



Washington Association of

SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

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Greetings from your Executive Director:

First and foremost, we are thinking this week about our colleagues at the Spokane County Sheriff's Office and other area agencies on the tragic loss of Sgt. Kenneth Salas. [Here](#) is a link to a page where donations can be made to the memorial fund. We will send out information on memorials when they become available.

PTSD Study

In 2024, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5950 provided funding to the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) to contract a third-party vendor to assess posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related workers' compensation policies and claims in Washington and other states. The intent of the study is to inform L&I on policy and best practices to improve worker outcomes for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and nurses. The department was required to submit a report describing the outcomes, best practices, and recommendations to the governor and appropriate legislative committees by June 30, 2025. The study was conducted by Masdyne and the summary is here [2025 Report to the Legislature](#) the full report is here [full research report](#).

Here is a portion: *"Much like other work-related conditions, the focus in treating PTSD must be on functional restoration and return to work (RTW). First-line treatment options have demonstrated long-term results, including sustained remission of PTSD diagnoses. Although some individuals may experience residual symptoms, even long-term, this does not mean they are not ready to be discharged from trauma-focused psychotherapy, nor does it mean they should not return to work. Typically, individuals will be ready to gradually return to work after a few sessions of treatment. Often, subclinical and/or manageable PTSD symptoms may still be present even when successful treatment has been administered or PTSD diagnostic criteria are no longer met."*

This topic has been an area of concern for many of us as we work to ensure both proper support for our teams and the sustainability of the system.

Washington Supreme Court – King County booking process

The Washington Supreme Court has ruled ([see attached opinion](#)) that King County's administrative booking process (more specifically, the searching, handcuffing and placement of an out-of-custody defendant in a cell for the sole purpose of getting their prints) violates the Washington State Constitution; the opinion was 9-0. This means that jails who conduct administrative bookings inside secure detention will now need to have those take place outside of the jail, where individuals are not searched, handcuffed or placed in a cell before they are able to be processed.

I asked our Jail Liaison, Ric Bishop, to provide a basic overview of the possible decision points for those of you for whom this may be an issue. [Here](#) is a summary of what you and your legal advisor may want to consider and have them compare (and be ready to defend) any change in procedure if necessary.

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

WADEPS

Our legal advisors work group, and the WASPC Ad Hoc Committee on WADEPS chaired by Kennewick Chief Chris Guerrero, Issaquah Chief Paula Schwan and Kittitas Co. Sheriff's Office Chief Chris Whitsett continue to work with WSU to get questions answered as they head toward a September date for requiring data to be submitted. Some agencies have already had concerns resolved, others are choosing to wait until they get better answers for legal and liability issues, and others have indicated they will submit only that data which is part of the original [5259-S2.SL.pdf](#) statute, and not additional data which WADEPS has added independently. We will continue to let you know how that process unfolds.

The Ad Hoc Committee would appreciate any feedback or questions at:

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CIS Threat Assessment

Here are [two documents](#) courtesy of the National Sheriffs Association regarding threat assessments from a consultant that works in these areas nationally.

Thanks for all you do, and stay safe- Steve