

Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting

Virtually via Microsoft Teams

May 9, 2024, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Attending: Justice John Fenn, Judge Darci Phillips, Judge Craig Jones, Representative Art Washut, Commissioner Mike Colling, Prosecutor Daniel Erramouspe, Director Ronnie Jones. Also attending were State Court Administrator Elisa Butler and Supreme Court Security Officer Joe Hartigan.

Agenda Items

Call to Order

Justice John Fenn

Incident Reports Summary

Joe Hartigan

Joe Hartigan reported to the Commission that there have been a total 623 incident reports since the implementation of the report standard. He also reported:

Type of reports since last meeting:

Disorderly Conduct – 36

Medical Emergency – 8

Bomb Threat – 8

Verbal Threat – 16

Written threat – 6

Physical Assault – 2

Drugs / contraband – 1

Attempt to bring in firearm – 1

Other – 52 (Other reports of the following incident type: arrest/take into custody; disturbance; intelligence; suicidal party with gun; agitated defendant with no security present; attempt to bring in knife; stolen vehicle; attempt to avoid security screening; attempt to break leg shackles; drugs; contraband; terroristic threats / powder substance in letters; wanted man with gun; unsecured building / doors; suspicious circumstance; panic alarm failure; panic alarm activation; improper court decorum; use of unauthorized devices; improper communication by an attorney).

Nine Counties did not submit any reports.

	<p>Joe also reported to the Commission that four counties received mailings with a powdery substance first thought to be Anthrax but was later confirmed not to be. Information about the mailings was disseminated in a rapid fashion so that two of the counties did not open the suspicious mailings. Justice Fenn commended the local law enforcement agencies for getting the information sent statewide, which greatly minimized the threat.</p>
<p>Legislative Update Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Justice Fenn reported that the Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$24,000 to accomplish protective measures for justices and judges' personal information on the web. The Supreme Court will be contracting with a vendor to provide initial and continuing support to ensure the personal data of justices and judges remains difficult to access online.</p> <p>Justice Fenn discussed Senate File 30, which passed the Legislature. The bill added language to the definition of threat to now include judges. Additionally, this year the US Congress passed legislation to establish a State Judicial Threat Intelligence and Resource Center (Center). The Center will provide technical assistance, training, and monitoring of threats for state and local judges and court personnel; provide physical security assessments; and coordinate research to identify, examine, and advance best practices around court security. It will be housed within the existing State Justice Institute, a private non-profit and non-partisan corporation established by Congress in 1984.</p>
<p>911 Red Flagging – Laramie County Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Laramie County has implemented a program referred to as the 911 Red Flagging system. The system identifies and flags judges personal phone numbers so that when a call comes in, there is a heightened level of alert. The system can also contain family members information and healthcare data which promotes faster response times. Justice Fenn encouraged the judges in the Cheyenne area to sign up for the system.</p>
<p>Courthouse Visits Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Over the past year, Justice Fenn and Joe have visited courthouses in Lusk, Douglas, Laramie, Buffalo, Gillette, and Sheridan. The visits have included meetings with</p>

	County Commissioners, tours of facilities, and security training for local judges. This outreach has resulted in greater awareness for security issues in the local courthouses, as well as specific projects such as the purchase of x-ray equipment for Converse County. A meeting in Cody is planned for June of 2024.
Training Justice Fenn	Justice Fenn highlighted the training provided by Natrona County Sheriff John Harlin. He also discussed a firearms training to be held at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy June 5, 2024. Joe Hartigan discussed grant funding secured by the Wyoming Supreme Court to provide security assessments for courthouse assessments. The assessments will be done by the National Center for State Courts in the fall of 2024.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.