

Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting

Virtually via Microsoft Teams

July 7, 2025, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Committee Members Attending: Justice John Fenn (Chair), George Nykun (Co-Chair), Judge Darci Phillips, Representative Jared Olsen, Commissioner Bob Latham, Prosecutor Daniel Erramouspe, Sheriff Scott Matheny, Director Ronnie Jones. Also attending were State Court Administrator Elisa Butler and Supreme Court Security Officer Joe Hartigan.

<u>Agenda Items</u>	
Call to Order Justice John Fenn	Justice Fenn called the meeting to order, introduced the commission members, and welcomed all attendees.
Court Security Assessments	The Wyoming Judicial Branch, in coordination with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), conducted court security assessments in nine counties (Big Horn, Campbell, Crook, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, Sheridan, Washakie, and Weston. Representatives from the various counties participated in the Commission meeting. The NCSC proposed approximately 3.65 million dollars in security improvements (this figure did not include additional staffing recommendations). As a part of its ongoing work throughout the state, the Commission has been asked to make a recommendation to the Wyoming Judicial Council regarding any possible budgetary request for court security improvements in the nine counties. The Commission discussed the assessments and took comments from the county participants. Justice Fenn asked the nine counties to provide contact information for ongoing communications during the budgetary process.
Funding Opportunities	Christine Emminger from Governor Gordon's Office gave a presentation on the WYGAP program. WYGAP is a technical assistance program, administered by the Wyoming Grants Management Office, designed to provide local governments and state agencies with support in identifying state and federal grants that support local initiatives. Christine discussed several grant programs and offered to help the nine counties pursue funding opportunities to accomplish the security improvements discussed in the NCSC assessments.

	<p>George Nykun discussed the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grants that are administered through the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. The SHSP grant is 100 percent federally funded and provides state and local governments monies based on Wyoming's homeland security strategies and priorities. For the past several years, SHSP monies have been granted to several counties for court security improvements. George encouraged the county participants to contact his office for more information and grant applications.</p>
<p>Incident Reports Summary Joe Hartigan</p>	<p>Joe Hartigan reported to the Commission that there have been a total 689 incident reports since the implementation of the report standard.</p> <p>Joe provided the below list of reports since last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disorderly Conduct – 16 Medical Emergency – 5 Bomb Threat – 1 Verbal Threat – 7 Written threat – 5 Physical Assault – 2 Drugs / contraband – 1 Attempt to bring in firearm – 3 <p>Other – 27 (Other reports of the following incident type: panic alarm activation; arrest/take into custody; suspicious package; trespassing; contempt of court; intelligence/officer safety; fire alarm activation; inmate self-abuse; court rule violations; suspicious letters; disorderly protest; suspicious circumstance; traffic accident).</p> <p>Joe also provided the Commission additional information on the four counties that received mailings with a powdery substance first thought to be Anthrax. Joe praised the counties for disseminating information quickly and complimented local law enforcement agencies for getting the information sent statewide, which greatly minimized the threat. No injuries or harm resulted from the incidents.</p>

<p>Legislative Update Justice Fenn</p>	<p>The Commission discussed HB172/HEA24 – Wyoming Repeal Gun Free Zones Act. The bill, which is attached to these minutes, allows the concealed carry of a gun in any meeting of a governmental entity and the Legislature or at a legislative committee meeting, public school and university, certain areas of public airports and any public building if not otherwise prohibited by law. It clarifies that the Legislature preempts the regulation of firearms and amends the existing preemption to generally prohibit state agencies and other political subdivisions from regulating firearms. It provides exceptions for private property, public school events where alcohol is served, certain health and human services facilities, facilities where explosive or volatile materials are present, facilities where carrying a gun is otherwise prohibited by law, and for students of an elementary or secondary school.</p> <p>This bill creates a misdemeanor offense for any person who knowingly prohibits entry to a person lawfully carrying a concealed weapon into a place where concealed carry is authorized. The bill also allows school districts to regulate concealed carry of employees and volunteers, including requiring training, and provides requirements for the allowance of concealed carry by employees and volunteers if the school district does not adopt related rules and regulations.</p> <p>The Commission discussed the legislation and agreed that the effect of this bill is a local issue to be handled by the sheriffs in each of the respective counties.</p>
<p>Courthouse Visits Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Justice Fenn and Joe Hartigan attended a court security training at the Rawlins Courthouse on June 4, 2025. The Rawlins local court security management committee conducts a court security scenario/drill every year to train employees on various court security issues. This year the drill involved receipt of contaminated mail.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.</p>