President's Message
Planning Conference Requires Organizational Agility

For those of you who have ever planned a large conference and negotiated a contract with a hotel, you know that seldom do you enter this relationship from a position of strength. You can nibble around the edges of the contract and negotiate some concessions, but more often than not, you have to accept their terms and conditions. Organizing this year's conference was no different but had a few extra twists.

Originally, this year's conference was going to be held in New Orleans. However, for obvious reasons, we felt a change of venue was appropriate. The hotel graciously offered to move us to Miami to one of their other facilities. After visiting this site and confirming our arrangements, we began our marketing activities, only to have the hotel decide to close for renovations this spring! (Needless to say, the contract had no penalty provision for them if they cancelled the contract).

So now we've changed locations again. Hopefully for the final time, and hopefully all for the best. This year's conference is still being held in South Florida but at the Boca Raton Resort and Beach Club from September 20 – 22, an exciting ocean-front resort that offers a multitude of amenities.

Fortunately, we have not had to be so nimble with our conference agenda. We've got great sessions and speakers scheduled to address a wide range of topics of interest to NAJIS members. As in the past, we retain our focus on integrated justice and data sharing. There are many national, state and local activities in this arena, and it is important for consumers of criminal justice information to understand where these initiatives are headed. We have sessions in the applicability of other technologies in criminal justice as well. A complete conference agenda is included in this newsletter.

We're excited about this year's conference, our twenty-fifth announced event. NAJIS continues to focus on the practical use of technology from the perspective of practitioners. We hope that you are equally interested in these topics and plan to attend.

Mary Young

NAJIS President

Wisconsin Tracks Sex Offenders with New Technology
Alison Poe, Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Tracking sex offenders who fail to register with the State of Wisconsin has become the challenge of a new technology-oriented initiative to protect the State's kids and communities. Governor Jim Doyle recently introduced a comprehensive program that highlights use of new technologies as well as old-fashion relationships to go after non-registrants. His goal is to ensure that highly publicized tragedies experienced in other states don't happen in Wisconsin. In introducing the Sex Offender Apprehension and Felony Enforcement (SAFE) initiative, Governor Doyle said, "Here in Wisconsin, we're going to go find sex offenders where they are. We're going to make sure we are using the latest, most modern technology, and we're going to connect the dots between law enforcement agencies so we tighten the net around offenders and protect our kids."

What is unique about SAFE is its reliance on modern, electronic crime fighting tools to hunt for sex offenders trying to avoid registration and identification. A central core of investigators use electronic tools locate offenders and then call on their former peers to serve warrants on located offenders. Expanded use of GPS technol-

ogy, also part of the SAFE initiative, makes it easier to keep track of sex offenders.

The initial focus is on offenders who have assaulted children. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) assign sex offender registry specialists and retired law enforcement professionals (OJA) to "SAFE Teams" that locate and seek warrants for sex offenders who fail to register as required by state law. Some non-registrants are trying to hide, others may be negligent. With 18,000 total registered sex offenders, the target population of non-registered offenders is approximately 2,600. Over 60% of those committed crimes involving juveniles or children.

Five months into the program, 436 delinquent offenders have been tracked down with 153 arrests and nearly 200 found to have been deported with warrants issued for the vast majority of those. A smaller number has simply registered and so are now compliant. In addition, the team has found non-registrants in prison and a few who have died.

Complete Criminal Histories—A Key Measure of Integration Success

By Mark Perbix and Owen Greenspan, SEARCH

Ensuring accurate and complete criminal history information for offenders is a key goal of data sharing in criminal justice. Such information is a foundation for decision-making throughout the criminal justice process. Law enforcement, prosecution, court, probation and corrections officials all directly benefit from knowing as much as possible about offenders they encounter. This information is particularly critical in countless situations where officer safety may be at risk. Criminal histories are also used for an array of non-criminal justice purposes, such as background screening of applicants including those associated with protection of children, elder care, homeland security and firearms purchase. Background screening enhances public security by denying jobs and opportunities to those whose histories suggest a potential to do harm. In a very real sense, public safety is dependent on the quality of criminal history record information (CHRI).

Historically, criminal history systems have operated within the law enforcement arena. State CHRI repositories are typically managed by police or public safety agencies and were first established primarily to serve law enforcement needs. The arrest data contained in these systems typically comes from law enforcement sources – an arrest or booking agency. Most states initiate entry of criminal history information based on fingerprint records. This mirrors the long-standing policy at the federal level where the national repository administered by the FBI is also fingerprint based.

Recording the justice system disposition for these arrests is often managed by law enforcement, as well as based upon data received or gleaned from other sources – most notably the courts. While there are several other forms of arrest disposition (informal adjustments, declined prosecutions, diversion or simply a decision not to move the case forward), the courts are responsible for the vast majority of arrest dispositions and are of critical importance to the overall completeness of the criminal history record.

Some states still have paper-based offender tracking systems where a form is used to track information from arrest through adjudication. This approach can and has worked, but it has limitations. The most significant of these is simply that the form fails to be completed and returned to the repository for entry into the criminal history system. In other instances, the form may not accurately capture the complete court disposition and sentence, with the result that the record in the criminal history does not match the factual prosecutorial or court disposition. Even in states where an automated court case management system provides on-line updating of disposition information to the state central repository, it is not uncommon to find that only some counties within the state participate. Further, for a variety of reasons matching the court disposition information to an arrest entry is not possible, leading to a situation where the disposition remains unassociated with the corresponding arrest and consequently is unavailable to users of criminal history information.

Several Federal grant programs and related initiatives have helped States modernize and implement a broad range of enhancements. Since 1995, the National Criminal History Improvement Program has funneled more than $500 million to the States to promote quality, completeness and accessibility of criminal records. The Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program has also been a source of hundreds of millions of dollars that has been directed to improvement of criminal records systems. Yet at the end of 2003 just 26 States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, representing 57% of the nation's criminal history records reported that 60% or more of arrests in the entire database have final dispositions recorded. Only 15 States and Puerto Rico reported that 80% or more of arrests in the criminal history database had final dispositions recorded.

Challenges of Integration

Automating this process is no simple task, however it has been successfully accomplished at the local, county, regional and state levels. The accuracy of criminal history records is improved by capturing the disposition and sentence information directly from the court. By automating the process, the possibilities of human error are greatly reduced. Records are more complete because all court dispositions are shared with the repository. For many users of criminal history information and certainly an accused, it is just as important that a not guilty verdict be reflected on the criminal history as is a guilty verdict. Automation also significantly improves timeliness. What may take days or weeks to accomplish using a paper-based system can be accomplished in minutes via automation.

While there are always organizational, philosophical and technological barriers to be overcome when building information sharing systems, there have been many improvements over the past few years that make this process simpler. Often criminal justice information systems within a political jurisdiction are made up of different computers and database systems that maintain data in varying forms to meet the needs of their customers. In the past, many an integration project foundered on the rocks of data mapping. Seldom do these different systems use the same data in exactly the same form or structure, and determining which agency would "win" the data mapping war was often a showstopper. With the advent of the U. S. Department of Justice's Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM), many of these challenges have been mitigated. The GJXDM provides a *lingua franca* for justice agencies to share information where no one agency gets to dictate form and format. GJXDM reflects the input of all actors in the criminal justice system. It provides the format to which all agencies can conform.

With the growing utility and maturity of the Internet, agencies can implement exchange relationships using common rather than propriety technologies. Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) is one of many available technologies that enable computers to talk with one another. It has the advantage of being non-proprietary and has been implemented by most technology vendors. Combining the common language of GJXDM with the ubiquitous availability of SOA, integration projects face far fewer hurdles in the race to successfully share data.

2006 NAJIS Conference Agenda
"Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary"

Tuesday – September 19, 2006	
5:00-7:30	Pre-Registration and Hospitality Suite

Wednesday – September 20, 2006		
8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast and Registration	
8:30-8:45	Welcome/Opening Remarks	
8:45-9:45	Keynote:	
9:45-10:00	*Break*	
10:00-12:00	NAJIS Participant Roundtable: Justice IT Projects and Problems	
12:00-1:30	Luncheon, Justice Systems Applications Presentations (provided)	
	Business Focus	**Technology Solutions**
1:30-2:30	Electronic Signatures: Getting Rid of the Paper Forever—What Does It Take?	GJXDM and NIEM: Shooting at a Moving Target
2:30-2:45	*Break*	
2:45-3:45	Alternative Funding: Who Took My Low-Hanging Money?	Applying GJXDM: Knowledge for Practical Implementations
3:45-4:00	*Break*	
4:00-5:00	Has Juvenile Data Sharing Grown Up?	Enterprise Service Bus: What Is It and What are the Implications for the Justice Community?
5:00	NAJIS Reception	

Thursday – September 21, 2006		
8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast	
8:45-9:45	IT Project Management: The Five Deadly Sins	
	Business Focus	**Technology Solutions**
9:45-10:45	SAVIN: Why We Need Statewide Automated Victim Notification	Learn How to Build an Absolutely, Positively Secure Network
10:45-11:00	*Break*	
10:45-11:45	Cyber-Murder: How Computer Forensics Trapped A Calculating Killer	Federated Security and Identity: One Key Can Open Many Doors
12:00–1:00	Luncheon	
1:00-2:00	From Disaster Recovery to Business Continuity: New Challenges for Justice Information Officers	Flexible Integration Approaches: One Size Does Not Fit All
2:00-2:15	*Break*	
2:15-3:15	Disposition Matching: Strategies for Improving Criminal Histories.	Advancing Justice Through the Use of DNA Technology
3:15-3:30	*Break*	
3:30-4:30	Performance Management: Using a Three-Legged Stool	Beyond Borders: Regional Information Sharing Efforts
5:30	Outing – Oceanfront Beach Party	

2006 NAJIS Conference Agenda (continued)

Friday – September 22, 2006	
8:00-8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-8:45	Announcements and Survey Prize Drawing/Thumb Drive Distribution
8:45-9:45	State Of Integrated Justice: What You Need to Know from the Federal Perspective
9:45-10:45	Inmate Lookup Service
10:45-12:00	NAJIS Annual Meeting and Elections

2006 NAJIS CONFERENCE AND HOTEL REGISTRATION

For hotel reservation, call 1-888-503-2622, toll free.

Reservations must be made by September 1, 2006. If you require any special accommodations, please notify the hotel when you reserve your room. Registration includes NAJIS membership, conference, program, luncheons, and outing for member.

☐ **Early Bird Registration $395 (by August 1, 2006)**

☐ **Regular Registration $495**

☐ **I WILL be attending the outing (cost included in registration)**

☐ **I plan to bring ___ guest(s) to the outing ($50 per guest)**

Special accommodations needed for conference or outing, contact 888-503-2622

Name:_____

Title:_____

Organization: _____

Address:_____

Phone:_____

E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to NAJIS and send with this form to:

NAJIS
720 7th Street, NW
3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Register On-line at: **www.najis.org**

For additional registration information, call 202-448-1720

For Vendor Information, contact: Gordon Lansford 785-291-3527

Gordon.Lansford@da.state.ks.us

THE VENUE

This year's conference will be held at the Boca Raton Resort and Club in Boca Raton, Florida. This legendary facility is located 24 miles north of Fort Lauderdale Airport and is an exquisite and unique resort offering two championship golf courses, an acclaimed spa and unparalleled service.

Make your hotel reservations now by calling

1-888-503-2622

Inform the hotel registration desk that you will be there for the NAJIS Conference to receive the special conference rate of $120 plus resort day fee of $18 per day.

The resort day fee provides access to fitness facilities, high-speed Internet access, resort shuttle service, and gratuities. The conference block dates are available until September 1, 2006.

If you have the opportunity to extend your stay, conference rates will be available before and after the event. The Resort is also offering conference participants a 50% discount on golf green fees.

THE CONFERENCE

NAJIS conferences focus on top concerns of justice system practitioners. This is the one conference put on by practitioners for practitioners. Conferences are designed to provide forums to exchange ideas, problems and solutions. Ample opportunities are provided to network with speakers and other conference participants.

A vendor exhibition is also provided giving participants the opportunity to look at the latest in technology.

Find out why one 2005 participant said:

"This was my first NAJIS conference and will certainly not be my last. If was one of the most informative conferences I have been to in my career."

The conference fee includes three continental breakfasts, two luncheons, a hospitality suite, reception and conference outing.

Complete Criminal Histories

How do we Measure Success?

Integration and data sharing hold the promise of significantly improving the criminal justice process. Placing the right information in the right hands at the right time is the mantra of many an integration project. But how do we know when this has been achieved?

A simple way to measure improvements in criminal histories is to track the ability to match dispositions with arrests. If all dispositions are being provided to the criminal history repository, then counts of matches provide an empirical measure of success. Simple and accurate – almost. While a logical assumption might be that every arrest should have a disposition that can be measured, this is not always the case. Some arrests are never prosecuted and a court disposition will never be forthcoming. Some court cases are initiated without a fingerprint-backed arrest record in the repository to match the final court disposition.

An alternative approach is to look backwards at the process and match every court disposition to at least one arrest record. This approach does not attempt to account for all arrests. Rather it accounts for all dispositions. While this may also be a less than perfect accounting mechanism, most court case dispositions can be matched to an underlying arrest and the disposition information can be posted to the correct arrest record. This approach has the advantage of being able to account for all potential matches during a specified reporting period. In cases where the court case was initiated without a fingerprint record, most criminal history repositories retain these unmatched dispositions in a searchable suspense file pending the receipt of a related fingerprint record. One hundred percent disposition matching is theoretically possible following this approach .

Conclusion

In a world where more information is needed all of the time, criminal justice professionals must be provided with complete, accurate and timely criminal history information. Improving disposition matching on criminal history records goes a long way to providing this information. Automation through integrated criminal justice information systems is a key strategy to accomplishing this, and success can be empirically assessed with realistic and meaningful performance measures.

For more information on GJXDM and Integrated Systems go to www.it.ojp.gov or www.search.org.

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Monitoring Sex Offenders

Government and commercial databases play a key role in locating offenders. One of the most useful data sources has turned out to be the Immigration and Naturalization Service database that identifies deportees. Technology has also made it possible to track phone calls, search on-line arrest records and identify addresses from DMV, tax and other public databases. Recently, a simple NCIC database search led to a non-registrant who had just been arrested for drunk driving in California and will be extradited back to Wisconsin.

Other SAFE components include: 1) Adding residential addresses of sex offenders to the State's on-line sex offender registry so ordinary citizens can now determine whether sex offenders live in their neighborhood. 2) Adding up to date photos to physical descriptions, compliance status and supervision status already available on the site; 3) Creating a "SAFE Tip" toll-free hotline and e-mail address; 4) Appointing a statewide SAFE Task Force; and, 5) Using GPS to monitor 200 of the State's most dangerous sex offenders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

With the SAFE initiative, the time-consuming legwork of old fashioned investigation has been replaced by rapidly tapping fingers that bring results quickly and accurately. And, the number of offenders on the loose is dwindling with the end result being safer communities.

Alison Poe is the Deputy Director for the Office of Justice Assistance, State of Wisconsin. She can be reached at Alison.poe@ wisconsin.gov

2006 NAJIS Conference in Boca Raton

What Is NAJIS?

The National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) is an organization of individuals responsible for the acquisition, operation and management of local, state and federal criminal justice information systems.

All managers in prosecutor's offices, the courts, law enforcement and allied agencies who design, improve, implement or supervise automated information systems can benefit from participating in NAJIS. Individuals who are investigating, evaluating and purchasing automated systems—both hardware and software—for criminal justice purposes are encouraged to join and participate in NAJIS activities.

NAJIS began in 1981 as the PROMIS (Prosecutors Management Information System) User Group and has grown to encompass the needs of all criminal justice agencies. The promotion of integrated criminal justice and new technologies is the focus of NAJIS.

NAJIS conducts an annual educational conference, publishes a newsletter and website with the goal of improving the criminal justice system through the practical application of technology.

Picture courtesy of the Boca Raton Resort & Club

Mark your calendars for September 20-22, 2006. This year's conference will be held in Boca Raton, Florida at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. Located 24 miles north of Fort Lauderdale Airport, this oceanfront resort offers two golf courses and a highly acclaimed spa. Join us at this amazing venue featuring spectacular views, upscale amenities and personalized service. Watch for conference mailings or check out the NAJIS website at www.najis.org for more information about the 2006 conference.