

**WASHINGTON STATE**

**FORENSIC**

**INVESTIGATION**

**COUNCIL**

**2009-2011 BIENNIUM**

**OPERATING BUDGET**

# FORENSIC INVESTIGATION COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

## Mission

To improve public safety and health, the Forensic Investigation Council preserves and enhances the quality of death investigation and criminal justice forensic services

### ***Goal 1 – Enhance death investigation training.***

**Objective A** Establish a training module.

*Accountability Link: Washington Association of Coroners' and Medical Examiners and Dr. Dennis Wickham*

*Additional Requirements: Funding*

**Objective B** Provide regional training for coroners and investigators.

*Accountability Link: Criminal Justice Training Commission and Greg Sandstrom*

**Objective C** Provide regional training for emergency response personnel.

*Accountability Link: State Department of Health and Greg Sandstrom*

### ***Goal 2 – Establish clear and equitable autopsy reimbursement guidelines.***

**Objective A** Establish a workgroup to develop reimbursement guidelines.

*Action Specifications:*

- 1. Identify workgroup members.*
- 2. Establish timeline.*

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Objective B** Make recommendation to Forensic Investigation Council for adoption.

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Objective C** Distribute to Counties.

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Goal 3 – Preserve current Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau funding levels.**

**Objective A** Identify current revenue sources.

*Accountability Link: WSP Chief*

**Objective B** Identify revenue problem areas.

*Accountability Link: WSP Chief*

**Objective C** Develop budget plan

*Action Specifications:*

1. Identify workgroup members to develop budget.

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Goal 4 – Develop procedures for Forensic Investigation Council interaction with the Washington State Patrol.**

**Objective A** Establish a workgroup to develop procedures.

*Action Specifications:*

1. Identify membership.
2. Establish timeline.

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Objective B** Make recommendation to Forensic Investigation Council for adoption.

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Objective C** Establish a Memorandum of Understanding.

*Accountability Link: Commission Chair*

**Goal 5 – Clarify the need for pathology services within the state of Washington.**

**Objective A** Conduct needs assessment.

*Action Specification:*

1. Analyze data.
2. Validate analysis finding with coroners and medical examiners.

*Accountability Link: Dr. Manny Lacsina*

**Objective B** Develop Pathology Services Plan.

*Accountability Link: Dr. Manny Lacsina*

**Objective C** Implement Pathology Services Plan.

*Accountability Link: Forensic Investigation Council*

*Additional Resources: Funding*

**Goal 6 – Enhance forensic facilities throughout the state of Washington.**

**Objective A** Develop new facilities in Vancouver and Spokane.

*Accountability Link: WSP Chief*

*Target Date: Ongoing*

*Additional Resources: Funding*

**Objective B** Co-locate autopsy and crime lab facilities.

*Accountability Link: WSP Chief and Diane Oberquell*

*Target Date: Ongoing*

*Additional Resources: Funding*

**Object C** Explore the need for regional pathology/medical examiner services.

*Accountability Link: Forensic Investigation Council Chair*

*Target Date: Ongoing*

*Additional Resources: Funding*

**Agency:** Washington State Forensic Investigations Council

**Legal Authorization:** RCW Chapter 43.103, executed 1983 and amended in 1995

**Source of Funds:** Death Investigation Account, 02K

**Council Membership (Appointed by Governor):** 12 members

One (1) county coroner  
One (1) county prosecutor  
One (1) county prosecutor as ex officio county coroner  
One (1) county medical examiner  
One (1) county sheriff  
One (1) chief of police  
The chief of the state patrol  
Two (2) members of a county legislative authority  
Two (2) members of a city legislative authority  
One (1) pathologist in private practice

**Agency Goal:**

The goal of the Council is to make death investigation an integrated, efficient system in the state of Washington.

**Agency Purpose:**

To preserve and enhance the State Crime Laboratory, which is an essential part of the criminal justice system in the state of Washington;

To fund the death investigation system and to make related state and local institutions more efficient;

To preserve and enhance the state Toxicology Laboratory which is an essential part of the criminal justice and death investigation systems in the state of Washington;

To provide resources necessary for the performance, by qualified pathologists, of autopsies which are also essential to the criminal justice and death investigation systems of this state and its counties;

To improve the performance of death investigations and the criminal justice system through formal training of county coroners and county medical examiners;

To establish and maintain a dental identification system.

**Agency Functions:**

Be actively involved in the preparation of budgets of the Washington State Patrol Bureau of Forensic Laboratory Services (Crime Laboratory and Toxicology Laboratory) and approve these budgets prior to their formal submission to the Office of Financial Management;

Oversee the State Toxicology Laboratory and Crime Laboratory;

Require reports from the State Toxicologist on matters pertaining to the toxicology laboratory;

Require reports from the chief of the Washington State Patrol on matters pertaining to the crime laboratory;

Jointly with the chairperson of the pathology of the University of Washington's School of Medicine, or the chairperson's designee, oversee the State Forensic Pathology Fellowship program, determine the budget for the program and set the fellow's annual salary, and take those steps necessary to administer the program;

Study and recommend cost-efficient improvements to the death investigation system in Washington and report its findings to the legislature.

**General Budget Justification:**

The Council will continue to meet at least every two months to accomplish its work plan. Council Subcommittees will be established as needed to address specific death investigation issues and may include representatives of pertinent agencies and groups. Subcommittees will convene as required between regular meetings to conduct preliminary business. Members of the Council and its subcommittees represent various jurisdictions from throughout the state and will travel to centrally located meeting sites. The State Forensic Pathology Fellow, representing the Council, will attend relevant death investigation training sessions.