



Washington Association of
**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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Steven D. Strachan
Executive Director

**WASPC GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
2020 FALL CONFERENCE – VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 | 9:00 AM**

Call to Order

President Craig Meidl opened the meeting at 9:00 AM by thanking everyone for attending the meeting. He also thanked WASPC staff for organizing this virtual conference.

President Meidl noted that 2020 has been a very tough year for everyone, not only with the COVID-19 virus, but with protests, calls to defund police departments, and the local and national elections. We can all say we're looking forward to 2021 and a fresh start.

Approval of Minutes from the 6/23/2020 General Business Meeting

President Meidl called for a motion to approve the 6/23/2020 General Business meeting minutes.

Motion: Chief Ken Thomas from Des Moines PD moved to approve the minutes as written. Sheriff Drew Hyer from Garfield County seconded. The motion carried.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions presented.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were presented in written form for consensus approval.

Motion: Chief Darrell Lowe of Redmond PD moved to approve the committee reports as submitted. Sheriff John Snaza from the Thurston County Sheriff's Office seconded. The motion to approve carried.

Life Member Award Mention

President Meidl took a moment to recognize retired Chief Larry Dickerson for receiving WASPC's Life Member award. This award was intended to be presented to Chief Dickerson in person at the spring conference banquet in May of this year. With COVID-19, the in-person event was cancelled and moved to a virtual platform. Chief Dickerson was nominated by Chief Ken Hohenberg of Kennewick PD. President Meidl thanked Chief Hohenberg for making this nomination, and to Chief Dickerson for his many years of outstanding service in law enforcement. It is an honor well deserved.

Executive Director Update

- Policy Reform Update – Steve noted that James McMahan will go into greater detail during his legislative update later in the morning.
- Taking care of ourselves is very important right now. Dr. Mitch Javidi will be making a very timely presentation later in the afternoon on this topic.
- Law enforcement is but one of the many institutions under a lot of pressure right now. Law enforcement is the defender of the institution. The strategy WASPC has taken began back in May with the release of 13 policy reforms. These reforms are part of a proactive, thoughtful and strategic approach to making changes the public is seeking from law enforcement. It is not a guaranteed strategy but we believe it is the best one for these times. Even with groups who disagree with us, we believe we can find common ground.

Presidential Comments

- President Meidl expressed his condolences to Pierce County for the loss of Deputy Shuey who suffered a medical emergency on the job and did not survive.
- He reported on the two King County sheriff deputies who were wounded in a shooting recently. Both are doing as well as can be expected. He asked that everyone keep them in their thoughts and prayers.
- He congratulated Sheriff Clay Myers in Kittitas County and Sheriff-elect Ed Troyer in Pierce County on their recent elections.

Scenes of Violence/Rescue Task Force Model Policy

James McMahan, WASPC Policy Director, introduced a new Model Policy on Scenes of Violence/Rescue Task Force that members are being asked to adopt today. The purpose of this policy is to establish common language, approaches and strategies that law enforcement can use alongside fire/EMS when responding to a scene of on-going violence. Rather than simply having fire and EMS staged outside the scene until everything is cleaned up, this rescue task force establishes “warm zones”. The idea for this was taken from a much more detailed policy that Snohomish County and King County Chiefs adopted jointly with their fire/EMS partners. The WASPC Model Policy is more broadly written.

Work on this policy was done in close concert with the Fire Chiefs Association. They are proposing this same model policy so it will be identical between law enforcement and fire/EMS.

Motion: Chief Rafael Padilla from Kent PD moved to approve the policy as written. Chief Darrell Lowe from Redmond PD seconded. The motion to approve carried.

Update to the WASPC Model Policy on Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification

WASPC has had this policy in place for a number of years. Every year or two, we seek approval from the membership for updates and amendments. Those are mostly driven by statute or case law. In this instance, it was a recommendation from the Sex Offender Policy Board. Jamie highlighted the changes and recommended the membership approve the updates to the policy.

Motion: Sheriff John Snaza moved to approve the updates to the policy as submitted. Sheriff Drew Hyer seconded. The motion to approve carried.

Update to the WASPC Model Policy Regarding Officer Involved Critical Incident Investigations

In 2011, WASPC adopted a policy on officer involved critical incident investigations. We don't use those words as much anymore and there is some overlap with the provisions that were included in I-940. The existing policy recommends that law enforcement do things that are no longer legal. We are pulling the policy down from the website and will wait until after the 2021 legislative session to update the policy so that it is not only legal, but reflects best practices.

No action is necessary, but we wanted to let members know that we will keep it on the shelf until we have one that we are satisfied with.

WASPC Strategic Intentions for 2020-2021

Steve Strachan noted for the membership that this is a document we generally go through and highlight the changes we make each year to keep the document fresh. This year, there are only minor or grammatical changes and a couple of updates on the programs WASPC manages. There are no substantive changes.

President Meidl encouraged everyone to take a moment to read through it. He has used some of the items included in many of the community presentations he's given. He expressed his appreciation for the time and effort that goes into this document.

Motion: Sheriff Tony Hawley of Okanogan County moved to approve the updates to the document. Director David Trujillo of the Gambling Commission seconded. The motion to approve carried.

Special Olympics of Washington Law Enforcement Torch Run

Officer Donovan Heavener with the Federal Way Police Department also serves as the Director of the Special Olympics LE Torch Run. Officer Heavener provided an update on the 2020 Special Olympics of Washington activities, all in spite of COVID-19. Many activities were moved to a virtual event, and even with that, support remained high and enthusiastic by both volunteers and participants alike. The Run with the Cops event was cancelled, but even then, there were many other creative events that occurred thanks to law enforcement volunteers.

The 2021 Polar Plunge will now be a virtual event. Participants are encouraged to try filling their bathtubs up with ice cubes, fill up kiddie pools, turn on your lawn sprinklers and run through them, or use a slip and slide. Think of other creative ways to keep it fun and lighthearted so that it can be inclusive for everyone.

Officer Heavener thanked everyone for their time today -- and every day. He ended his presentation with a brief video thanking law enforcement and demonstrating why volunteers choose to do this. President Meidl thanked Officer Heavener for taking on this role, and for his

involvement, and for all of the many great volunteers in this very special program.

WAGang Update

Chief Ken Thomas of the Des Moines Police Department provided an update on the current status of the WAGang database. WASPC recently sent out a GTWO regarding the latest state of the database. The Western States Information Network (WSIN) was at a place where they needed to make some decisions on whether to stick with the database they had, or try to upgrade the system. Chief Thomas received a handful of responses that were pretty mixed. Some people felt very strongly about the need to keep the gang database due to violent crime and other issues.

The NW Gang Investigators Association has a conference coming up in May 2021. They believe it is a great database, but that it needs to be fine-tuned to make it easier to input data. The Association recommended that Chief Thomas and Rich Wiley of WSIN attend their conference in May to help fine tune the database to make the system more effective. Otherwise, it would likely not be worthwhile to continue it.

WSIN is undertaking two significant projects. The nationwide RISSIntel system is being updated. In December, the western United States will be updated. It is a priority particularly with social media threats and other crimes that are happening through social media. WISN and the RISS Network has been selected as the gatekeeper to channel those threats that come into the FBI and other agencies shifted to the appropriate agency action. That project is being put together now.

Next steps: Chief Thomas recommended that both he and Rich Wiley attend the NW Gang Investigators conference next May to see if changes can be made to make the database work for the agencies that choose to use it. WSIN has committed that when they get the opportunity for these two specific projects, they will make those changes. Chief Thomas noted that for this to work, it really needs the support of the Chiefs and Sheriffs. We will try our best to work through this and work on the best solutions. For now, we are status quo until we hear otherwise.

Jail Management with COVID-19 and Any Other DOH Issues Related to the Pandemic

Dr. Marc Stern, who is consulting with WASPC on jail management issues, provided a number of updates as follows:

- Excited Delirium – Over the past several months, Dr. Stern and John McGrath put together a small group of stakeholders from around the state to discuss excited delirium. The group has met several times with DOH and leading county EMS Directors and Chiefs of Police. The goal of this group is to see what is going on around the state and if there are opportunities to do it better.

Excited delirium is a spectrum of diseases and people don't have to die because of it. We want to learn and do everything we can to save people who have excited delirium. The goal would be to have model policies in place for EMS and police.

Steve thanked Dr. Stern who has been working with WASPC for a number of years in the jail arena.

- Naloxone – Information about Naloxone has been provided to all of the jails. The nasal spray version of it currently expires two years after the date of manufacture. The drug itself actually lasts for a good three years. A request has been made to the FDA to extend the expiration from two to three years. It was originally thought that this applied to all materials that were now out there. What we learned is that, no, it's just about the new Naloxone that hasn't come out yet.

The University of Washington has talked with the FDA about extending the shelf life both backwards and forwards. Hopefully, we will hear back soon from the FDA and the company that the product can be used an additional year. Dr. Stern said if anyone has material that is about to expire, please don't throw it away yet. Hang on to it for another couple of weeks. Whether you use it right now or not is up to your medical personnel.

- COVID-19: Rapid Antigen Tests – There are 150 million doses that have been made available and Washington State received two million of them. These were allocated to jails. The tests are free. It is simply a card that you open with swabs included inside. You swab someone's nose and put it back in the card and wait for it to react. No machines are necessary. The response comes back very quickly, usually within 15 minutes. It is intended only for people with symptoms. Even though it has only been approved for people with symptoms, it may provide some benefits for surveillance with people who are asymptomatic.

Dr. Stern can see use for three populations potentially: jail officers, jail residents and patrol staff. It cannot be done yet and you should not do it without the involvement of the Public Health Officer or the Jail Medical Director. Dr. Stern said he would be happy to have those conversations for you if desired.

You will need a Federal CLIA Waiver. Currently, you can do certain simple tests like blood sugar stick tests, but you must have a waiver to do it. It is a good reminder to get a waiver. John McGrath shared information with all of the jails on how to obtain this waiver. It requires a physician order, and the test is not approved for use for self-administration by the patient. It must be done under a physician's order. Dr. Stern noted that if this is a problem for anyone, please get in touch with your local Health Officer.

- Influenza vaccines – It is important that everyone get a flu shot. We don't want two problems instead of one. Dr. Stern encouraged everyone to get one, including every member of your family.

The state has a free vaccination program for people who are under-insured. Information about this program has been sent to all Jail Managers. It includes Hep A and B and can be used for jail staff and patrol staff members. Please talk to your Jail Directors to use this program not only for jail residents, but for staff and patrol staff as well.

The Rapid Antigen tests have to be ordered. John McGrath previously shared information with the Jail Managers about how to order the tests. Dr. Stern said if anyone hasn't ordered theirs yet, please reach out to John McGrath and he will provide information. John can be reached at jmcgrath@waspc.org.

- COVID-19 vaccines – As of today, two vaccines are projected to be approved. One requires that it be kept frozen at much lower temperatures. The other does not. It can be stored in a regular refrigerator for several days.

These vaccines are on the verge of being approved for use in the next several days or weeks. The federal government has developed a set of guidelines for who gets the vaccine first. There are four phases. Law enforcement, jails, jail residents who are defined as elderly (65+), and first responders will receive the vaccine in Phase One. Phase Two will include jail staff and all of the other jail residents not included in Phase 1. Phase Two could potentially start in January/February 2021.

- Dr. Stern is currently working on a video of educational materials for jail residents who may refuse to take the vaccine. It will help to educate residents on the need for and benefit of receiving the vaccine.
- And finally, Dr. Stern encouraged all Chiefs, Sheriffs and Jail Managers to continue to keep their jail populations low. It is making a positive difference in the number of COVID cases being reported in jails. It is essential to help fight the virus.

Steve again thanked Dr. Stern for his assistance. He is a valuable partner to law enforcement.

President Meidl asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked everyone for participating. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gregory
Executive Assistant
WASPC