



WASHINGTON STATE  
**CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION**  
19010 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE SOUTH, BURIEEN, WA 98148

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**COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, June 11, 2025  
10 A.M.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Penelope Sapp (Chair), Chief, Kitsap County Jail  
Ken Roske, Chief, Pasco Police Department (Virtual)  
Rosemary Kaholokula, Prosecuting Attorney or Municipal Attorney (Virtual)  
Ryan Dreveskracht, Attorney, Law Enforcement Practices and Accountability (Virtual)  
Maureen Johnston, Designee for Attorney General Nick Brown  
Nickeia Hunter, Community Member (Virtual)  
Annalea Thomas, Community Member (Virtual)  
Trishandra Pickup, Community Member (Virtual)  
Sonia Joseph, Community Member (Virtual)  
Katrina Johnson, Community Member (Virtual)  
Bart Logue, Member with Civilian Oversight Over Law Enforcement

**Present after Roll Call:**

John Batiste, Chief, Washington State Patrol  
Kurtis Robinson, Community Member – East of Cascades (Virtual)  
Walter Kendricks, Community Member – East of Cascades (Virtual)  
Velma Lockrem, Tribal Police Officer (Virtual)  
Darryl Barnes, Officer or First Line Supervisor, Adams County Sheriff's Office  
Jeffrey Anaya, Officer or First Line Supervisor, Vancouver Police Department (Virtual)  
Kurtis Robinson, Community Member – East of Cascades (Virtual)

**WSCJTC STAFF PRESENT**

Monica Alexander, Executive Director  
Crystal Hice, Confidential Secretary  
Kimberly Bliss, Assistant Director, Certification  
Lacey Ledford, Legislative Liaison  
Valerie Jenkins-Weaver, Certification Operations Division Manager  
Kayla Wold, Hearings Coordinator  
Lauren Caputo Allen, Community Liaison Manager  
David Quinlan, Communications Manager  
Jerell Wills, Deputy Director (Virtual)  
Alex Buijs, LETCSA Program Manager (Virtual)

Stephanie Huffman, Confidential Secretary (Virtual)

### **AG's STAFF PRESENT**

Justin Kato, Assistant Attorney General, WA State Attorney General

### **Welcome**

*Penelope Sapp, Commission Chair*

**Chair Sapp** called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. **Crystal Hice** conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Penelope Sapp, Commission Chair*

**Chair Sapp** began with a land acknowledgement. When making motions and seconding, please acknowledge who you are. Today's meeting will be long and we have a small quorum. If any commissioners need to drop off, please announce it because we need nine to vote.

**Commissioner Hunter** stated that due to the small size of the quorum, the untimely release of the Commission Packet, and the difficulty that several commissioners had accessing the Commission Packet, she proposed postponing the Commission Meeting to provide commissioners with adequate time to digest the materials and make adequate recommendations. **Commissioner Logue** stated his desire to press forward with the scheduled meeting. **Chair Sapp** asked the commissioners if there were specific items on the agenda that they were uncomfortable voting on. Nobody spoke up, so **Chair Sapp** said they would try to press forward on as much as they can.

### **Public Comment**

*Mr. Kyle Wheeler, Mr. Mitch Patton, Mr. Shawn Malott*

**Chair Sapp** commented on the written public comment by Kyle Wheeler and apologized that the Commissioners did not discuss his public comment and complaint at the last meeting. She stated that some of the issues raised involve a certification case that cannot be discussed until the case is resolved. **Chair Sapp** noted that Sheriff Snaza resigned from the Commission effective June 1, 2025, and therefore is no longer a commissioner. **Commissioner Thomas** asked if there is a legitimately filed complaint, where does it go? She noted the public comment contains allegations of white supremacist ideology. **Assistant Director Bliss** stated that Mr. Wheeler's public comment references complaints he has made to the Certification Bureau, some of which are still open. She said she interpreted his public comment to mean that Sheriff Snaza had violated some of the bylaws of the Commission by publicly speaking on an open case. Assistant Director Bliss stated that she believes Chair Sapp had already addressed those concerns. **Commissioner Logue** commented that the Commission takes all complaints seriously

but needs to give the person complained upon the opportunity to speak as well to ensure there is due process.

Community member Mitch Patton provided public comment on SB 5051, specifically the fact that the Commission can decertify officers for older cases of misconduct that predate the law. He believes Sergeant Ryan Taylor of Skamania County Sheriff's Office has engaged in misconduct as far back as 2009 or 2010 in violation of SB 5051. Mr. Patton stated this is a perfect example of what SB 5051 was made for. He also expressed his interest in joining the Commission. **Chair Sapp** thanked Mitch Patton for his public comment. **Assistant Director Bliss** stated that there are four open Certification cases against Deputy Taylor that she is not able to speak on. The Commission can talk about those cases and the application of SB 5051 after those cases are closed.

Tacoma Police Lieutenant Shawn Malott provided in-person public comment. He was the sector commander of community policing in Tacoma and emphasized that community trust is important. He stated there needs to be high standards and ethical training in law enforcement. The Certification Bureau at the WSCJTC does not have enough staff. He emphasized the need to keep corruption out of the police force. About two years ago, Shawn Malott communicated to WSCJTC about a possible sex offender who was a family member of a command staff member. Despite this, he was informed that WSCJTC was not interested in looking into this case. **Chair Sapp** clarified that Mr. Malott's complaint is going through the appeal process. **Commissioner Thomas** thanked Mr. Malott for coming forward. She hopes his appeal is looked at seriously. **Commissioner Logue** also thanked Mr. Malott for coming. It is refreshing to hear comments like Mr. Malott's coming from within a law enforcement agency. Mr. Mallott emphasized there is nothing more important than community trust. **Commissioner Pickup** stated that hearing Mr. Malott speak was refreshing. She hopes he spreads his moral and ethical values in policing.

**Commissioner Logue** provided commentary directed at Mitch Patton: don't lose faith. Decertification is a long process. Keep the faith.

### **Bylaws**

**Chair Sapp** commended Executive Director Alexander for the work the WSCJTC has accomplished. The Executive Director and her staff always have a positive attitude. It speaks to the culture at the WSCJTC.

**Chair Sapp** presented some changes to the bylaws. At the last Commission Meeting, there was a change in the conflict-of-interest policy. The bylaws were updated so that they would not contradict the updated policy.

**Commissioner Logue** made a motion to approve the changes to the bylaws. **Commissioner Anaya** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Monica Alexander, Executive Director*

**Executive Director Alexander** provided an update on the legislative session. The WSCJTC asked for a high dollar amount for new ammunition for firearms training. The WSCJTC will continue to ask for more people in the Certification Bureau. The Certification Bureau has about 1,200 cases right now. She empathizes with those that are waiting on results for their open cases. On top of the certification investigations, the Certification Bureau handles internal affairs investigations and investigations into recruits at the WSCJTC. The Certification Bureau continues to produce results.

**Executive Director Alexander** provided an update on the regional academies. Since May of 2023 through July of 2025, there will have been 251 peace officer graduates from the regional academies in Arlington, Pasco, and Vancouver; not including the Burien campus. She also provided an update on the Corrections Officer Academy (COA). Recently we had a two-and-a-half year wait for recruits to begin in COA. We were able to graduate 324 COA recruits from the regional academies, not including the Burien campus.

**Executive Director Alexander** gave special thanks to Chief Don Hooper from the Spokane County Correctional Facility. Also special thanks to Adam Gonzalez, a Teacher, Administrator, Counselor (TAC) officer from Burien who moved to Spokane to help over there. His leadership is amazing. We are grateful for his commitment.

Chief for a Day is happening at WSCJTC on August 28, 2025. This is the first Chief for a Day in seven years. A total of 16 chiefs will be on campus that day. Their agencies will have a motorcade for the chiefs. KOMO will broadcast Chief for a Day on their morning show.

**Chair Sapp** commented that the child from Kitsap County is ecstatic to participate in Chief for a Day. She commended WSCJTC on their work for this event. **Commissioner Hunter** thanked Executive Director Alexander for being the bridge that helps tie the community and police together through understanding, empathy, and accountability.

## CERTIFICATION REPORT

*Kimberly Bliss, Assistant Director, Certification Bureau*

**Assistant Director Bliss** acknowledged the public comments, stated Certification's position that it cannot comment on open cases, and said that every closed case has a written explanation. As for the Certification Report, **Assistant Director Bliss** highlighted SB 5224 (2025), which was WSCJTC agency requested legislation that passed. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will no longer draft a recommended order for the hearing panel. The ALJ will preside over all pretrial motions and the hearing; however, since the ALJ is not a voting member, it wasn't viewed as a

helpful process to have the ALJ draft a recommended order. SB 5224 takes effect on July 27, 2025.

**Commissioner Logue** stated he's on a hearing panel that has been continued and rescheduled multiple times. He asked if there is a way to consider having alternate panel members assigned. **Assistant Director Bliss** said we would likely have to get the RCW changed, and that the case Commissioner Logue was referring to was an outlier.

**Assistant Director Bliss** noted that Notices of Separation are the primary driving force behind cases in which an officer is decertified. There are currently 11 cases with the AG's office for preparation of the Statement of Charges. There are 31 cases pending certification action. There are currently 1,392 open cases. Part of the reason the number keeps getting larger is due to outreach. For example, at the Washington Association of Chiefs of Police (WASPC) conference last month, the Certification Bureau made a presentation on the agency reporting audits. The Certification Bureau is expecting agencies to send more notices to WSCJTC after that conference.

The Certification Bureau asked for 12 new positions in the legislative session and received three full-time employee positions. The most important need for the unit is to add more positions to the investigations team. There are 900 cases right now in Intake Review status that are handled by one manager. The Certification Bureau will be creating two new positions to support the Intake Review process, as well as one new investigator position.

**Assistant Director Bliss** informed the commissioners that Certification just had its first hearing panel outcome that was not a revocation. This outcome was suspension, probation, and retraining for a sheriff's deputy who used excessive force multiple times against an individual who he was taking to the hospital for a blood draw. The discipline included a 30-day suspension of his certification, 18 months of probation, and over two full weeks of training. The training includes a 40-hour crisis intervention course and the Defensive Tactics (DT) instructor course.

**Commissioner Thomas** asked if the Certification Bureau could provide the average amount of time it takes for each case to move through each case status. She also asked if there is a way for the agency who submits the agency reporting forms to Certification to flag higher priority certification cases for the Intake Review team. **Assistant Director Bliss** said she will work with the team to see what data she can give Commissioners in terms of average time at each case status, which might be complicated by the onboarding of the Kaseware case management system a year ago. Regarding Commissioner Thomas' latter question, **Assistant Director Bliss** said Certification will bring the updated prioritization policy by December's Commission Meeting. She believes there are sufficient questions and indicators on the Notice of Separation form from agencies that allow Certification to do a first-level prioritization. As part of our

process, we ask for the officer's misconduct history, and we will determine if there is a pattern or practice of misconduct.

**Commissioner Logue** asked about the recent hearing panel decision that the deputy said they had not received enough de-escalation training from the state and their agency. Commissioner Logue asked if this was a one-off scenario or if other officers are also saying they don't have enough de-escalation training. **Assistant Director Bliss** stated that Certification disagreed with that officer's assertion. The officer had received de-escalation training with his agency and completed the equivalency academy in Washington. **Executive Director Alexander** stated that the reason she wanted Rich Peterson to present de-escalation at the last Commission Meeting is because recruits are receiving 80 hours of this training at the academy. **Commissioner Barnes** stated that coming from a small agency, they talk about using words to get someone to comply with an officer's request. Good communication skills, use your words, use your tone. That is the culture that is presented at BLEA and during field training during the last decade; use your words first.

**Commissioner Johnson** emphasized that she would welcome the Certification Bureau to engage in whatever data collection that might be helpful for the Commission to advocate before the legislature for critical roles. **Assistant Director Bliss** stated the Certification Bureau needs a skilled data manager. We asked for it in the last budget, but we did not receive enough funds for this position. We are asking for this position in next year's budget.

**Commissioner Thomas** asked the Executive Director how to bridge the gap between cadets who are learning exemplary practices in de-escalation and experienced officers who have not received the newest de-escalation training. During the last Commission Meeting, **Commissioner Thomas** recalled Rich Peterson's response being that you'd have to bring it back to the legislature. **Executive Director Alexander** stated that once recruits leave Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA), we don't have control over what is trained at their agencies. We hope that they build on the foundation that was set. Rich Peterson has gone around the state and trained agency training instructors. **Deputy Director Wills** stated that the WSCJTC has been working to develop a model training program that connects the BLEA training to the post-academy training. **Executive Director Alexander** clarified that agencies are not required to use our training once they leave BLEA.

**Assistant Director Bliss** added that the Certification Bureau did receive additional funding toward our Assistant Attorney General (AAG) budget. However, they scaled back funding for our ALJs, so it came out as more of a wash than a gain in funding.

**Chair Sapp** said that Patrol Tactics is a mandatory class for peace officers. She said she sent some of her corrections officers to a Patrol Tactics course in Kitsap County. Those corrections officers came back and used what they learned to create a corrections tactics course. There are

agencies in Washington State that would love to have the training from WSCJTC influence their training. **Executive Director Alexander** said that corrections officers are welcome to attend the course.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **March 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioner Barnes** moved to approve the March 2025 commission meeting minutes.

**Commissioner Dreveskracht** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Logue** abstained from the vote.

### **One-off Trainers for Local Law Enforcement**

*Commissioner Johnston*

**Commissioner Johnston** said it is terrific to have a Commission that is committed to true de-escalation. Unfortunately, she has seen training instructors teach that lethal force is a form of de-escalation. She raised a concern that although there may be training at the recruit level that is consistent with the law, training can be disrupted by a culture that is not tolerant of those principles taught at the academy. This could either be through field training or one-off trainings held by agencies. She wants to ensure that one-off training at agencies are led by instructors that are truly qualified. **Commissioner Johnston** said she believes there are some trainers that agencies in Washington should not be using. She inquired whether there is a way, either through legislation or administrative rules, for the Commission to approve trainers. **Executive Director Alexander** said that putting training on our website that the WSCJTC endorses is about as far as we can go. She said Commissioner Johnston's idea is a step further that we don't have the authority to do right now. **Commissioner Logue** agreed that there are definitely some consulting trainers out there that are problematic, some of which have caused community outrage. Some of these training courses are exactly counter to the values that are important in Washington, and it's troubling. He said culture matters. **Executive Director Alexander** stated that Rich Peterson is going around the state to train people. Rich really emphasizes when to stop using force, and he breaks it down in a great way. She said she trusts Rich tremendously. **Commissioners Johnston, Logue, Pickup, Dreveskracht, Barnes, Thomas, Anaya, and Lochrem** volunteered to join an ad-hoc committee to provide options for local law enforcement. **Commissioner Roske** commented that putting another layer of bureaucracy would not be helpful. He would not advocate for WSCJTC adding another layer of bureaucracy and making it more difficult to get training approved at the local level. **Commissioner Johnston** agreed that it should not introduce more burdens. She wants to ensure efficiency but also ensure all training is aligned with the law.

### **WAC 139-07-010 Conditional Offers of Employment**

*Assistant Director Bliss, Lacey Ledford*

**Lacey Ledford** presented the proposed change is to add clarifying language regarding background investigations as conditional offers of employment. **Assistant Director Bliss** stated that the new language aims to clarify that you can never be certified if you have conduct in your background that indicates mandatory denial of certification.

**Commissioner Logue** asked whether it is an automatic decertification if someone is hired who had disqualifying misconduct. **Assistant Director Bliss** responded in the affirmative. The WSCJTC would initiate a decertification action against the officer, and potentially open an investigation into the person who signed off on the hiring of the candidate.

**Commissioner Logue** made a motion to approve the WAC. **Commissioner Hunter** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Variance Requests**

*Valerie Jenkins-Weaver, Certification Operations Division Manager*

\*Please note that at this time, **Commissioner Robinson** joined the meeting, and his vote counts from this point forward.

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented a variance request from Nisqually Public Safety for Chief Bruner to attend the equivalency academy instead of BLEA. His certification is currently expired because he was working for a non-certified agency. **Commissioner Barnes** asked what training Chief Bruner has taken since the last variance request was approved for him to attend the equivalency academy. Chief Bruner responded that he did not take any training, because he was employed with the Department of Commerce during that time. **Commissioner Logue** asked whether Chief Bruner attended the equivalency academy in 2023. Chief Bruner responded that he did not, because he was hired for the US Department of Commerce three weeks after that variance request was passed. **Commissioner Pickup** asked how long it has been since Chief Bruner had attended any use of force training. Chief Bruner said it has been over five years. **Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** stated that the equivalency academy now does include patrol tactics training.

**Commissioner Logue** motioned to approve the variance request. **Commissioner Barnes** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Robinson abstained.

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented a variance request from Stephens County Sheriff's Office for reinstatement of certification without requiring additional training. **Commissioner Logue** asked how many hours Matthew Stephens served as a reserve officer. Chief Deputy Gowin of Stephens County said it appears he worked an average of eight patrol shifts per year, as well as attending



monthly training and other in-service trainings. **Chair Sapp** asked if this officer has attended patrol tactics. Chief Deputy Gowin said he has attended patrol tactics twice and is an instructor for active shooter training. **Commissioner Logue** clarified that there was no break in service from his limited commission. **Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** responded in the affirmative.

**Commissioner Logue** motioned to approve the variance request. **Commissioner Barnes** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented a variance request from Kalispel Tribal PD for Amber McLeod to attend the equivalency academy instead of BLEA. Her certification is currently expired. Ms. McLeod worked for Seattle Police for 20 years and most recently as a contractor and TAC officer for WSCJTC.

**Commissioner Logue** motioned to approve the variance request. **Commissioner Robinson** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Canine Evaluator Applications**

*Valerie Jenkins-Weaver, Certification Operations Division Manager*

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented the canine evaluator application for Erik Prange, a Department of Corrections (DOC) officer who is not certified. He has been employed with DOC since 2008. He completed bias training and instructor development training through WSCJTC this year. He also achieved “Master Trainer” status with the Washington State Police Canine Association this year.

**Commissioner Barnes** motioned to approve the request. **Commissioner Anaya** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. **Commissioner Robinson** abstained.

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented the canine evaluator application for Devon Stratton of King County Sheriff’s Office. He achieved “Master Trainer” status with the Washington State Police Canine Association in 2023. This deputy has two open cases with the WSCJTC Certification Bureau stemming from agency reports of K9 deployment resulted in serious injury. **Assistant Director Bliss** clarified that both of the agency reports were mandatorily reported to the WSCJTC, and the agency issued no sustained findings.

**Commissioner Barnes** motioned to approve the request. **Commissioner Anaya** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Robinson** opposed the motion. The motion passed.

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented the patrol evaluator application for Christopher Whitney of Kennewick Police Department. This officer had one previous agency report for a serious injury involving a K9 that was closed in 2023. **Commissioner Robinson** asked what resolution or action

was taken as a result of the 2023 K9 incident. **Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** said it was determined that the K9 deployment was within law and policy, and it was closed for lack of jurisdiction.

**Commissioner Barnes** motioned to approve the request. **Commissioner Anaya** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** presented the patrol evaluator application for Isaac Finch of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office.

**Commissioner Barnes** motioned to approve the request. **Commissioner Hunter** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Robinson** noted a concern about a pattern. **Commissioner Logue** asked what constitutes a serious injury. **Valerie Jenkins-Weaver** explained that the definition for K9 serious injury is different than that for non-K9 serious injury, but that the definition is on our website. Essentially the bite must require emergency care. The panel that came up with the definition was half law enforcement and half community members. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **LETSCA Policies**

*Alex Buijs, LETCSA Program Manager and Kayla Wold, Hearings Coordinator*

**Alex Buijs** presented a proposed change to Chapter 1 Policy 10: LETCSA and CIT Training.

**Commissioner Logue** motioned to approve the policy change. **Commissioner Barnes** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Hunter** opposed the motion because she was not able to see the tracked changes version of the policy. The motion passed.

**Alex Buijs** presented proposed changes to Chapter 1 Policy 11: IIT Lead Investigators.

\*At this time Commissioner Kaholokula had to leave the meeting and did not vote on any motions made after this point.

**Commissioner Barnes** motioned to approve the policy change. **Commissioner Anaya** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Certification Hearing Panel Member Application**

*Kayla Wold, Hearings Coordinator*

**Kayla Wold** presented four new hearing panel member applications: Audrey Hoover (Member of the Public), Officer Walter Roderick (Skokomish Tribal PD), Sergeant Jesus Rojas (Yakima County Sheriff's Office), Sheriff Susanna Johnson (Snohomish County Sheriff's Office).

**Commissioner Anaya** motioned to approve all four hearing panelist applications. **Commissioner Barnes** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Hunter** clarified that the candidate Audrey Hoover is not being considered for the expertise in police accountability. **Kayla Wold** confirmed that Audrey Hoover is being considered as a member of the public. The motion passed unanimously.

**CLOSING**

*Penelope Sapp, Commission Chair*

**Chair Sapp** adjourned the meeting at 1:02PM.

Next Meeting: September 10, 2025, 10 A.M., WSCJTC
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Written by:	<u>Lauren Caputo Allen</u>	9/11/2025
	Lauren Caputo Allen, Community Liaison Manager	Date
Reviewed by:	<u>Monica Alexander</u>	9/12/2025
	Monica Alexander, Executive Director	Date
Approved by:	<u>Penelope Sapp</u>	9/16/2025
	Penelope Sapp, Commission Chair	Date