

# Executive Summary

## Overview

Justice agencies throughout Illinois recognize the central importance of sharing accurate and complete information in a timely manner. Enterprise-wide information sharing improves the quality of justice and public safety by eliminating error-prone redundant data entry, providing timely access to critical information, enabling information sharing without regard to time or space, and improving the consistency and reliability of information at key decision points.

The integration of justice, public safety, and other forms of governmental information transcends the day-to-day operational needs and priorities of justice agencies and becomes, in light of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a national security imperative. Integration, however, is needed not only to respond to threats of international terrorism, but also for domestic terrorism, major incident response, natural disasters, and to support the daily operation of our justice and public safety enterprise.

In recognition of these evolving priorities, members of state, local, and county agencies throughout Illinois began planning for a broad program of justice integration. At this group's request, the Governor signed Executive Order Number 12 (2001) creating the Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IIJIS) Governing Board. The Governing Board is comprised of representatives from state and local justice agencies, social service agencies, and other key stakeholders.

The Governing Board was charged with coordinating and directing the State's integrated justice planning efforts. In order to provide formalized guidance, the Governing Board created two committees: the Planning Committee and the Technical Committee. A third committee, the Outreach Committee, was subsequently convened to develop general information and educational resources for the public and the justice community regarding integrated justice, to identify and garner support from statewide decision-makers, and to seek commitment from stakeholders.

The Planning Committee was convened to create a strategic plan for the integration of justice information systems throughout Illinois. In order to draft such a plan, the Planning Committee created the *Scenario for Information Sharing in Illinois*, a vision of the future state of integration in Illinois.

The Technical Committee was convened to conduct a needs assessment to investigate and analyze the existing components of the Illinois justice process in order to document any gaps between the desired state of integration, as set forth in the Scenario, and current information sharing practices in Illinois. That needs assessment included the identification of data exchange points in the Illinois justice system to determine where automation would enhance the timely sharing of accurate and complete information. This provided a foundation for future projects aimed at automating those exchanges

where participants are willing and ready. The combined work of the Planning and Technical Committees led to the identification of the following seven strategic issues.

## Strategic Issues

**Issue 1.** A Governing Body comprised of major stakeholders to oversee and guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of effective electronic justice information sharing initiatives.

The Governing Body must be created legislatively to set goals and objectives for integrated justice information systems, to foster communication and collaboration with justice stakeholders, to coordinate the funding of integration efforts, and to maintain public accountability of the justice system.

**Issue 2.** Integrated collecting and sharing of justice data.

Relevant information must be collected in an automated fashion and electronically shared among appropriate justice, public safety, and governmental agencies and courts. In order to coordinate and share information electronically, the utilization of interoperable technological applications must be encouraged throughout the justice/public safety enterprise.

**Issue 3.** Serve justice, public safety, and homeland security needs while protecting privacy, preventing unauthorized disclosures of information, and allowing appropriate public access.

The broad interests of justice, public safety, and homeland security initiatives must be addressed while respecting individual privacy interests, preventing unauthorized disclosures of information, and enabling appropriate public access to relevant information. To prevent unauthorized disclosures of information while allowing appropriate access, a uniform Privacy Policy must be developed based upon fair information practices and adopted by all Illinois justice agencies.

**Issue 4.** Sufficient and coordinated funding and other resources for integration.

An integrated justice information system requires the coordination of integration funding and other resources among national, state, and local participants to promote collaboration and minimize duplication of efforts. Differences in stakeholder needs must be taken into account when allocating integration resources.

**Issue 5.** Established standards/regulations for data sharing and infrastructure development.

Integrated justice information sharing requires the development and implementation of information system standards and regulations for data sharing and infrastructure development. These standards and regulations must be compatible with national integrated justice initiatives.

**Issue 6.** Secure, reliable, effective, and efficient information technology (IT) infrastructure that facilitates justice information sharing.

To promote the availability, reliability, stability, and coverage of justice information across agency and jurisdictional boundaries, the existing IT infrastructure must be expanded, enhanced, and maintained.

**Issue 7.** Rapid identification through biometric technologies.

Because of the consequences of decision-making throughout the justice and public safety enterprise, positive identification of individuals must be established through the use of various biometric technologies. In order to expand the use of biometrics for rapid identification of subjects, cost-effective technological applications must be identified and any legal or public policy barriers regarding their use documented.

## Conclusion

Integration and the automated sharing of relevant information throughout the justice enterprise is essential for public safety, homeland security, quality of justice, and the efficient expenditure of scarce public resources. Successful planning, implementation, and management requires disciplined and visionary leadership, strong and active support among all stakeholder agencies and branches of government, sustained financial support and effective management, technical development of standards and infrastructure, and policy development to facilitate appropriate business practices and legal policies.

The Strategic Plan presented here outlines a course of action that will enable Illinois to build general systems capabilities to get the right information to the right people at the right time. By adopting and executing this plan, we can initiate the steps necessary to develop a justice information sharing capability that will benefit all people in Illinois.