



Beacon for Justice

October 2008



Newsletter for Justice Information Sharing Practitioners

Letter from the Chair

Dear Mr. President, information sharing is important

By Maury Mitchell, Director, Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center

If you had the ear of the new President, what would tell him regarding the state of information sharing among state, local, and tribal practitioners across our nation? By the time most of you read this, we will have selected our new Commander-in-Chief. I hope the next administration recognizes our importance, in fact, our criticality, to the stability and security of our nation.

Certainly, today, there are more and better non-financial resources available to the Justice IT Practitioner than ever. To name a few, we can access resources through NIEM, it.ojp.gov, Global, numerous training opportunities, and let us not forget JISP! And while these are tremendously helpful, information sharing cannot advance without funding. We all have noticed how Congress and the President have chipped away at our financial resources such as the Byrne and NCHIP grants. BJA, NIJ (and even DHS) and other traditional funders have all faced substantial cutbacks. Further, these grants are not just for information sharing---they have to cover everything from protective vests to flu vaccines and new radios.

My biased viewpoint would be that our area of expertise should receive priority. Technology is better than ever. We can do more for less. CSI and Tom

Clancy technological crime solving is now possible. But it does have a cost. Well done information sharing delivers a much greater bang for the buck than so many other areas of justice-related spending. I hope under the new administration, federal agencies will better coordinate (e.g. DHS and DOJ) their guidelines and grant-related opportunities as they try to provide us direction. And, as long as I'm wishing, I wish the agencies themselves would get on the same page within.

Just know that JISP will continue to help you navigate these complicated waters. We'll represent our community and be your voice. This coming year we're branching out even more and will begin to host webinars. But ultimately, JISP is a place for each of us as justice IT practitioners to contribute and network together as a community. JISP has grown so much in the past few years (more than 800 members today) and our presence seems to make a difference. Thanks to each of you for participating.

On a personal note, I'll be stepping down as the chairman of JISP at the end of the year. What a rewarding time I have had. May each of you be incredibly successful in achieving our important mission!

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2008

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Wisconsin Practitioner Receives 1st Annual JISP Beacon for Justice Award and Leaves Practitioners with a "Homework Assignment"

By: Tammy Woodhams, NCJA

At his retirement in July 2008, Gerry Coleman, was the Director of the Crime Information Bureau, responsible for Wisconsin's law enforcement computer network, state criminal history record repository, stolen vehicle and wanted person files, fingerprint identification and a handgun hotline. For the past 25 years, Gerry was an administrative manager for the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

During his career as a national technology leader, Gerry was the FBI/CJIS and NLETS Systems Officer for Wisconsin. He is a past president of Nlets, served as chair of the Joint Task Force for rap sheet standardization, chair of the Global Security Architecture Committee, and member of the FBI's NCIC and Identification Services subcommittees. He chaired Wisconsin's Justice Integration Technical Committee, and chaired the XML workgroup advising the National Institute on Standards and Technology (NIST) on revisions to the fingerprint transmission standard. He is known by many as "the father of XML."

He has been a mentor to many information sharing practitioners over the years. The 1st Annual JISP Beacon Award was presented to Gerry at the 27th Annual NAJIS Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bonnie Locke, Director for Program Management for Nlets, and former JISP Board President shared a story about how Gerry encouraged her during the early days of her career. Receiving the award in front of 150 of his peers, Gerry was recognized for his leadership and contributions to the justice information sharing field, and serving as a "Beacon for Justice" throughout his career.



In his characteristic thoughtful manner and style, Gerry left practitioners with the following homework assignment:

Go back and...

- 1) Ask your staff "how is wireless technology going to change what we do?"
- 2) Read the NIST Standard #10 on Facial Recognition.
<http://fingerprint.nist.gov/standard/>
(link to PDF copies of the NIST standard [XML and non-XML, which both have identical information about facial images]. Look at Subject Acquisition Profiles and MPEG4 Feature Point Coding, located on page 88 and 95 of the XML version.)
- 3) Reclaim DNA---it belongs in Justice Information Sharing.

Gerry continues to be a member of JISP and his contact information is in the membership directory. Gerry is enjoying retirement and spending more time with his family. He is also a musician playing in several bands, including the Black Diamond Band.

The Las Vegas 2008 NAJIS Conference Was a Resounding Success

By Laura Radke, President, NAJIS



This year's National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) Conference, held in fabulous Las Vegas, attracted the highest number of participants in the 27 years that NAJIS has sponsored conferences. The well-attended sessions covered many topics important to public sector justice IT practitioners.

NAJIS Recognizes Outstanding Commitment to Justice Information Sharing:

One conference highlight was the recognition of John Georgen, a NAJIS founding member, past president and current treasurer. A few years ago, the NAJIS Board of Directors created an award in memory of another NAJIS past president, Kelly Bacon. Kelly was a driving force behind the organization, and NAJIS lost a tremendous advocate when Kelly passed away in 1996. This Kelly Bacon award was created to recognize individuals like Kelly, who made significant ongoing contributions to NAJIS and to the mission of improving justice information systems, nationally.

John participated in all 27 NAJIS conferences as a conference planner and participant, and is the only remaining charter NAJIS member. During his time with NAJIS, John served as Secretary, Vice President, President, and for many years now, Treasurer.

During John's tenure as President, NAJIS evolved from a prosecution centric user group to a more general justice-oriented information technology organization and John was instrument in this gradual transition, which increased participation at annual NAJIS conferences by non-prosecution justice practitioners. This year's recognition of John by the Board was much deserved and long overdue, particularly since

NAJIS would not likely be in existence without John's 27 years of hard work and dedication.

We are looking forward to another outstanding conference in Nashville in September of 2009. Our agenda will continue to focus on topics that are most relevant to the challenges justice IT managers face today. We welcome recommendations on future agenda topics as we begin to craft the program for next year's conference, so please

do not hesitate to send any suggestions directly to me at laura.radke@wi.gov.

While the NAJIS Board understands that most jurisdictions will be facing some very difficult financial challenges during the coming year, likely resulting in fewer travel opportunities for many of you, we remain committed to providing the absolute best value for your limited training dollars.

See you next September in Nashville!



We are the Voice of the Practitioner
We are the Community for the Practitioner

Through JISPnet.org you can:

:: Network with your peers

:: Share innovations

:: Find answers and examples

:: Express your concerns

For more information about JISP membership click on benefits!

Use of NIEM Continues to Expand, as Leadership Transitions



The following update contains excerpts from a number of press releases and news articles. The staff at the IJIS Institute contributed heavily to the following content.

The National Information Exchange Model (www.niem.gov) Program was launched on February 28, 2005, as a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). NIEM is a federal, state, local, and tribal interagency initiative providing a foundation for seamless information exchange. The release of NIEM 2.0 in July 2007 marked a significant turning point as NIEM transitioned from a pilot project to an operational program. NIEM adoption and use continues to spread across the country and into new disciplines as diverse as emergency management and family services. The following is small samples of recent NIEM activity. To keep up to speed on all new NIEM developments, visit www.niem.gov, and subscribe to the NIEM News electronic newsletter.

NIEM Leadership Makes Historic Transition

On October 10, 2008 the NIEM Executive Steering Council named Donna Roy from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the new NIEM Executive Director. This transitions overall leadership of the Program from one founding federal partner, the US Department of Justice, to the other, the US Department of Homeland Security. The program continues to be a joint DOJ and DHS partnership, as DOJ's Jeremy Warren hands the reins over to Ms. Roy. For all the details, including an open letter from DOJ CIO Vance Hitch, go to http://www.niem.gov/New_Executive_Director_Announcement.pdf.

Case Studies Posted in NIEM Library

The NIEM Program, supported by the IJIS Institute, has begun posting two-page adoption and use case studies on www.niem.gov. Case studies on Alabama, New York State, Pennsylvania, Texas, and a collaboration between California and Nevada have been posted so far. These case studies are available on the Website downloads page <http://www.niem.gov/library.php>.

Pennsylvania State Police and Nlets Pave the Way for Interstate Sharing

Pennsylvania State Police and Nlets, have partnered on the first of what will become many NIEM implementations for interstate –and eventually international –sharing through Nlets' International Justice and Public Safety Network. According to an Nlets press release, Major Huascar Rivera, Director of the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Communications and Information Services said, "I'm very pleased that Pennsylvania State Police personnel, working with our contractor and Nlets, were able to complete this critical project so quickly... The financial support from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics] and technical assistance from Nlets has helped Pennsylvania to maintain its position as a national leader in information sharing and technology." For more information on this pioneering implementation visit www.nlets.org.

Federal Adoption of NIEM Accelerates

At the federal level NIEM is supporting unprecedented information sharing and integration at the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, as well as in the Intelligence community, and even the military. These successes may originate inside the Beltway, but they

will ultimately benefit state and local practitioners as well.

DHS has incorporated NIEM into its Enterprise Architecture and has established a comprehensive program to ensure adoption and transition of its information sharing systems to NIEM. All of the major mission components within DHS are using NIEM or preparing to use NIEM in the next 6-12 months. And Government Computing News recently touted an emerging partnership between NIEM and the Defense Department, known as UCore (see http://www.gcn.com/print/27_20/46900-1.html?page=1).

The FBI has plans to migrate exchanges for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) nationwide information system to NIEM, and its highly-touted N-DEX system is expected to comprise over 200,000 users engaged in NIEM-based exchanges. See www.fbi.gov/hq/cjis/ndex/ndex_home.htm for more details.

Finally, the Information Sharing Environment's (PM-ISE) (www.ise.gov) Suspicious Activity Reporting, or SAR work continues to expand. The SAR Operational Study Pilot involves three state-level fusion centers: Virginia, New York, and Florida. Based on findings from an evaluation sponsored by the Major City Chiefs Association, PM-ISE has approved an expansion to include up to nine major cities, further leveraging the NIEM SAR IEPD as its data model.

Much more information on federal adoption and use can be found in a Year in Review article that ran in the July edition of NIEM News. It is available at <http://www.niem.gov/newsletter20080731.php>.

IJIS Institute and JISP offer expertise at Interoperable Communications Conference

By Jason Hutchens, Indiana Department of Homeland Security

The inaugural Indiana Interoperable Communications Conference rolled out the Indiana Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and offered detailed information regarding the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant. The conference, hosted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana Public Safety Commission was held on July 1 and 2, and had over 230 registrants from public safety disciplines representing 81 Indiana counties.

"The ability to have both IJIS and JISP involved at this significant conference

"The ability to have both IJIS and JISP involved at this significant conference provided Hoosier public safety professionals a better understanding of national efforts, standards and lessons learned."

provided Hoosier public safety professionals a better understanding of national efforts, standards and lessons learned," said Jason Hutchens, Indiana Department of Homeland Security planning division director and Justice Information Sharing Practitioners (JISP) Board of Director Member.

Jim Pingel, JISP Board of Director Member and Integrated Justice Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Fellow, delivered a presentation on the

NIEM. Providing a keynote address on the future of data interoperability was Matthew D'Allesandro, IJIS Board of Director member. Also present and participating was Hutchens who discussed Indiana's current data interoperability success and future opportunities.

Demonstrations and training on use of the Communications Assets Survey and Mapping tool were provided along with discussion on planning for future data interoperability and additional technology issues on the horizon. Public safety professionals were able to discuss regional working groups, scenario planning, standards as well as the future of data interoperability in the State of Indiana.

SAVE THE DATE!

2009 NATIONAL FORUM ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY



AUGUST 9-11, 2009

**HYATT REGENCY BELLEVUE
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON**

2008 Regional Criminal Justice Priorities

Each year at the National Forum criminal justice practitioners gather to discuss regional concerns and priorities

Every year at the National Criminal Justice Association's (NCJA) annual membership meeting, the National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, criminal justice policy makers and practitioners from across the country convene in regional caucuses to identify what they consider the most pressing issues facing the criminal justice community. This year, the regional caucuses were held on August 4, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The decline in state and federal assistance for criminal justice programming,

inmate reentry into society, recidivism, and gangs and gun violence were recurring issues for all regions of the country. The top three priorities identified by each of these regional caucuses are provided on the left.

To learn more about the priorities and concerns identified by regional caucus participants including a look at the commonalities and differences found between the regions and across the country please visit the NCJA website at <www.ncja.org> to read the full length paper.

Enhancements to the JISPnet.org website

By Carla Scepaniak, Webmaster, Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center on behalf of JISPnet.org

As the webmaster for the JISPnet.org site, I just wanted to touch base with everyone to inform you about an enhancement to the Membership Directory search and recap a little about our Document Repository.

I worked mostly behind the scenes to provide a more powerful and flexible search mechanism for you. Now, you may do an Internet-style search by itself or combine it with filters, or you may search based upon filters alone. The flexible portion of the search contains each member's name, title, agency, and address. The filters available are state, member expertise, information-sharing initiatives, profession, jurisdiction, and agency type. There is a help link next to the search box which lists some quick tips on how to formulate your search using search terms and wildcard characters.

Along with the Membership Directory,

the Document Repository is an incredible asset for the JISP membership base. It is part of the defining purposes of the network: to share information, to learn from other practitioners, to study the successes of other states, to showcase your own innovations, and to spark new ideas. It's just one simple step to add a document of your own. In your member area left-side menu, you also have the links to manage documents you upload. And, if you have an idea for a new category, please feel free to contact Tammy Woodhams at twoodhams@ncja.org. She works diligently and does a great job every day to help members with their requests.

If you have any remarks concerning the technical aspects of the website, please feel free to contact me at any time, at carla.scepaniak@alacop.gov. Thank you for allowing me to share this information with you and have a wonderful day.

Priorities As Identified By Region

Northeast

- >> The culture of urban violent crime (guns, younger shooters, the stop snitching movement)
- >> Reentry, including community-based wraparound services
- >> General crime prevention

Midwest

- >> Decreases in funding
- >> Development and evaluation of evidence based policy that emphasizes best practices

- >> Gangs and gun violence

South

- >> Criminal justice strategic planning

- >> Offender reentry

- >> Gang violence

West

- >> Decreasing federal funding

- >> Information sharing (NDex, inaccurate records, quality, etc.)

- >> Recidivism and reentry issues

NCJA Receives BJA Grant to Increase Knowledge of National Standards and Models for Justice Information Sharing



By: Cabell Cropper, Executive Director, NCJA

I am pleased to announce NCJA has been awarded a \$238,000 grant by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to Increase Knowledge of National Standards and Models for Justice Information Sharing.

The goal of this project is to improve the capacity and management of information sharing efforts nationwide by facilitating communication among justice technology practitioners and managers, and offering training, technical assistance, guidance and direction regarding national standards and model approaches. To accomplish this goal, the NCJA, in collaboration with the Justice Information Sharing Practitioners (JISP) Steering Committee, will accomplish five primary objectives and key deliverables:

- 1) Host web-based practitioner training (webinars).
> Deliverables: ten practitioner focused webinars regarding national standards and initiatives, and lessons learned by seasoned practitioners.
- 2) Maintain a website to serve as a central clearinghouse of resources regarding criminal justice information sharing initiatives.
> Deliverables: on-line document library, comprehensive National Directory of Practitioners, member forum and calendar of events.
- 3) Create increased awareness of justice information sharing initiatives.
> Deliverables: national policy and standards information distribution, and the quarterly JISP Newsletter, *Beacon for Justice*.

- 4) Serve as voice for practitioners by providing input to federal and national justice information sharing organizations.
> Deliverables: practitioner involvement in national committees, liaison to industry through the IJIS Institute, maintain the Justice Information Sharing Practitioners virtual network.
- 5) Convene four focus groups of practitioners to provide direction and content to the project activities.
> Deliverables: project plans, content for webinars and publications.

We at NCJA are excited to continue our work with JISP. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this or any other NCJA initiative.

JISP Reaches Out to Native American Law Enforcement Chiefs

By: Ada Pecos-Melton, American Indian Development Associates

An important JISP activity is to reach out to Native American criminal justice practitioners working throughout Indian Country. Tribal justice and public safety agencies are making significant headway in their information sharing efforts, however, several critical challenges present obstacles to successful information sharing among Indian nation justice agencies with their counterparts in tribal and non-tribal jurisdictions. Indian nations have been unable to develop the increasingly sophisticated systems now found in state and federal agencies. In part, this has occurred because state and federal agencies already have the capacity for technological innovation, while most tribal justice systems do not. Although significant funding has been allocated to the development and implementation of jus-

tice information sharing platforms, Indian nations have yet to benefit from these funds. Despite the growing need for information sharing within tribes, across tribes, between tribes and state governments, and between tribes and the federal government, little progress has been achieved.

Understanding the information sharing challenges faced by tribal justice practitioners, JISP is supporting strategies to increase access to information and services to Tribes through the JISP network and through in-person recruitment and outreach. Once such activity occurred on March 17-18, 2008 with JISP representation at the International Association of Chiefs of Police - Indian Country Law Enforcement Section (ICLES) mid-year meeting hosted by

the Paiute Tribe in Las Vegas, NV. JISP Board Member, Ada Pecos Melton was an invited speaker to discuss information sharing initiatives occurring among several New Mexico Pueblos and to highlight the resources available to tribal justice practitioners through the JISP Network.

The ICLES is comprised of tribal Chiefs of Police from throughout Indian Country. The group provided a warm welcome and indicated strong interest in working with and through JISP to obtain needed information to its members. Several ICLES members joined the JISP network during the meeting. JISP will continue to work with the ICLES leadership to ensure that tribal justice practitioners receive critical information and access the technical assistance available through JISP.

Member Spotlight: Meet Julie Lange

Julie is the SEAJIS Program Manager for the Seattle (Washington) Police Department

How long have you been in the justice field?

I've been involved in the justice industry for over 12 years. I started in the private sector, as a Program Manager for a law enforcement records management system in Montana. Later I went to work for a DNA research and testing facility. My firm tested a large number of in-custody felons as part of the CODIS program. For the past two years, I've been the SEAJIS (Seattle Justice Information System) Program Manager for the Seattle Police Department.

What types of justice information sharing activities are you involved in?

Seattle PD is pursuing new electronic exchanges among our courts and law enforcement agencies. Specifically, we are automating business process among law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and our municipal court systems. This eliminates previous paper based exchanges through web services and the enterprise service bus implemented by SEAJIS. These exchanges are based on NIEM standards and were migrated from GJXDM. Specific exchanges include in-custody and out of custody case data between King County Jail, Seattle PD, Seattle Municipal Courts and Seattle City Attorney departments. Additionally we automate the transfer of citations to the court system, state hot sheet data to Seattle PD, and on demand access to arrest and police incident data for Seattle Municipal Courts and Seattle City Attorney for efficient and effective case management.



Are you involved with any state/local/national boards/committees/councils that support justice information sharing? If so, please name them.

I was recently appointed to the Regional Automated Information Network (RAIN) Governance Board. RAIN is a King County law enforcement information sharing initiative among 39 law enforcement agencies within King County, including the City of Seattle. It is also integrated with LINX and the King County Jail Management System.

What are you most excited about in the field of justice information sharing?

Streamlining the availability of data. I am always on the look out for processes that can be improved, automated and monitored. One of the nice things about working with electronic

data is the metrics that can be captured. They present a very concrete, accurate assessment of what is happening and help identify the next opportunities for improvement.

How are your justice information sharing activities funded?

Our support and maintenance funding is provided through the City of Seattle's operating budget. As new initiatives arise, we pursue federal grants for development costs. Current and previous projects have been funded primarily through JAG and GEAP (Grants to Encourage Arrest and Prosecution) funds. We are always looking for new ways to fund an increasing number of initiatives, including requesting congressional appropriations and soliciting private sector endowments and contributions. The Seattle Police Department is committed to providing services without passing along costs to other stakeholders.

Tell us something about yourself (favorite hobbies, vacation spot, etc.):

I consider myself a practical person that balances realities of a demanding job and private life. We have several horses and that really helps me get away from it all. I tell people my horses only have one speed – Faster than they are going right now! I also lay claim to making the world's best cheesecake. I've also commemorated the launch of every new SEAJIS exchange with what has become known as SEAJIS cookies. My steering committee has been suggested that in lieu of new federal funding that I hold 'BAKE SALE FOR SEAJIS' events. I'm sure they were kidding...