

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Det. Stoppani the above questions and he provided a synopsis of his training and experience. He gave an overview of a Homicide case he investigated as an example of a specific case that prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

Inspector Josh Ley

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Inspector Ley the above questions and he provided a synopsis of his training and experience. He gave an overview of a Homicide case involving the murder of a law enforcement officer that he assisted in as an example of a specific case that prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

Detective Jeff Pickrell

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard asked Detective Jeff Pickrell the above questions and he provided a synopsis of his training and experience. He gave an overview of a complex fraud case involving a Panamanian suspect and millions of dollars, which required he work with several agencies to federally indict the suspect, as an example of a specific case that prepared him to be a member of the IIT.

CCSCAC Chairman Alan Barnard concluded the questioning of the CCSO Detectives and Inspector Ley and asked for a motion for each on whether to recommend their placement on the Independent Investigative Team.

MOTION: (O'Brien/Sandford) Motion to recommend Detective Sergeant Eric Munger to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

MOTION: (Sandford/Blankenship) Motion to recommend Detective Stacy Sampson to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

MOTION: (Cox/O'Brien) Motion to recommend Detective Jeff Waterhouse to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

MOTION: (Meyer/Sandford) Motion to recommend Detective Brandon Stoppani to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

MOTION: (O'Brien/Blankenship) Motion to recommend Inspector Josh Ley to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

MOTION: (Cox/Sandford) Motion to recommend Detective Jeff Pickrell to the Independent Investigative Team. **Unanimously approved – Motion carried.**

The CCSCAC recommended all six candidates for the Independent Investigative Team.

Chief King explained that the Clallam County Sheriff's Advisory Committee is designated as the CCSO Community Representatives in the event there is a shooting or major use of force involving CCSO deputies. Definition of Community Representative:

- A minimum of 2 non-LE reps
- Participate in selecting IIT
- Review conflict of interest statements within 72 hrs.
- Attend chief/sheriff briefings
- Have access to completed investigation file
- Review media releases
- Review equipment use

The role of the CCSCAC members in an IIT will be very important and is voluntary. It is an involved process and most of the work can be done at a distance, however some travel may be necessary. CCSCAC members can withdraw if they do not wish to be a member of the IIT. PAPD and Sequim PD both have groups so other community representatives can be called upon if needed.

Alan Barnard stated that the CCSCAC members are not trained investigators and wondered how they would be able to fulfill the role of a community representative on an IIT.

Chief King explained that the members will be given rules to follow so no investigatory training is required and the CCSCAC members will not interact with the public or victims. The IIT Commander will assist CCSCAC members with understanding their role in the process. The primary focus will be incidents that occur on the Olympic Peninsula. Their allegiance will be to the IIT Commander and not to Sheriff Benedict. Their job is to oversee the investigatory process. The members will not be a witness or party to any hearings. They may possibly be asked if they have reviewed a document. The Attorney General has the authority to audit the process.

Alan Barnard asked how long the entire process would generally take. **Chief King** said the goal is to finish the investigation in 30 days from the start.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Law enforcement reform is being driven by large urban areas and will not make the job of law enforcement officers any easier.

The new legislation will make it very difficult to obtain qualified candidates for deputy positions in patrol and corrections. A law enforcement career is not viewed as favorably as in the past, especially in rural areas.

Link to WASPC site regarding proposed law enforcement reforms:

<https://www.waspc.org/Reforms>

V. Sheriff Personnel Changes

a. Retirements

- i. Chief Corrections Deputy Wendy Peterson – Retiring 7/30/21

b. Resignations

- i. Radio Technician Nick Ross – Resigned 4/17/21
- ii. Corrections Deputy Chuck Sanders – Resigned 5/1/21
- iii. Corrections Deputy McLeod Hutchin – Resigned 5/14/21

c. New Personnel

- i. Diane Harvey – Special Assistant to Command Staff

Sheriff Benedict advised the CCSCAC that Corrections Sergeant Don Wenzl was selected as the new Chief Corrections Deputy as of August 1, 2021.

VI. Roundtable

Barnard – the Law Enforcement Memorial BBQ on 5/14/21 went off very well and the ceremony was well done.

O'Brien – It was interesting to hear from the IIT candidates.

Blankenship - Rochelle said she was very happy to be at a meeting in person. She thanked Sheriff Benedict for adding Retired Deputy Dan Gates to the memorial ceremony. She asked about ridealongs and was told that they are now approved for vaccinated riders. Chief King asked Rochelle to coordinate with Deputy Titterness.

Sandford - said she was very proud of the Sheriff's Office WASPC Accreditation.

Cox - asked about the vacant positions on the CCSCAC. Difficult to recruit for the west end due to the distance members have to travel.

Meyer - concerned about morale in law enforcement.

Benedict stated that recruiting is difficult as many young people have health issues/drug use/criminal history which disqualifies them from the positions.

VII. Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance

VIII. Adjourn

There was a consensus from the CCSCAC members to take the summer off and hold the next meeting in September. Next Meeting – **9/16/2021**

Adjourned at 6:37pm

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Shore

Minutes approved by: Alan Barnard