



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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Memorandum

To: Authority Members

From: Steve Prisoc
Associate Director, Information Systems Unit

Date: November 20, 2002

Re: Information Systems Unit Report – December 6, 2002, Authority Meeting

This memorandum highlights work performed by the Information Systems Unit.

Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems (IIJIS) Project

Since the last Authority meeting, the following work has been completed on the Illinois Integrated Justice Information Systems (IIJIS) Project:

Strategic Plan: The IIJIS Board met on September 19th and October 30th to review drafts of the IIJIS Strategic Plan. This plan includes an endorsement letter for integration from the current Board; an executive summary; introductory explanations and examples of justice integration; IIJIS mission, vision, and values statements; and guiding principles. The body of the report contains discussions of seven challenges to justice integration, along with the goals, objectives, outcomes, and performance measures associated with each challenge. It concludes with proposed legislation to formalize the IIJIS Governing Board. The plan is now complete and is being printed. Many hours of work went into the plan and credit is due staff members from the Illinois State Police and the Authority as well as the many participants from state and local agencies who contributed their time and expertise to development of the plan.

Scenario Validation and Gap Analysis: IIJIS staff members conducted several meetings with local justice practitioners and integration planners to validate the information needs itemized in the IIJIS Planning Committee's *Scenario for Information Sharing in Illinois*. Staff members also sought to determine through these discussions whether the information exchanges that provide for these needs can be accomplished today, and if not, why. The information obtained from these discussions was analyzed and summarized in a report presented to the IIJIS Planning Committee.

Status of State Justice Information Systems: IIJIS staff members completed research on the status and capabilities of state justice information systems and networks that support or will support offender-based decision making. Summary reports were prepared on the state Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) System, Law Enforcement Agency Data System (LEADS), Illinois Department of Corrections Offender Management System, Automated Victim Notification (AVN) System, Probation On-Line Automated Reporting Information System (POLARIS), Secretary of State Data Systems, and State of Illinois Justice Information Networks (Illinois Century Network and Illinois Frame Relay Service). The reports, which helped frame the nature and extent of information sharing problems throughout the Illinois justice community, were provided to the IIJIS Planning Committee. All reports can be found on the IIJIS Web site, www.icjia.state.il.us/ijjis.

Cook County Exchange Points Mapping: The Cook County Exchange Points Workgroup completed documenting criminal justice information exchange points. Documentation has been prepared which identifies attributes associated with the information exchanges that impact offender criminal history and “current status”. Based on a justice data dictionary developed by national standards-development working groups, staff members are now appending XML (Extensible Markup Language) tags to the data elements that comprise these exchanges.

IIJIS Website: IIJIS staff members continue to post various documents to www.icjia.state.il.us/ijjis. These documents include the latest draft versions of the strategic plan, research reports on state justice information systems and networks, and a gap analysis discussion group summary report.

The Authority’s Web Page

DataNet Upgrade: An upgrade to the existing DataNet is underway and will provide users with additional functionality, including enhanced graphing, mapping, and analytical capabilities.

Website Upgrade: The Authority's website recently added advanced searching capabilities. Users are now able to search for criminal justice documents on our site, across all State of Illinois websites, and on Google.com.

CJ Dispatch: The Authority's twice-monthly e-mailing, the CJ Dispatch, continues to grow in popularity. 1110 users have subscribed, and approximately 5-10 users are added weekly.

Authority Intranet: The Authority's Intranet continues to expand: fresh agency news items are posted weekly and agency announcements are posted as needed. The Intranet provides a central location for electronic forms, agency news and policy documents that can be accessed from each staff person's desktop computer.

Web Site Awards: On October 3rd the Authority was presented with three awards at the annual U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Research and Statistics (JRSA) national conference. Two of the awards were related to the Authority's Web presence and recognize the fine work done by on the Web site by Research and Analysis (R&A) and Information Systems Unit (ISU) staff members. A description of the awards follows:

- **Technical Excellence Award**, which recognizes an Internet website as an outstanding effort in utilizing this electronic media for information dissemination, for the Authority's website.
- **Certificate Of Recognition For Technical Innovation**, which recognizes outstanding examples of leadership in applying new technologies and analysis methods to the information needs of the justice community, for the Authority's web-based CJ DataNet.

The Authority's Information Systems for Law Enforcement

ALERTS: Staff members are working with Illinois Central Management Services and Motorola to continue testing of the ALERTS SCA/Satellite Switch to the Illinois State Police master switch in Springfield for the purpose of finally implementing Datatac2, Motorola's most current production mobile data radio network system.

ALERTS Advisory and Policy Board: The officers of the ALERTS Advisory and Policy Board met on September 4, 2002. This meeting was dedicated to discussions regarding steps needed to establish interoperability among the different mobile data networks in Illinois. The ALERTS Advisory and Police Board's Technical Committee has been working with Authority staff members to research new broadband wireless communication technologies that can be utilized by public safety agencies. ISU staff members along with the ALERTS users will be testing this new broadband wireless technology in the coming year.

PIMS: On October 18, 2002, the Authority hosted a PIMS User Group meeting in Chicago to announce that the vendor selected to provide a replacement for PIMS is MEGG Associates Inc., of Salt Lake City, Utah. At the meeting, current PIMS users in attendance selected "PIMSNet" as the name of this successor to PIMS. Since the meeting, Authority staff members have been working with MEGG Associates to establish a project plan and timeline for the transition to PIMSNet.

PIMS Query Manager Enhancement Project: Staff members continue to work with local agencies to implement this reporting enhancement to PIMS. A method for converting all PIMS data has been developed and will be used to maintain current data in the Query Manager. The new Query Manager is currently being used by four PIMS

agencies. The conversion methodologies that were developed to move data from PIMS into the query manager will be used to migrate data from the existing PIMS to PIMSNet.

InfoNet Website

The InfoNet system is currently available to Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault member agencies. During the past quarter, 50 domestic violence and 30 sexual assault programs accessed InfoNet from more than 120 sites throughout the state. The Authority is also partnering with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to release the system to approximately 20 more providers that are not members of either coalition. In addition, the Authority is collaborating with the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois to identify system requirements for more than 40 advocacy centers.

Since the last Authority meeting, the InfoNet team continued to maintain and upgrade the system to meet the needs of current users. Initial page design was also completed for the child advocacy centers. Some specific accomplishments during the past quarter include the following:

- Completed comprehensive code review to eliminate redundant files and implement standard components.
- Installed Microsoft ASP.NET framework on production and development sites.
- Built foundation to support use of .NET technology for future development.
- Deployed strategy to run existing web pages and .NET pages concurrently.
- Prototyped client-related pages using .NET technology.
- Completed administrative report utility, which fully automates center and state-level reporting to funding entities.
- Developed and released four new reports with filtering functionality.
- Presented InfoNet at eight DHS regional meetings.
- Provided two trainings for approximately 50 new users.

Customer Service Activities in support of ALERTS, PIMS, ALECS and InfoNet

ISU Customer Service staff members performed thirty-nine support-related site visits to law enforcement agencies between August 21 and November 14, 2002. A breakdown of these visits by application follows:

- **ALECS** - 8 site visits
- **ALERTS** - 19 site visits
- **PIMS** - 3 site visits
- **InfoNet** - 9 site visits

930 calls for information systems support were handled between August 21 and November 14, 2002.

Improvements to the Authority's Networking Infrastructure

ISU Systems Support staff members have begun to support ALECS agencies that have chosen to remove their 56Kbps leased-line service that provided direct connectivity to the Authority network. These agencies now reach the Authority through the Cook County Wide-Area Network via dedicated T1 circuits at much more robust speeds (1.5Mbps). Each switchover requires a combined reconfiguration effort involving network administrators at the client agency, Cook County, and the Authority. Extensive documentation has been written to support this process.

The Authority is working to procure four new rack-mountable servers that will host two new information systems, PIMSNet and a prototype Microsoft Windows-based version of ALERTS. In addition, a total of 33 new PCs have been procured in order to improve user productivity by replacing aging and obsolete equipment. These new PCs will be installed over the next three months.

On Saturday, November 9, 2002, the 120 S. Riverside Plaza building engineers performed scheduled maintenance of the building's electrical systems that resulted in an intentional power outage lasting several hours. Thanks to advance planning and a detailed procedural plan, all Authority network systems were safely shut down and restarted successfully without significant failures. ISU Staff members used the downtime to replace aging equipment that would have normally required scheduled downtime for installation.

Since the last Authority meeting, Systems Support staff members resolved 162 problem tickets ranging from simple issues involving users' "how-to" questions, to site visits entailing complete installation of the ALECS software package.