

Attorney General's Office

Mission and philosophy

The mission of the Office of the Attorney General is to serve the residents of Wyoming by providing the highest quality services, including legal advice and representation to state and local government; criminal investigation; statewide law enforcement training and certification; and assistance to victims of crime. The office also protects the state's resources and the right of its residents to be free from corruption in government and fraud in the use of public funds.

Staff will carry out its duties in an ethical, professional and timely manner. The office is committed to using taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively, while providing quality professional services. The office's most valued resource is its staff, who are prepared to meet future challenges and responsibilities with a strong work ethic and common sense.

Results of outcomes

See specific division reports for report on outcomes.

Strategic plan changes

The strategic plan has been rewritten for implementation on July 1, 2004. See specific division reports for changes.

Law Office

General information

Patrick J. Crank, attorney general

Agency contact

Michael R. O'Donnell, chief deputy
123 State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002

307/777-7844

Other locations

Casper

Year established

1886

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 1-40-102 through 119; 1-40-201 through 210; 1-40-301 through 1-40-308; 9-1-601 through 610; 9-1-611 through 627; 9-1-632 through 635; 9-1-636 through 9-1-638; 9-1-702 through 709

General information

Patrick J. Crank, attorney general

Agency contact

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307/777-7841

Other locations

Douglas, Casper, Riverton, Jackson, Green River, Gillette and satellite offices in Sheridan, Powell, Evanston, Laramie, Rawlins

Year established

1886

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 1-40-102 through 119; 1-40-201 through 210; 1-40-301 through 1-40-308; 9-1-601, et. seq.; 9-1-611 through 627; 9-1-632 through 635; 9-1-636 through 9-1-638; 9-1-701 through 709

Number of authorized personnel

173 full-time, two part-time

Organization structure

Law Office, Division of Criminal Investigation, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, Victim Services Division

Clients served

State agencies, boards and commissions, elected and appointed state officials, law enforcement agencies, legislators, prosecutors, county and district attorneys, consumers, crime victims, state and local peace officers

Budget information

General fund	\$12,788,622
Federal	\$6,181,214
Other	\$2,892,160
Total	\$21,861,886

Number of authorized personnel

64 full-time, one part-time

Organization structure

Civil Division, Human Services Division, Tort Litigation Division, Water and Natural Resources Division, Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Clients served

State agencies, boards and commissions, elected and appointed state officials, law enforcement agencies, legislators, prosecutors, county and district attorneys, consumers and Medicaid recipients.

Budget information

Objective 1	\$2,708,326
Objective 2	\$302,154
Objective 3	\$1,267,569
Objective 4	\$37,769
Objective 5	\$411,209

Mission and philosophy

The Law Office's mission is to serve the residents of Wyoming by providing the highest quality legal advice and representation to state agencies and elected state officials, as set out by statute. The Law Office also serves consumers who have been subject to fraud, and serves the public and individuals by investigating and prosecuting Medicaid fraud.

Results of outcomes

The law office provides the highest caliber of professional legal representation to our clients in adversarial matters. In response to a survey to determine the approval rating of federal and state district court judges, and justices on the Wyoming Supreme Court on a scale of 1-5, 5 being excellent, the average rating was 4.16 for trial court actions and 4.48 for supreme court appeals.

The law office provides legal advice to elected officials, agencies, boards, commissions, legislators, county and district attorneys. In response to a survey to determine the approval rating by state agencies on a scale of 1-5, 5 being excellent, the average rating was 3.90 for state agencies and elected officials and 3.73 for boards and commissions.

It is a law office objective to reduce the turnaround time for opinion requests. Attorneys respond to opinion requests in a timely manner. During FY03, the average turnaround time was 35.48 days.

During FY03, the law office continued to handle in-house the majority of contested matters, considering there were 901 contested cases pending on July 1, 2002. During FY03, 1,239 contested cases were opened; 2,766 informal opinions/letters of advice were written, of these 87 were opinions

approved by the attorney general; no formal opinions were written; 6,875 contracts, bonds, and leases were reviewed; and 276 sets of agency rules were reviewed, of these, 91 were final rule reviews filed with the Secretary of State's Office. During the 2003 Legislative Session the Office of the Attorney General reviewed 475 legislative pre-filed bills and reviewed 216 enacted bills.

The Criminal Division is organized into three sections: the appellate section, the prisoner litigation section, and the corrections section. The division is primarily responsible for criminal appeals in the Wyoming Supreme Court, post-conviction litigation by prisoners in the state courts, habeas corpus litigation by prisoners in the state and federal courts, extraditions, detainers, executive clemency matters, and legal representation of state law enforcement and corrections entities, including: the Department of Corrections; the Parole Board; the Division of Criminal Investigation; and the Department of Homeland Security. Each responsibility is directly related to maintaining public safety for the residents of Wyoming. Furthermore, performing these functions fulfills the State of Wyoming's obligations in our system of criminal justice, as established by the state and federal constitutions and Wyoming statutes.

The Criminal Division handled 90 criminal appeals, 11 post-conviction writs/actions, 99 extradition/detainers, 207 pardons/restorations of rights matters and 18 prisoner filings. The division prepared approximately 374 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 147 bonds, leases, and contracts for agencies, and 6 sets of agency rules.

As society becomes more litigious and the cost of litigation increases, it remains a challenge to handle all of the contested cases and litigation with existing staff and resources.

The Civil Division is primarily responsible for the legal representation of four major state departments, including the Departments of: Audit; Revenue; Treasurer; and Office of State Lands and Investments. The division also represents the Board of Land Commissioners, the Banking Division of the Department of Audit, Board of Deposits, Wyoming Retirement Board, Group Health Insurance Board, Adjutant General, Public Service Commission and the Personnel Administrator of the Department of Administration and Information. One attorney is assigned to represent the 28 professional licensing boards and commissions.

The work of the Civil Division can be categorized into the following general functions: legal advice to state agencies; legal representation of the agencies in court and administrative tribunals; written legal opinions to county attorneys and legislators; legal advice to the five elected state officials; and review of legislative bills for the governor and general legislative activity. The division prepared approximately 772 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 2,191 bonds, leases, and contracts for agencies, and 87

sets of agency rules.

The Human Services Division is primarily responsible for the legal representation of four major state departments, including the Departments of: Health; Family Services; Education; and Transportation. The division provides a variety of legal services to these Departments including day-to-day legal advice; legal representation of the agencies in state and federal court as well as in administrative tribunals; legal opinions to county attorneys and legislators when the question posed involves one of the above departments; and legal advice relating to proposed legislation that may affect one of the above departments. The division prepared approximately 361 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 2,501 bonds, leases, and contracts for agencies, and 40 sets of agency rules.

The Litigation Division is organized into three sections: the litigation section; the employment law section; and the personnel section. Attorneys in the Litigation Division handle the state's tort and civil rights litigation and representation of the Department of Employment and its numerous divisions. The Litigation Division provides legal advice to client agencies in several significant areas. Like other attorneys in other divisions, Litigation Division personnel are called upon to track legislation during the session and to advise the governor on bills that are passed in areas affecting their client agencies or on subjects in which they have expertise. Attorneys in this division act as legal advisor to all state department directors, administrators and personnel officers for all of state government in matters of employment and personnel law. The division prepared approximately 1,043 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 705 bonds, leases, and contracts for agencies, and 24 sets of agency rules.

The Litigation Division has nearly eliminated the use of contract private attorneys in defense of claims under the State Self Insurance Program. In response to a Management Committee audit, contract Workers' Compensation attorneys are now paid on an hourly fee basis.

The consumer protection unit of the law office provides consumer protection for the residents of Wyoming. In FY03, the consumer protection unit opened 825 consumer complaints, handled 3,770 consumer telephone inquiries and closed 1,101 consumer complaints, resulting in savings of at least \$66,857 and refunds recovered for consumers of \$128,142.

The Water and Natural Resources Division provides legal advice to state agencies and state officials regarding environmental quality and water quantity issues. The division also represents the state in numerous actions in state, federal and international forums regarding water and natural resources issues. The division is divided into three sections: the environmental section; the water section; and the resources section.

Attorneys in the environmental section represent the Air Quality, Land Quality, Abandoned Mine Lands, and Solid and Hazardous Waste Divisions of the Department of Environmental Quality. These entities are responsible for administering both state and federally delegated programs that involve administering permit systems; developing and enforcing standards, regulations and bonding requirements; and securing corrective action and site remediation where necessary.

Attorneys in the water section represent the State Engineer's Office, the State Board of Control, the Water Development Commission, and the Water Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality. They also manage, direct and represent the state in complex water rights litigation including the Big Horn River General Stream Adjudication and the original action before the United States Supreme Court, *Nebraska v. Wyoming*.

The Resources Section represents the Game & Fish Department and Commission and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. This section specializes in Endangered Species Act issues, resource conservation and development, and land use issues. This section also handles litigation authorized by Wyo. Stat. 9-4-218.

The Water and Natural Resources Division prepared approximately 129 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 1,331 bonds, leases, and contracts for agencies, and 27 sets of agency rules.

The law office uses the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to investigate, resolve, and when appropriate, to prosecute or assist in the prosecution of the perpetrators of Medicaid fraud and of patient abuse and patient trust fund misappropriation occurring in Medicaid funded facilities and in other federal health programs. During FY03, 20 new Medicaid fraud referrals were received while a total of 58 referrals were processed to completion; two provider fraud cases were criminally prosecuted resulting in convictions; \$223,700 was successfully returned to the Medicaid Program as a result of referrals to the MFCU; 14 presentations were made to the general public, law enforcement officials, prosecutors and state agencies, reaching 1,297 individuals throughout the state regarding Medicaid fraud and patient abuse/neglect; 14 patient abuse/neglect referrals, 15 Medicaid provider fraud referrals, and 16 global cases remained under investigation as of June 30, 2003.

The Wyoming MFCU focuses on the identification, investigation, and prosecution of criminal fraud perpetrated by providers of the full range of medical services under the Wyoming Medicaid program. The MFCU was also actively involved in several national fraud investigations and global settlements. The MFCU identified, investigated, and prosecuted abuse to patients of health care facilities that receive Medicaid funds, misappropriation of patients' private funds in such facilities, as well as patient abuse in non-Medicaid funded board and care facilities.

Educating providers, law enforcement, and the public about the MFCU's role and responsibilities in combating fraud and abuse and about the growing issues of abuse and neglect of the elder and disabled populations also continued to be an important emphasis for the MFCU.

The Wyoming MFCU meets the minimum staffing requirements of the federal law. The staff consists of the unit's director who is an attorney and is cross-designated as a Special United States Attorney; an investigator who is cross-designated as a Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation agent; an auditor; and a paralegal. The Wyoming MFCU remains the smallest MFCU in the nation.

The Law Office has been engaged in a major effort to increase the effectiveness, enthusiasm and efficiency of its legal staff. The goal of this effort is to provide higher quality legal representation, and to do so in a revenue-neutral or even revenue-saving manner. It appears that this effort is beginning to work, as is noted below. However, for the effort to truly succeed, the Law Office needs to be able to compensate attorneys and staff at least commensurate with federal pay scales.

As noted in previous years, the Law Office anticipates that requests for legal services will continue to increase in the future. This is a pattern that has existed for a number of years. Since the change in the Attorney General in December of 2002, the Law Office has significantly reduced usage of two of its contracts with outside counsel and brought the school finance litigation and most of our water and natural resource cases back in house. These two changes alone will save the state over one million dollars annually over the course of the litigation. In addition to these changes, the Law Office has tracked the amount of monies brought into the state by actions taken by our lawyers on behalf of the state. Since December 1, 2002, the amount of money brought in by multi-state litigation is \$37,651,144.01. The bulk of this income is from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$35,207,081.72. The state has been receiving funds from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement since December 1999. The remaining \$1,695,260.79 is from the state's participation in various multi-state litigation settlements. Another source of income benefiting the state that the Wyoming Attorney General's Office facilitates is through Workers' Compensation Third-Party Lawsuits. Since December 1, 2002, the Attorney General's Office has negotiated the return of \$748,801.50 to the Department of Employment. This money is received to benefit the whole state, it should be considered when appropriating positions and funding to the Attorney General's Office as the Law Office provides legal counsel on these activities and it continues to need additional personnel, including paralegals, attorneys and support staff.

In order to meet current and future demands for services, adequate staffing and compensation of

legal staff is critical. Virtually all of the tasks assigned to the Law Office by law require the professional services of attorneys. This fact requires adequate budgeting in order to attract and retain qualified professionals. Retention of qualified professionals is essential in that it typically takes several years for an attorney to become trained and efficient in performing the legal work required by the job.

Strategic plan changes

The law office made no significant changes to the strategic plan for implementation on July 1, 2004.

Victim Services Division

General information

Julie L. Tennant-Burt, director

Agency contact

Julie L. Tennant-Burt

Herschler Building, 1st Floor West
Cheyenne, WY 82002

307/777-7200

Other locations

None

Year established

1998

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 1-40-102 through 119; 1-40-201 through 210; 1-40-303 through 1-40-308; 9-1-636 through 9-1-638.

Number of authorized personnel

Eight full-time

Organizational structure

Division of the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

Victim survivors of crime

Budget information

Objective 1	\$3,292,621
Objective 2	\$823,155
Objective 3	\$1,371,926

Mission and philosophy

The Division of Victim Services' mission is to improve the treatment of victim survivors and witnesses of crime by providing them with assistance, financial compensation, information, referral, sup-

port services, and advocacy, which are essential to their restoration.

The division achieves this through the Victims' Compensation Program and by promoting the development of a comprehensive range of quality services for victim survivors and witnesses of crime at the state, county, and local levels.

Results of outcomes

In FY03, the division distributed a total of \$3,904,290.90 in federal and state dollars through a formula-distribution and competitive grant process to 50 victim assistance and domestic violence programs in 23 counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The Crime Victims' Compensation program received 594 claims; 322 awarded, 188 denied and 84 are in review. During FY03, crime victims received a total of \$993,401.41 in compensation.

Services to crime victims were improved through training, monitoring and policy changes.

Training opportunities are offered to all disciplines involved in serving victims of crime and domestic violence. Examples of statewide trainings offered by the division in 2002/2003: 140 attendees at the Fourth Annual Victim Services Conference; 32 participants in the second Institute on Victims' Studies Foundation training; 24 participants in the Advanced Institute training (national level trainings); 200 attendees at the Second Annual Sexual Assault Summit. Local trainings were also provided on issues specific to victims' compensation and restitution to 100 officers at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, 14 third-year law students at UW, 21 probation officers, 30 court clerks, and more than 150 victim advocates around the state. The division sponsored nine members from various disciplines to go to New Orleans, Louisiana for specialized training and those members are now part of a statewide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), charged with training other potential SART members.

The division conducted on-site audits in 13 counties and on the Wind River Reservation. Plans are currently underway to conduct compliance audits of programs in the remaining eight counties.

The division has completed an on-line statistical reporting system which will allow both victim/witness and domestic violence/sexual assault programs to provide the division with current statistical data on the number of victims served, their demographics, and types of services provided each month. The new system should foster a more timely submission of this data, and give an up-to-date portrayal of what services are available to meet the needs of victims in Wyoming.

The division and the Department of Health work as a team to distribute and monitor federal Rape Prevention Education funds to Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) programs in 23 counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation to promote prevention activities in sexual assault.

Division staff works closely with the Department of Family Services on a number of mutually important committees and programs. The Division of Victim Services distributes and monitors \$850,000 in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds provided through the Department of Family Services to DV/SA programs throughout Wyoming to encourage the expansion of services to domestic violence victims in the areas of life skills and child advocacy.

A division staff person participates as a contributing member of the Child Fatality Team along with staff from the Department of Family Services.

The division received a grant that was co-authored with the Department of Family Services and the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to offer training to law enforcement and prosecution on working with and improving services to victims with disabilities.

The division co-authored two other grants with the Department of Family Services and UW. One grant is a training grant to provide domestic violence training to all Department of Family Service workers, and the second is a Safe Havens grant providing for safe exchange of children and to provide supervised visitation.

The division has a mutual interest and has provided input into restorative justice practices by participating in the restorative justice/victim mediation conference in Cheyenne and by working closely with the Department of Corrections.

Cross training is offered by the division on a wide variety of issues related to serving victims of crimes among these departments and divisions.

Services to crime victims were improved through outreach, victim compensation and the victim bill of rights.

The division developed and implemented an extensive outreach program. A staff person was hired with the primary responsibility to provide outreach to programs and the public on issues important to victims of crimes. Activities by the division include: development and publication of a quarterly newsletter covering events and issues of serving victims of all crimes; distribution of public service announcements for print and radio media; and distribution of guest editorials. The division also produced and distributed materials focused on increasing awareness of the Victim Bill of Rights, services and compensation available to victims in Wyoming, and on general issues such as sexual assault.

The division continues with ongoing staff development on victim's compensation. A database was developed to enable better tracking of compensation claims and awards to allow a greater degree of analysis leading to improved policies and procedures on compensation.

Strategic plan changes

The victim services division rewrote and added one objective. The four objectives are:
OBJECTIVE: Funding and Program Development. Through funding and program development, the division will continue to support baseline services to crime victims in all 23 counties and on the Wind River Indian Reservation.
OBJECTIVE: Outreach and Training. Assist programs in meeting the needs of victims through outreach services and training to meet identified needs.
OBJECTIVE: Cooperative Relationships. The Division of Victim Services will nurture positive cooperative relationships with all agencies, local state and federal to foster positive, effective delivery of victim services.
OBJECTIVE: Victim's Compensation. Ensure the delivery of crime victim's compensation.

Division of Criminal Investigation

General information

Kurt E. Dobbs, director

Agency contact

Kevin W. Haller, deputy director - operations
 A. Rich Spencer, deputy director - crime lab
 James M. Wilson, deputy director - criminal justice information section
 316 West 22nd Street
 Cheyenne, WY 82002

307/777-7181

Other locations

Casper, Gillette, Riverton, Jackson, Green River;
 Satellite offices in Evanston, Laramie, Sheridan, Powell, Rawlins

Year established and reorganized

Established 1973; reorganized 1986, 1989

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. § 9-1-611 through 627

Number of authorized personnel

69 full-time

Organizational structure

Division of the Attorney General's Office
 Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Information, Crime Laboratory

Clients served

Local, state and federal criminal justice agencies, state agencies, governor, legislature, residents of Wyoming

Budget information

Objective 1	\$5,998,467
Objective 2	\$1,300,738
Objective 3	\$2,108,622

Mission and philosophy

The Division of Criminal Investigation's mission is to continually provide a work force of highly motivated professionals that demonstrate competence in the performance of their duties, while maintaining a human element that displays compassion and concern for the residents of the state. The Division of Criminal Investigation also strives to meet its statutory responsibilities, while maintaining an open and honest interaction with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The Division of Criminal Investigation's philosophy is that all Wyoming residents should feel safe and secure in their homes and communities. The Division of Criminal Investigation will contribute to this feeling of security by providing quality law enforcement services, with employees dedicated to the highest ethical and professional standards. The Division of Criminal Investigation recognizes that its employees are its most valuable asset, and the division will seek input and encourage involvement from its employees, in order for the Division of Criminal investigation to maintain its service of excellence.

Results of outcomes

The regional enforcement teams continue to be a fine example of cooperation, coordination, and communication among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies investigating drugs and violent crimes. They have dismantled many major organized drug trafficking rings and investigated high profile homicides. Their regional locations enable them to respond in a timely manner to requests for assistance in both drug and violent crimes

The Wyoming legislature gave the DCI jurisdiction to investigate offenses involving the sexual exploitation of children and computer related crimes. Computer crimes, including both fraud and child pornography, continue to increase. In FY03, the division received a renewal of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) grant, which enables it to effectively respond to this growing problem and provide training to local law enforcement agencies.

The DNA database continues to grow, with over 8,000 on file and 5,000 entered into the national Combined DNA Index System database. Wyoming has already experienced successes where submissions

of samples from other states were matched to samples entered by Wyoming.

Expanded responsibilities continue to add to the backlog in the Criminal Justice Information Section. The registration of sex offenders program now has a website that is operational for high-risk offenders. The site shows photographs and specific information on sex offenders whom the courts have designated as having a high risk of re-offending. In 2002, the Crime laboratory completed the final stages of certification for the Wyoming DNA system.

The Criminal Justice Information Section continues to be impacted by the concealed firearm permit program, sex offender registration program, criminal history records entry updates, court disposition reporting, and fingerprint based background requirements for licensing and regulation of teachers, nurses, etc. The area of background fingerprints checks will continue to expand due to homeland security requirements. The increasing burden placed on the DCI to comply with these requests will be mitigated somewhat by installation of automated fingerprint live scan units in eight Wyoming County Sheriff's Offices in 2002. This is part of the continuing effort to implement efficient and time saving electronic submission of criminal history record information. Increasing demands in this area combined with limited staffing has created an unacceptable records entry and update backlog situation.

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors provides professional accreditation for crime laboratories. The Crime Laboratory is also in the process of reviewing policies, procedures, and facilities to meet their requirements in 2003.

Methamphetamine continues to be a tremendous problem in Wyoming and the other western states. It is currently responsible for approximately 60 percent of the agency drug caseload. Clandestine methamphetamine laboratories are operating within Wyoming at an increased rate. The division continues to work closely with the Governor's Substance Abuse and Violent Crime Advisory Board in developing the Wyoming Methamphetamine Initiative and addressing this problem.

Retention of professional employees and the ability to attract qualified applicants has been a major problem at the Division of Criminal Investigation. This situation has been addressed initially by the market salary surveys, but that data is now nearly five years old. It is important that this compensation plan continues using updated figures and funding.

Physical facilities continue to be an issue at the DCI headquarters in Cheyenne, a facility that is inadequate for existing or future needs. A needs assessment was completed in 2002 and a facility replacement plan submitted to the State Building Commission and the 2002 legislature. The completion of the Wyatt Evidence Facility helped the evidence storage issue, although there is a need to address sample and destroy, due to the division having

already used ninety percent of the marijuana storage area in the facility. The replacement of the Rogers facility continues to be an issue that needs resolution. The Division of Criminal Investigation is in the process of remodeling the upstairs area and moving personnel and files so the structure will accommodate the weight. However, this is only a "band-aid" approach to a problem that will re-occur in approximately four to five years.

Strategic plan changes

The Division of Criminal Investigation goal has been rewritten to state: Provide criminal investigation services, forensic science analysis, and criminal information sharing systems in order to deter and/or respond to a criminal threat or activity in the state, in a timely, professional and approachable manner.

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy

General information

Dan Zivkovich, director

Agency contact

Michael A. Grinstead, deputy director
1556 Riverbend Drive
Douglas, WY 82633
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Website: WLEAcademy.com

307/358-3617

Other locations

None

Year established

1981

Statutory references

W.S. §§ 9-1-632 through 635; 9-1-701 through 9-1-709

Number of authorized personnel

30 full-time, one part-time

Organization structure

Division of the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

Primarily Wyoming peace officers, detention officers, communications officers, elected coroners, and

appointed deputy coroners. In addition, officers from federal and out-of-state agencies receive training at the Law Enforcement Academy and the facility is used by many criminal justice entities for their training and meetings. The Law Enforcement Academy also actively recruits qualified civilian candidates and criminal justice college students to participate in the civilian Pre-Service basic training programs.

Budget information

Objective 1	\$1,120,553
Objective 2	\$504,731
Objective 3	\$261,838
Objective 4	\$247,789

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy seeks to provide relevant, sufficient, cost-effective training of the highest possible quality to our customers, delivered in a manner that exemplifies and promotes professionalism, integrity, and honor. We value each student and agency we serve, as well as each member of our staff, and are dedicated to providing an academy environment that supports the personal and professional growth of all.

The Law Enforcement Academy is charged with providing basic training for law enforcement agencies and coroners throughout Wyoming. In addition to the basic courses, the academy offers a wide variety of advanced training courses and training courses dealing with specialized assignments, such as investigations, supervision, D.A.R.E., firearms, and more. When the academy facility and resources are not being used for academy-sponsored training, the facility is made available to other criminal justice entities and agencies for their own training and meetings. The Law Enforcement Academy also strives to maintain the academy as a premiere state-of-the-art training facility by keeping up to date with technological advances and through preservation and maintenance of the facility.

Results of outcomes

The academy met this objective by training all candidates eligible for basic training, with no backlog of eligible candidates waiting to attend training. Ninety-six officers attended Peace Officer Basic training in FY03. Twelve (12 percent) candidates failed to initially meet minimum proficiency or academic standards. Seven of those officers have subsequently completed the remedial process and received certificates of graduation. Five students have not met graduation standards to date.

Seventy officers attended Detention Officer Basic training courses in FY03. Twenty-six (37 percent) failed to initially meet minimum proficiency or academic standards. Twenty-four have subsequently

completed the remedial process and received certificates of graduation. Two students have yet to meet graduation standards.

Thirty-six students attended Public Safety Communications Personnel Basic training and sixteen attended Coroners' basic training. All of these students met minimum requirements and graduated.

The academy was empowered by the legislature to allow qualified civilians who are interested in a law enforcement career to attend basic training at their own expense. This Pre-Service program allows agencies to hire certifiable officers who are already trained, resulting in cost savings to the hiring agency. Due to a lack of qualified applicants, the academy did not meet its goal of having four Pre-Service students in each peace officer basic training class, which would translate into 12 officers per year. Instead, only six civilians were trained in the Pre-Service program in FY03, which represented six percent of students enrolled in peace officer basic training.

Thirty-two civilians applied to attend basic training through the Pre-Service program. Twenty-five of those applicants participated in the testing process, which is arduous and designed to ferret out those who are not qualified for or not compatible with a law enforcement career. Consequently, only 13 (52 percent) of those who tested were offered admission into basic training. Six of them accepted the offer and attended the training. Four candidates have subsequently been hired by Wyoming law enforcement agencies. Two were dismissed for failure of minimum requirements.

Since the inception of the program in 1991, 132 Pre-Service candidates have graduated from basic training. To date, 122 (92 percent) of them have been hired by law enforcement agencies.

The academy continues to be responsive to the needs of the law enforcement community, attempting to host specialized training which is relevant and timely. To help guide us in our selection of topics, the academy regularly requests and encourages input from the law enforcement community.

The academy goal is to provide 60 percent of the advanced training needed by law enforcement officers and coroners to maintain their certification, which equals approximately 25,500 hours of training. The academy exceeded that goal by providing 54 advanced, specialized training courses to 795 officers, resulting in 28,225 hours of training, which is 109 percent of the targeted hours.

To help law enforcement agencies become more self-reliant and to assist them with obtaining required hours not obtained through academy-provided training, the academy hosted twelve train-the-trainer courses, with 3,812 total training hours given. One hundred seventy five officers attended these courses, representing 83 agencies

To allow the state to achieve maximum benefit from the academy and its resources, other governmental and law enforcement agencies are permitted by statute to utilize the academy for meetings and

training. Even though the rate structure for such usage is much less than the standard per diem rates (resulting in cost savings to the guest agency), the revenue generated from this usage helps to offset academy operating expenses. Sixteen governmental agencies used the academy facilities 72 times for their meetings and/or training resulting in 3,689 occupancy days.

Facility users included Wyoming Department of Corrections, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Douglas Police Department, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Search and Rescue Association, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, Wyoming Supreme Court, Wyoming State Fair, Division of Victims Services, Wyoming Association of Sheriffs, Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, Wyoming State Parks, Lander Police Department, Sublette County Sheriff's Office, and the Wyoming Department of Health and Substance Abuse.

The Law Enforcement Academy facility continues to be a quality, state-of-the-art training site and a state facility warranting preservation and upgrades. The administration of the academy works to instill a sense of ownership in each of its employees to encourage them to care for the academy's infrastructure as if it were their own. The academy's philosophy is to save the state money by being proactive, rather than reactive, to infrastructure needs. Although the facility is still in need of major repairs, the academy staff has worked hard to maintain it and prolong its life span, investing more than 8,100 personnel hours and \$46,000 into their ongoing efforts.

Strategic plan changes

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy made no significant changes to the strategic plan for implementation on July 1, 2004.

Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission

General information

Donald B. Pierson, executive director

Agency contact

Donald B. Pierson
1710 Pacific Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

307/777-7718

Other locations

None

Year established

1976

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 9-1-702 through 708

Number of authorized personnel

Three full-time

Organization structure

Division of the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

Law enforcement, Wyoming peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers, coroners and deputy coroners, peace officer applicants

Budget information

Objective 1 \$168,515

Mission and philosophy

The Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission is a division under the Attorney General's Office. Its mission is to serve the residents of Wyoming by providing the highest quality of services, including certified law enforcement training, entry level testing, and basic and advanced levels of certification and re-certification.

POST will carry out its duties in an ethical, professional, and timely manner. POST is committed to using taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively, while providing quality professional services. POST's most valued resource is its staff, which is prepared to meet future challenges and responsibilities with a strong work ethic and common sense.

Results of outcomes

POST received and processed 345 requests for temporary certification from agencies throughout the state. There were 133 temporary certifications issued for peace officers, 120 temporary certifications issued for detention officers and 92 temporary certifications were issued for dispatchers.

POST verifies that all employment standards that are mandated have been met before issuing temporary certifications. Peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers and coroners who are employed in Wyoming, and have completed the required basic training in other states are granted reciprocity, if that training is comparable to Wyoming's basic training. POST makes that determination after reviewing the training files and curriculum. Those people are then allowed to challenge the Wyoming basic training programs. Of those challenging the Wyoming basic training programs, 27 were peace officers and five were detention officers.

POST has established and maintains a certi-

fication process for peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers, coroners and their deputies. A total of 1,557 certifications were issued during this fiscal period, which include 971 for peace officers, 350 for detention officers, 158 for dispatchers and 78 for coroners and their deputies.

POST has established training standards that accomplish the above initial certification and re-certification processes. POST certified three peace officer basic training classes, three detention officer basic training classes, two communications personnel basic training classes, and one coroner basic training class during this fiscal period. POST received and certified 1004 applications for in-service training classes throughout the state. POST received 243 applications from personnel who want to become certified instructors so they may instruct the above training classes. There were 198,217 hours of training added to training files.

POST uses an evaluation system from the class attendees in order to evaluate the quality of the training being given and also the quality of the instructors we are certifying to deliver the training. POST has established and maintains a decertification process for peace officers and detention officers. During FY03, four requests were received for officer decertification. One case was closed with no further action, leaving three cases pending the outcome of criminal charges. There were two cases pending from FY02 which were carried into FY03. One was closed with no further action and one resulted in a voluntary decertification.

During FY03, 642 entry level tests were administered to applicants seeking employment in law enforcement, 402 applicants passed the examination and were placed on an employment hiring list, which is provided to any law enforcement agency in the state who wishes to use it as part of their employment procedure.

Two meetings were conducted during the year to handle the standard business of the commission. The director administered 13 promotional exams during the year. The director, or his assistant, instructed the POST Regulations class to all basic classes at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and for the Wyoming Highway Patrol. The director represented the commission at the graduation ceremonies held at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy.

POST has become a partner with the Western Regional Institute for Community Oriented Public Safety (WRICOPS). POST was invited to become a partner with four other states, Washington, Idaho, Montana and South Dakota. It is funded year-to-year by a federal COPS grant. POST

has already realized numerous benefits in Wyoming from this partnership. An assessment was completed for Newcastle and Cheyenne's assessment is currently pending. POST has conducted two seminars in the state on community policing and problem solving. The new trend in law enforcement all across the country is to transform policing into the community policing concept, either totally or partially. WRICOPS has received funding for another year, which just started, and POST looks forward to positive things from the partnership for our state.

POST received five applications for the retirement ID card and five cards were issued.

Strategic plan changes

POST made no significant changes to the strategic plan for implementation on July 1, 2004.

Attorney General's Office organization chart

