

# Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission

Presented by:  
**Tisha H. Jones**, Peace Officer Certification Manager

## **Vision:**

- The people of Washington State enjoy life and liberty in safe and secure communities.

## **Mission:**

- Establish high standards and exceptional training to ensure that criminal justice professionals in Washington State have the knowledge and skills to safely and effectively protect the life, liberty, and property of the people they serve.

## **Values:**

- **Leadership** – We strive to provide the best training in the nation through continuous evaluation, improvement, and innovation.
- **Integrity** – We do the right thing for the right reason with transparency and honesty.
- **Dignity** – We demonstrate respect for each other and the people we serve.
- **Accountability** – We are dedicated stewards of the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us by the people we serve.

***"Training the Guardians of Democracy"***

## Facility

- 221,163 sq. ft. on 37 acres
- Nine buildings
  - 1,500 seat Auditorium
    - Redesigned with new audio/visual equipment
  - Three dormitories (one uninhabitable)
  - Firing Range (15 lanes) with gymnasium
  - Gymnasium
  - Track
  - Cafeteria



## Training the Guardians of Democracy

- Peace officer certification mandated by law
- Single, state-wide academy for all city, county, and tribal police
  - Over 10,000 officers
  - 285 agencies
  - 500-600 new officers trained per year
- Staff is mixed
  - Full-time trainers employed by academy
  - Rotating commissioned officers (3-4 year rotation)
  - Contract specialists (DT, Firearms, Forensics, etc...)
- Advanced, specialized, and leadership training mandated (24 hrs. per year)

## Basic Training Division

- Rex Caldwell, Division Manager/Commander
  - Mark Best, Assistant Commander, Law Enforcement
  - Ian Edwards, Assistant Commander, Corrections

# Law Enforcement Academies

Burien & Spokane Campus

- **Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA)**
  - 720-hour
  - \$3,187 agency cost per officer
- **Basic Law Enforcement Reserve Academy (BLERA)**
  - 246-hour
    - The course is held at the agency level, using WSCJTC approved curricula
- **Basic Law Enforcement Equivalency Academy (BLEEA)**
  - 80-hour
- **Basic Law Enforcement Reserve Equivalency Academy (BLEREA)**
  - Self-Study

# Corrections Academies

- **Corrections Officer Academy (COA)**
  - 160-hour course for corrections officers in county and city jails
    - Cost: \$587
- **Corrections Officer Equivalency Academy (COEA)**
  - 40-hour course for corrections personnel with a break in service of 24-60 months.

## Corrections Service Academies

- **Misdemeanant Probation Counselor Academy (MPCA)**
  - 80-hour course for county and city probation officers supervising misdemeanor offenders who have been placed on probation supervision
    - Cost: \$155
- **Juvenile Corrections Personnel Academy – Detention (JCPA-DET)**
  - 80-hour course for security/custody officers in juvenile detention facilities at the county level
    - Cost: \$233
- **Juvenile Corrections Personnel Academy – Probation (JCPA-PRB)**
  - 40-hour course for juvenile court probation counselors
    - Cost: \$204
  - *Optional Training: Case Management Assessment Process*
    - Additional 40-hour course
      - \$53.50
- **Juvenile Rehabilitation Academy – Process Assessment (JRA-PA)**
  - 24-hour course for juvenile probation officers supervising juvenile offenders who have been placed on probation supervision
    - Cost \$167

## Advanced Training Division

Stan Conrad, Division Manager

- Provides/coordinates statewide training and education to develop additional technical skills and knowledge beyond basic academy levels and refresh perishable skills. (specialized investigations, advanced firearms, instructor development, procedural justice, etc...)
- Leadership and supervision training and certification
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement and mental health personnel together
- County team training in domestic violence for law enforcement, prosecutors, and DV advocates
- Individual training in child abuse interviewing and investigation

# Telecommunicator Program

Cory Ahrens, Program Manager

- Project supported by the WA State Dept. of Military, State E-911 Office
- Offers two core classes:
  - Telecommunicator I – Basic Call Receiver
  - Telecommunicator II – Basic Law Enforcement and Fire Dispatcher
- Voluntary certification upon successful completion
  - Voluntary certification may be renewed
    - every two years with 24-hours of in-service training or continuing education for each two-year period

# Peace Officer Certification

Tisha Jones, Program Manager

- RCW 43.101.095
  - Requires all fully commissioned peace officers to obtain/maintain Peace Officer Certification
    - Each time a peace officer moves from one agency to another, they are required to complete:
      - Background Investigation
        - To include fingerprint submission
      - Psychological Examination
      - Polygraph or similar assessment
- RCW 43.101.105
  - Denial or Revocation
    - Agency's must submit a Notice of Officer Separation to us within 15 days of separation
    - Commission may revoke certification if:
      - Disqualifying Misconduct lead to the termination or resignation

# Definitions

## RCW 10.93.020

- General Authority Peace Officer
  - Works for a PD, County Sheriff, or other unit of local government having as its primary function the detection and apprehension of persons committing infractions or violating the traffic or criminal laws in general
- Specially Commissioned Peace Officer
  - Any officer, whether part-time or full-time, compensated or not, commissioned by a general authority Washington law enforcement agency to enforce some or all of the criminal laws of the state of Washington
    - For example, reserve officers
- Limited Authority Peace Officer
  - Works for a limited authority agency empowered by that agency to detect or apprehend violators of the laws in some or all of the limited subject areas for which that agency is responsible
    - For example, Gambling Commission, Liquor and Cannabis Board, DNR

# Lapse in Peace Officer Certification

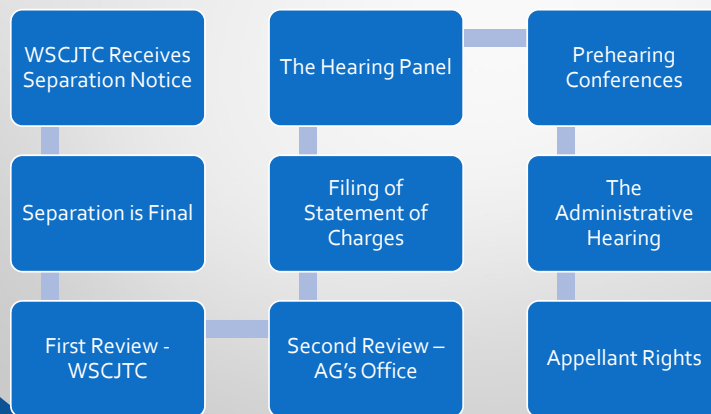
- RCW 43.101.125
  - Certification lapses automatically when there is a break of more than twenty-four consecutive months in the officer's service as a full-time law enforcement officer
    - Individuals that leave law enforcement, in good standing
      - 24-60 months: Equivalency Academy
      - 60+ months: Full 720-hour academy
    - Veterans returning from active duty
      - We know that, as employers, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) requires you to restore returning military veterans to duty as quickly as public safety allows
        - 24-60 months: Equivalency Academy
        - 60+ months: Full 720-hour academy

## The Agency's Duty to Disclose

- **WAC 139-06-030** - all agencies **shall** cooperate in **any** investigation conducted by the commission regarding a peace officer's certification status.
- **RCW 43.101.135** - Upon **termination of a peace officer for any reason**, including resignation, the agency of termination **shall**, within fifteen days of the termination, notify the commission on a personnel action report form provided by the commission.
- The agency of termination **shall**, upon request of the commission, provide such **additional documentation** or information as the commission deems necessary to determine whether the termination provides grounds for revocation under RCW 43.101.105.
- The commission **shall** maintain these notices in a permanent file, subject to RCW 43.101.400.

## Timeline of the Revocation Process

Chapter 139-06 WAC





## WAC Updates

- WAC 139-05-300
  - In-Service Training - Added 2 of the 24 required hours must consist of CIT
- WAC 139-10-211
  - To be eligible for a Corrections Academy, this Rule requires Corrections Personnel to complete a Criminal Background Check to include fingerprint submission
- WAC 139-10-214 & 214
  - Corrections Personnel - Requires Notice of Hire/Separation Forms
- WAC 139-10-215
  - Sets eligibility for the Corrections Equivalency process for those with a break in service between 24-60 months.
- WAC 139-07-020
  - In line with SB 6145, this Rule allows for Permanent Lawful Residents to be eligible for employment.
  - Additionally, add that a Homeschool Transcript is authorized proof of education.

## Questions?

- Executive Director
  - Sue Rahr, [maoneill@cjtc.state.wa.us](mailto:maoneill@cjtc.state.wa.us)
- Deputy Director
  - Chris Fowler, [cfowler@cjtc.state.wa.us](mailto:cfowler@cjtc.state.wa.us)
- Peace Officer Certification
  - Tisha H. Jones, [tjones@cjtc.state.wa.us](mailto:tjones@cjtc.state.wa.us)

Tisha H. Jones has worked for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) for 16 years and currently holds the position of Peace Officer Certification Manager. As the Peace Officer Certification Manager, she oversees all matters pertaining to the Certification and Revocation of all peace officers in Washington State as well as K-9 Team Certifications. She is also the Veteran Liaison for the agency.

Prior to working for the WSCJTC, Tisha served six years in the U.S. Army. While serving in the Army, she held the rank of Sergeant in the Heavy Equipment Operations field. A couple of her assignments include road upgrades in Laredo, Texas and Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo.

Tisha holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University and a B.A. in Criminal Justice from St. Martin's University.