

Office of the Attorney General

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 results on outcomes.

Strategic plan changes

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

General information

Patrick J. Crank, Attorney General

Agency contact

Elizabeth C. Gagen, Chief Deputy
123 State Capitol
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
egagen@state.wy.us
<http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us>
307/777-7841

Other locations

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

Year established

1886

Statutory references

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

Authorized personnel

182 full-time, 2 part-time

Organizational structure

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

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

Law Office

General information

Patrick J. Crank, Attorney General

Agency contact

Elizabeth C. Gagen, Chief Deputy
123 State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307/777-7841

Other locations

Casper

Year established

1886

Statutory references

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

Number of authorized personnel

72 full-time, 1 part-time

Organizational structure

Civil Division, Criminal Division, which includes the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Human Services Division, which includes the Consumer Protection Unit, Tort Litigation Division, Water and Natural Resources Division

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 its clients in adversarial matters. In response to a survey to determine the approval rating of the Law Office, federal and state district court judges and justices of the Wyoming Supreme Court were asked to rate the office on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being excellent. The average rating was 4.03 for trial court actions and 4.30 for Supreme Court actions.

The Law Office provides legal advice to elected officials, agencies, boards, commissions, legislators, and county and district attorneys. In response to a survey to determine the approval rating of the Law Office, state agencies, elected officials and boards and commissions were asked to rate the office on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being excellent. The average rating was 3.96 for state agencies and elected officials, and 4.25 for boards and commissions.

It is a Law Office objective to reduce the turnaround time for opinion requests and provide a response to an opinion request in a timely manner. During FY 04 the average turnaround time was 44.3 days.

During FY 04, the Law Office continued to handle in-house the majority of contested matters, considering there were approximately 950 contested cases pending on July 1, 2003. During FY 04, approximately 1,320 contested cases were opened; 1,122 informal opinions/letters of advice were written, of these 50 were opinions approved by the attorney general; no formal opinions were written; 8,200 contracts, bonds, and leases were reviewed; and 114 sets of agency rules were reviewed, all of which were final rule reviews filed with the Secretary of State's Office. During the 2004 Legislative Budget Session the Office of the Attorney General reviewed 326 legislative pre-filed bills and reviewed 136 enacted bills

The Civil Division is primarily responsible for the legal representation of several major departments of state government including the Department of Audit and the Department of Revenue. In this regard, the division participates in multiple complex administrative hearings before the State Board of Equalization each year involving mineral taxation. The division also represents the Office of State Lands and Investments, the State Board of Land Commissioners, the Department of Agriculture, the Board of Deposits, the Wyoming Retirement System, the Group Health Insurance Board, the Adjutant General, the Public Service Commission, the Parole Board, the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, the Livestock Board, the Wyoming Business Council and the Personnel Administrator of the Department of Administration and Information. In addition, the Civil Division represents the Secretary of State's Office, the State Treasurer's Office, and the State Auditor's Office. The division also represents 33 professional licensing boards and commissions.

The Civil Division also provides written legal opinions to legislators, county attorneys and state government officials.

The division reviews legislative enrolled acts for the Governor and provides legal support for general legislative activity. In FY 04 the Civil Division prepared approximately 194 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 1,509 bonds, leases and contracts, and reviewed 36 sets of agency rules.

The Criminal Division is organized into two sections: the appellate 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, and all the appeals associated with these activities, as well as extraditions, detainers, executive clemency matters, and legal representation of state law enforcement, emergency management, and corrections entities, including: the Department of Corrections; the Division of Criminal Investigation; and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security - Emergency Management. 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 the system of criminal justice, as established by the state and federal constitutions and Wyoming statutes.

The Criminal Division handled 98 docketed criminal appeals, 43 post-conviction writs/actions, 72 extraditions/detainers, 260 pardons/restoration of rights matters and 83 prisoner filings. The division prepared approximately 521 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 694 bonds, leases and contracts for agencies, and one set of agency rules. In conjunction with the Attorney General's Division of Criminal Investigation, 122 new drug-related forfeiture cases were opened in FY 04. Additionally, \$1,187,447 in drug-related assets were forfeited to the state through legal process during this time period.

The law office uses the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) 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 misappropriations occurring in Medicaid funded facilities and in other federal health programs. During FY 04, 15 new Medicaid fraud referrals were received while a total of 38 referrals were processed to completion; one provider fraud case and one patient abuse case were criminally prosecuted resulting in convictions; \$713,665 was successfully returned to the Medicaid Program as a result of referrals to the MFCU and an additional \$905 in court ordered fines were achieved as a result of the criminal convictions; three presentations were made to law enforcement officials, prosecutors and state agencies, reaching over 65 individuals throughout the state regarding Medicaid fraud and patient abuse/neglect; 19 Medicaid provider fraud referrals and eight global cases remained under investigation as of June 30, 2004.

The 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 (expanded authority in accordance with PUB. LAW. 106-170). 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 Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

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 an office manager. The Wyoming MFCU remains the smallest MFCU in the nation.

The Human Services Division is primarily responsible for the legal representation of the Department of Health, Department of Family Services, Department of Education, Department of Transportation, as well as the Victim Services Division, Consumer Protection Unit, and the Tobacco Enforcement Unit within the Attorney General's Office. The division provides a variety of legal services to its clients 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 the legislators when the question posed involves one of its clients. In FY 04, the Human Services Division prepared approximately 361 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 3,600 bonds, leases and contracts for agencies, and 40 sets of agency rules.

The Consumer Protection Unit of the Law Office provides consumer protection for the residents of Wyoming. In FY 04, the Consumer Protection Unit opened 441 consumer complaints and closed 639 consumer complaints, resulting in savings of at least \$47,268 and refunds recovered for consumers of \$133,445.

The Litigation Division is comprised of three sections with three to four attorneys in each section: Tort/Civil Rights Litigation Section, Employment Section and Personnel Section. Under the State Self-Insurance Act, Tort Section attorneys represent the state, state agencies, employees and officials, and local government peace officers in state and federal court in civil suits for monetary damages. Tort Section attorneys also assist the Self-Insurance Program in collecting monies owed the state for damage to state property. Use of staff attorneys in the Tort Section has nearly eliminated historic dependence on

private attorneys and significantly reduced costs to the State Self-Insurance Fund. The Attorney General is better able, through in-house attorneys, to monitor cases from inception to end, and provide consistent and quality representation in an efficient manner.

Employment Section attorneys represent the Department of Work Force Services, the Department of Employment, including Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance, and the Board of Equalization. Employment Section attorneys handle all Supreme Court appeals for Workers' Compensation. Private contract attorneys represent the Workers' Compensation Division in ten locations around the state. In response to a 2002 Management Committee audit, the Workers' Compensation contract attorneys were put on hourly rate reimbursement and the reporting requirements were enhanced to provide the Attorney General with greater ability to monitor workloads and performance. Close supervision of the work of the contract attorneys is the responsibility of the Employment Section supervisor.

Personnel Section attorneys provide day-to-day advice and representation to agency managers and personnel departments in all aspects of modern employment law. These same attorneys represent nearly all professional licensing boards in contested cases involving licensees. Personnel Section attorneys avoid costly litigation by providing supervisors throughout state government with competent, timely advice on state and federal laws affecting employers and employees. The attorneys represent the agency when employee discipline is necessary. Personnel Section attorneys advise sub-committees of the licensing boards regarding applications and disciplinary matters against licensees and prosecute these matters before the licensing boards. The Personnel Section attorneys provide training to the licensing boards on these matters, as well as training on personnel law for state administrators and supervisors around the state when needed.

The Tort Litigation Division has 224 contested cases open in FY 04. The division prepared 36 informal opinions, reviewed approximately 325 bonds, leases and contracts, and reviewed eight sets of agency rules.

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 Resource Litigation Section.

Attorneys in the Environmental Section represent the Water Quality, 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 bond-

ing 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, and the Water Development Commission. They also manage, direct and represent the state in complex water rights litigation including the Big Horn River General Stream Adjudication and implementation of the settlement in *Nebraska v. Wyoming*.

The Resources Litigation 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. The section also handles litigation authorized by WYO. STAT. § 9-4-218.

The Water and Natural Resources Division prepared approximately 10 legal opinions and letters of advice, reviewed 2,072 bonds, leases and contracts for agencies and 27 sets of agency rules.

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 the water and natural resources cases back in-house. These two changes alone will save the state over \$1 million 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 the assistant attorneys general on behalf of the state. In FY 04, multi-state litigation settlements resulted in deposits of \$42,673.35. This amount in the result of \$17,043.30 from Mylan Pharmaceuticals and \$25,630.05 for the Neurontin settlement. The Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement resulted in \$15,594,423.83 for FY 04. The state has been receiving funds from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement since December 1999. Another source of income benefitting the state that the Wyoming Attorney General's Office facilitates is through Workers' Compensation Third-Party lawsuits. For FY 04, the Attorney General's Office negotiated the return of \$2,401,968.22 to the Department of Employment. Although the money received benefits the 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.

Division of Criminal Investigation

General information

Kurt E. Dobbs, Director

Agency contact

Kebin 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, Green River, Powell; and satellite offices in Evanston, Jackson, Laramie, Rawlins, Riverton, Sheridan

Year established and reorganized

Established 1973; reorganized 1986, 1989

Statutory references

WYO. STATS. §§ 9-1-611 through 627

Number of authorized personnel

87 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 (DCI) mission is to continually provide a work force of highly motivated professionals who 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 DCI also strives to meet its statutory responsibilities, while maintaining an open and honest interaction with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The DCI's philosophy is that all Wyoming residents should feel safe and secure in their homes and communities. The DCI will contribute to that feeling of security by providing quality law enforcement services, with employees dedicated to the highest ethical and professional standards. The DCI 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 DCI 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, as well as high-dollar fraud cases that cross jurisdictional boundaries. 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 FY 04 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. In FY 04 the division received approximately a 40 percent increase to its ICAC grant due to the success of the Wyoming DCI ICAC model. The Wyoming ICAC program is known nationwide and is being adopted by several other states as well as the federal government.

The DNA databases continue 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 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 crime laboratory received three additional DNA positions for FY 04. This should help in the backlog area of DNA. As of January 2004, the Wyoming State Crime Lab cleared all of its backlog cases pertaining to controlled substance testing.

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. Although, the conversion of the AWEC employees to permanent employees is predicted to lessen this impact, the area of background fingerprints checks will continue to expand due to homeland security requirements. Of unknown impact will be the new background checks on all hazardous material carriers as they will need to be backgrounded through the fingerprint system. It is estimated there will be 13,000 of these backgrounds required over the next five years. The increasing burden placed on the DCI to comply with these requests has been mitigated somewhat by the installation of ten automated fingerprint live scan units as of June 2004. Three more live scan units are planned for implementation in 2005. 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 first phase of an interface developed with the State of Wyoming Criminal History System, which supports electronic submission into the FBI's Automated Fingerprint Identification System was completed in June 2004.

Methamphetamine continues to be a tremendous problem in Wyoming and other states. The problem is increasing in the eastern states. With the popularity of the "Super Lab" the number of methamphetamine labs in Wyoming has, for the time being, leveled out and is no longer on the increase. Cocaine and crack cocaine appear to be on the increase in Wyoming. The division continues to work closely with the Governor's Substance Abuse and Violent Crime Advisory Board in addressing these problems.

Physical facilities continue to be an issue at the DCI headquarters in Cheyenne, a facility that is inadequate for existing 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 90 percent of the marijuana storage area in the facility. The replacement of the Rogers facility continues to be an issue that needs resolution. The DCI finished the remodeling of the upstairs, and this addressed the structural concerns in the upstairs area. With the additional employees that have been brought on the work force there is simply no more room to expand and, in fact, the division has been utilizing hall areas and closets as offices. The need for a new building or more room is great.

Strategic plan changes

The Division of Criminal Investigation 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

Year established

1976

Statutory references

WYO. STATS. §§ 9-1-702 through 708

Authorized personnel

3 full-time

Organizational 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 (POST) 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 332 requests for temporary certification from agencies throughout the state. There were 144 temporary certifications issued for peace officers, 120 temporary certifications issued for detention officers and 68 temporary certifications were issued for dispatchers.

POST verifies that all mandated employment standards 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. POST administered 27 peace officer challenge exams, five detention officer challenge exams, and two dispatch challenge exams. All were successful and certified.

POST has established and maintains a certification process for peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers, coroners and their deputies. A total of 1,569 certifications were issued during FY 04, which include 577 for professional peace officers, 91 for advanced peace officers, 104 for basic level peace officers, 85 for reserve peace officers, 364 for detention officers, 285 for dispatchers and 63 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 FY 04. POST received and certified 937 applications for in-service training classes throughout the state. POST received 214 applications from personnel who want to become certified instructors so they may instruct the above training classes. There were 237,002 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 being certified to deliver the training.

POST has established and maintains a decertification process for peace officers and detention officers. During FY 04, two requests were received for officer decertification. One case was closed with no further action, and the other case resulted in a decertification. There were three cases pending from FY 03 which were carried into FY 04. One was closed with no further action and two resulted in voluntary decertifications.

During FY 04, 529 entry level tests were administered to applicants seeking employment in law enforcement. Of these, 161 applicants failed and 368, approximately 70 percent of the applicants, passed the examination and were placed on an employment hiring list. The employment hiring list 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 FY 04 to handle the standard business of the Commission. The director purchased new promotional exams after several departments agreed to pay POST to administer the exams. Costs are passed on to individual agencies requesting sergeant and lieutenant level exams. The director administered eight promotional exams during FY 04. 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 continues to work with the Western Regional Institute for Community Oriented Public Safety (WRICOPS) on community policing issues. The POST director was elected chair of the Coordinating Committee of WRICOPS, and POST co-sponsored a training class with South Dakota POST, using WRICOPS funding, which trained 40 officers in media relations.

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

Strategic plan changes

Plan changes for the next fiscal year will be the addition of advanced professional level certifications for both detention officers and dispatchers. There is also proposed legislation to bring all the state corrections officers under POST for employment, training and certification standards.

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

Year established

1998

Statutory references

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

Authorized personnel

8 full-time, 1 full-time (termed federal grant position)

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

The philosophy of the Victim Services Division is to maintain a "victim-centered" approach to all services provided by the division and its sub-grantees. In FY 04, the division distributed a total \$3,995,380 in federal and state monies through a formula distribution and competitive grant process to 55 victim assistance and domestic violence shelter service providers in 23 counties and the Wind

River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The Crime Victims' Compensation Program received 566 claims of which 389 were awarded, 153 denied, 23 are in review, and one claim was deemed ineligible. During FY 04, victims received a total of \$1,041,024.30 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 all crime. Examples of statewide trainings offered by or co-sponsored by the division in FY 04 include: 165 participants in the Fifth Annual Victim Services Conference held in Sheridan, 22 participants in the third Victims' Studies Foundation training held in Douglas, 22 participants in the Institute on Victim Studies - Critical Analysis of Victim Assistance held in Douglas, and 150 participants in the Third Annual Sexual Assault Summit held in Casper. Additionally, the division sponsored regional trainings for approximately 200 child protective services workers from the Department of Family Services to train with domestic violence shelter service providers in recognizing signs of domestic violence in their work. Local training was also provided on the role of the division and specifically victims' compensation to law enforcement officers at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, third year law students at the University of Wyoming Law School, probation and parole agents, court clerks and victim advocates.

The Attorney General also appointed the Wyoming Sexual Assault Response Team (WySART), which is a multi-disciplinary team of professionals charged with addressing the issues surrounding sexual assault in this state. Some of those issues are training of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), providing training and support for community SART teams and recommending needed statutory changes to the Legislature.

The division conducted on-site audits of eight programs, which concluded an on-site review of all domestic violence shelter services programs completed within the past two years, and the majority of the victim-witness programs have received an on-site review in the past two years.

The division continues to work closely with the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Wyoming Crime Victims' Coalition to ensure timely, thorough service to crime victims. The division also partnered with the Department of Family Services to provide training to child protective service workers, and co-sponsored a conference on Vulnerable Adults. The division continues its partnership with the Department of Health to provide Rape Prevention Education funds to the domestic violence shelter service providers in each county and on the Wind River Indian Reservation to promote prevention activities in sexual assault.

The division is also partnered with the Department of Corrections in two areas. One area is a violent offender re-entry program developed to assist offenders as they return

to the community. The role of the division is to assist with preparing the victim for the offender's re-entry. The division and the Department of Corrections also partner on a victim awareness program designed to educate victims about the correctional process and their rights and role within that process.

The division is represented on a variety of panels including Major Child Fatality Review, the Governor's Domestic Violence Elimination Council (DoVE), Trauma Response Team, and Family Partnership Project in addition to those previously discussed. The division continues with the work outlined under the federal grant received to improve services to victims of domestic violence who have disabilities.

The division also increased its outreach this year by providing all victim service agencies, hospitals, physicians, schools, and others with materials about the division, how it can help, and how to contact the division. Additionally, the compensation application and brochure were completed in Spanish to better assist Spanish speaking victims. There were two media campaigns completed: one in October for Domestic Violence Awareness month, and one in April for Sexual Assault Awareness month and Crime Victims' Rights week. Additionally, the division created a media campaign consisting of brochures, documentation and a CD for all of Wyoming's Legislature that was distributed in January with an invitation to the division's open house just prior to the 2004 Legislative Session in February. Five legislators attended the open house.

The division continues with on-going staff development through conferences and trainings. Also, the computerized compensation program will be migrated to a web-based program over the next couple of years. This should increase the speed at which information can be retrieved and the amount of information that can be stored. The division also created a multi-disciplinary compensation review committee charged with review compensation statutes, rules and policies and updating as necessary.

Strategic plan changes

The Victim Services Division made no significant changes to the strategic plan for implementation on July 1, 2004.

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy

General information

Dan Zivkovich, Director

Agency contact

Michael A. Grinstead, Deputy Director
1556 Riverbend Dr.
Douglas, WY 82633
307/358-3617
mgrins@state.wy.us
<http://wleacademy.com/>

Year established

1981

Statutory references

WYO. STATS. §§ 9-1-632 through 635; 9-1-701 through 709

Authorized personnel

30 full-time, 1 part-time

Organizational 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	\$1,074,288
Objective 2	\$566,070
Objective 3	\$285,702
Objective 4	\$230,774

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy seeks to provide relevant, sufficient, cost-effective training of the highest possible quality to its students, delivered in a manner that exemplifies and promotes professionalism, integrity and honor. The Academy values each student and agency it serves, as well as each member of its staff, and is dedicated to providing an academy environment that sup-

ports the personal and professional growth of everyone at the Academy.

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 premier 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

Basic Training

The Academy met this objective by training all candidates eligible for basic training, with no backlog of eligible candidates waiting to attend training. In FY 04, 97 officers attended Peace Officer Basic Training. There were 13 candidates who failed to initially meet minimum proficiency or academic standards. Of those candidates, 12 have subsequently completed the remedial process and received certificates of graduation, and one student has not met graduation standards to date.

During FY 04, 76 officers attended Detention Officer Basic Training courses, with 16 (21 percent) failing to initially meet minimum proficiency or academic standards. Out of those 16 officers, 12 have subsequently completed the remedial process and received certificates of graduation, and four students have yet to meet the graduation standards.

There were 49 students who attended Public Safety Communications Personnel Basic Training and 20 attended Coroners' Basic Training. All of those students met minimum requirements and graduated.

The above numbers represent an 11 percent increase in the number of officers who received basic training over the number trained the previous fiscal year.

Pre-Service Program

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 per year. Instead, only eight civilians were trained in the Pre-Service

Program in FY 04, which represented 8 percent of students enrolled in peace officer basic training.

In FY 04, 20 civilians applied to attend basic training through the Peace Officer Pre-Service Program and 16 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 11 (68 percent) of those who tested were offered admission to basic training. As stated above, eight of the applicants accepted the offer and attended the training and four of those candidates have subsequently been hired by Wyoming law enforcement agencies. No Pre-Service students were dismissed for failure to meet minimum requirements.

Since the inception of the program in 1991, 141 Pre-Service candidates have graduated from basic training. To date, 127 (90 percent) of them have been hired by law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the Peace Officer Pre-Service Program, the Academy had two students attend the Public Safety Communication Basic as Pre-Service students. With respect to the Detention Officer Pre-Service Program, one person applied and subsequently received acceptance into the detention program but was hired by a sheriff's department prior to attending basic training.

Advanced Training

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 the Academy in its selection of topics, it 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 in FY 04 by providing 67 advanced, specialized training courses to 878 officers, resulting in 27,675 hours of training, which is 108 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 11 train-the-trainer courses, with 7,058 total training hours given. These courses were attended by 212 officers representing 157 agencies.

Facility Usage

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 their 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. In FY 04, 13 governmental agencies used the Academy facilities 72 times for their meetings and/or training resulting in 4,530 occupancy days.

Facility users included the Wyoming Department of Corrections, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Douglas Police Department, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, Wyoming Search and Rescue Association, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, Wyoming Supreme Court, Wyoming State Fair, Division of Victim Services, Converse County Sheriff's Office, The Diamond Group, Wyoming Homeless Collaborative, Wyoming Chaplains' Association, and the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police.

Infrastructure

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. The Academy staff has worked hard to maintain the facility and prolong its lifespan, investing more than 8,332 personnel hours and \$16,000 into their ongoing efforts. In addition, the Legislature appropriated \$2.3 million to correct subsidence problems and related damage, to remodel portions of the facility, to install a fire suppression system, and to update antiquated systems.

Strategic plan changes

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

Office of the Attorney General organization chart

