



2012 Annual Conference Slated for Portland, Maine October 9-12

On October 9th to the 12th, 2012 the National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) will hold its annual conference in the beautiful seaside city of Portland, Maine. The conference will take place at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, located within walking distance of the Atlantic Ocean, the Old Port, the working waterfront and Arts District. The conference will cover topics applicable to the justice community in 2012.

Session topics at this year's conference include success stories about automated information sharing of incident records and offender reentry information, a presentation on the SAVIN IEPD, the impact of social media on criminal justice, the growing use of mobile apps, dis-

aster recovery planning, and improving warrant management and disposition reporting. A complete list of topics is presented on page 5.

A hallmark of the NAJIS conference is the Roundtable session where conference participants have the opportunity to voice their individual successes and challenges as well as learn about those of others. This is a highly regarded session that helps participants identify others who share similar issues and concerns.

NAJIS is an association of individuals responsible for the acquisition, operation, and management of criminal justice information systems. The conference is espe-

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New Mexico Offender Query Faces Cut-Backs

By Steve Prisoc,
Chief Information Officer,
New Mexico Judiciary

The New Mexico Consolidated Offender Query (COQ) is the primary tool that New Mexico judges, police and prosecutors use to determine the criminal past of an arrestee. Of course, all of the decision points in the justice process – arrest, charging and bonding – require knowledge of prior criminal convictions, open warrants and bond forfeitures, and without this Internet-based criminal history portal, justice in New Mexico would become a guessing game for law enforcement, police and prosecutors.

The COQ began in 2004 as a joint project of the New Mexico Justice Information Systems Council, a group of justice agency managers determined to close the criminal history gap in New

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Pennsylvania Provides Dashboard to Access Criminal Justice Data

Lee Ann S. Labecki, Director of Research, PA Commission Crime & Delinquency
Susan Copella, Director, PA State Data Center, Pennsylvania State University

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) in collaboration with the Pennsylvania State Data Center secured federal Justice Assistance and Statistical Justice System funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement a digital dashboard system. These funds are set aside each year to support the nation's fifty Statistical Analysis Centers or SACs. In Pennsylvania, the PCCD's Office of Research, Evaluation, and Strategic Policy Development carries this designation. The dashboard system will support the development and

monitoring of key performance measurements for state and county level justice administrators.

PCCD is committed to improving the administration of justice at the state and local level through the implementation of innovative solutions. At the county level, these efforts have been facilitated through the establishment of county Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs), which include a wide-continuum of county officials from the courts, corrections, law

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Pennsylvania Dashboard

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enforcement, community-based justice organizations, executive branch agencies, health and human service agencies, victims' service agencies, and the faith communities. CJABs use a collaborative approach to justice planning and problem solving.

Much like their state counterparts, the CJABs often lack ready access to formal performance metrics needed to track local justice measures and to drive programmatic decision-making. To better measure the pulse of the adult and juvenile justice system on a routine basis, PCCD is currently implementing a digital dashboard and the associated business intelligence software for its managers as well as for the local CJABs. The digital dashboard will improve decision-making by providing managers with a snapshot of programs and services using near real time data. The dashboard will track key metrics from the following county justice systems:

law enforcement, courts, sentencing, jails, probation/parole, and victims.

The initiative is being piloted in seven counties to validate the benefits, time to implementation, and associated solution costs. Once the concepts are proven to be viable, the dashboards will be implemented on an agency and statewide basis.

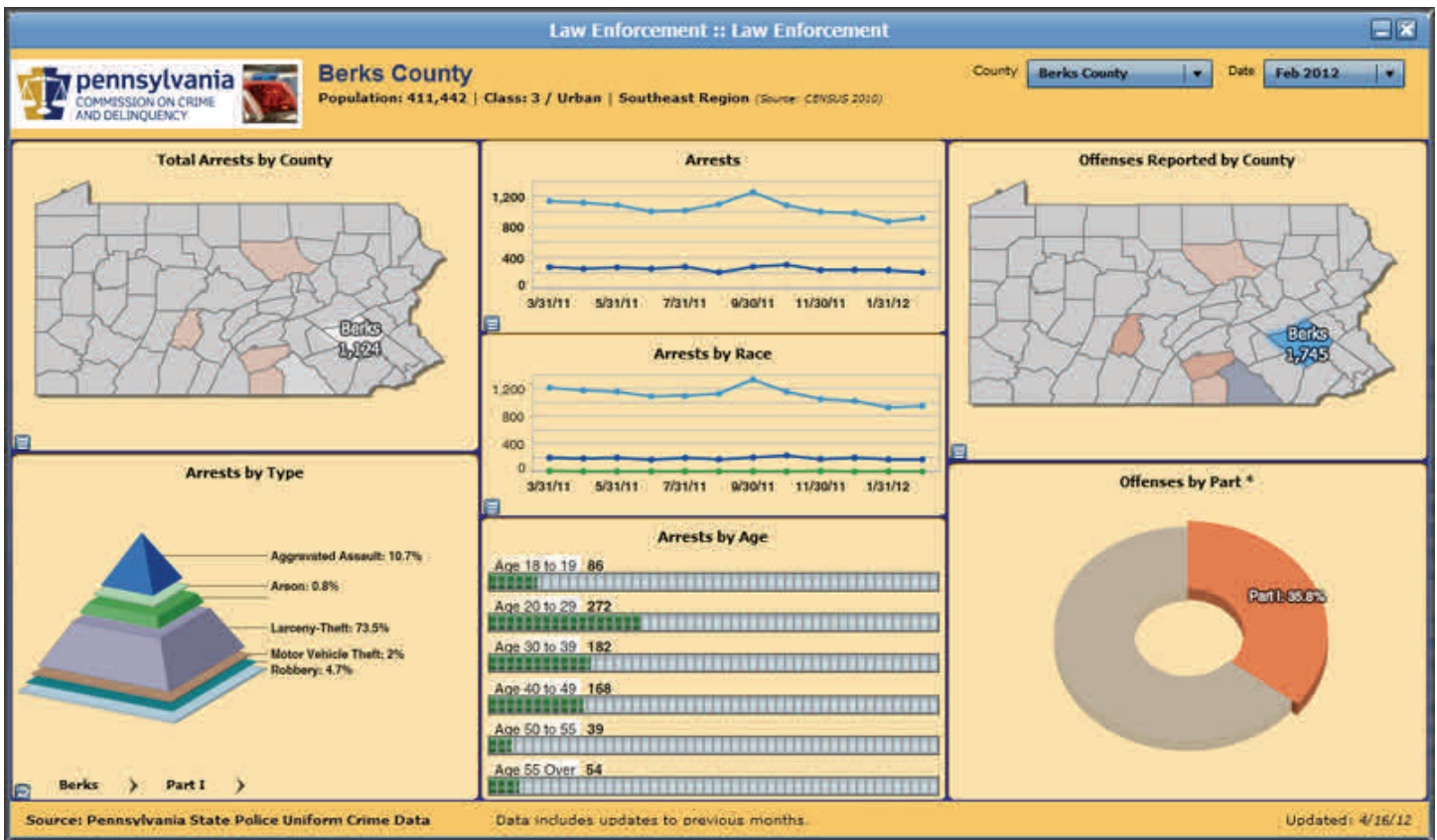
Scope of the Project

The goals of the initiative include assessing available technologies, developing data analysis routines, and working with state and local officials to define key performance indicators. Key project activities included:

- Software Assessment/Procurement – Review of available “off-the-shelf” digital dashboard and related business intelligence software in order to procure the product, via a competitive review process, which best aligns with the preferred application features and the technical specifications as set forth by PCCD’s technical staff.

- Focus Groups – Work with PCCD staff to facilitate focus group meetings with designated stakeholders in order to identify state and county justice performance indicators.
- System Development/Implementation – Work with the selected software vendor and PCCD staff to develop and implement a digital dashboard using the newly procured software.
- Training – Provide user training for staff on the use of the digital dashboard applications prior to system implementation.
- Software Power Users – Train a targeted number of staff as “power users” on the use of the digital dashboard software by the service provider and/or the software provider.
- Support/Maintenance – Provide ongoing support and maintenance, either directly or through the contracted software vendor, for applications once implemented.

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Pennsylvania Dashboard

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Progress and Results

Using previously developed project plans designed to increase access to data, PCCD and the CJABs developed and executed performance measures. Additionally, representatives of the stakeholder groups, including CJAB representatives and PCCD directors, met to determine specific data requirements from the data sources. PCCD also held focus group sessions with county representatives to determine which indicators should be used on each of the CJAB dashboards. Information gathered from the focus groups was used to develop data matrices that were used to build the dashboards.

A technical group was convened to assess the dashboard software packages, to develop and release the RFP, and to evaluate the RFP submissions. The evaluation team selected iDashboards, a digital dashboard software package from Troy, Michigan. iDashboard personnel provided introductory level dashboard and business intelligence training for technical and PCCD

program staff. To obtain the targeted data from agency databases, the team identified the data needs from criminal justice agencies and developed a data integration strategy. They then developed prototype storyboards for each of the targeted CJAB dashboards, identified content, source of data, desired presentation, and data drill-down requirements. Development and deployment of the preliminary CJAB dashboards for Courts, Sentencing, Jails, Probation and Parole, and Victim Services to the pilot counties is currently in process.

The pilot dashboards are set for implementation in July 2012. PCCD has already submitted and received tentative approval from the Bureau of Justice Statistics for a 2012 State Justice Statistics Grant that will permit the stakeholder deployment of the CJAB dashboard to the remaining 58 boards in Pennsylvania. Sample CJAB Data and Dashboard screens are shown below.

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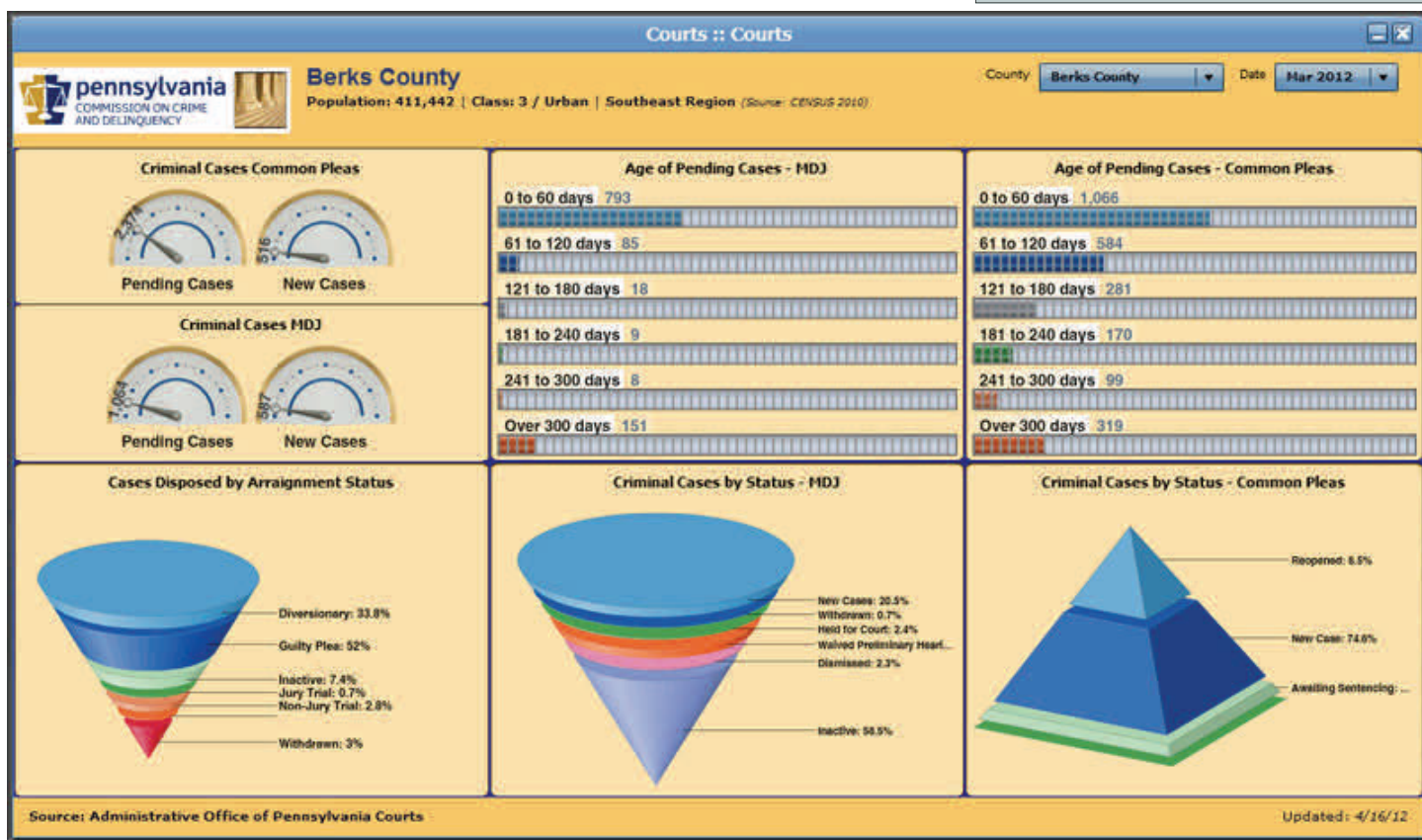
What Is NAJIS?

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

All practitioners in prosecutor's offices, the courts, law enforcement, probation, corrections 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 interests 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.



New Mexico Cuts Criminal Query

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Mexico. By cobbling together federal grants and carefully selecting technology vendors who could provide a cost-effective middleware engine for quickly combining – on the fly – disparate agency data, the COQ became a reality in early 2005. Over the years, the application has become more refined and feature-rich.

In 2010, the New Mexico Sentencing Commission, the agency sponsoring the COQ, had its budget dramatically reduced by the New Mexico Legislature. The Sentencing Commission, whose primary mission is justice research and analysis, had some difficult budgeting decisions to make and chose to continue to fund their mandated activities rather than support the COQ, which is not mandated by their charter. This meant that all funding for the COQ was cut and the project manager, whose primary responsibility was maintenance and improvement of the COQ, was laid off.

The initial expectation by New Mexico justice agencies was that the COQ would be taken down and access to essential criminal history data would be lost. But in the spirit of saving a shared application that was literally too good to fail, the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA) and the State Judiciary banded together to house and support the COQ. The AODA took possession of the servers and installed them in their data center, and the Judiciary took over user management and technical support. Considering that the district attorneys and the courts are the primary beneficiaries of criminal history information, this is a very productive partnership.

Until more funds can be found to support the COQ, it will by necessity remain frozen from a technological perspective; however, during the years when the application was funded, it was kept up-to-date with new technology and features, so the application can most likely survive as a static application for a few

years. Future funding through the legislature is tenuous due to severe budget shortfalls, but the AODA, with support from the Judiciary, is pursuing all available funding possibilities, including federal assistance.

While the COQ is not a traditional, fingerprint based criminal history repository, it meets the criminal history need in New Mexico, even though it doesn't meet the biometric verification standard set by most criminal history repositories. As it turns out, identification through a combination of personal identifiers – name, gender, ethnicity, social security number and date of birth – seems quite adequate for courts and district attorneys in New Mexico, who have never had the benefit of fingerprint-based criminal history information when dealing with criminal defendants.

Yes, occasionally, offenders provide incorrect personal information when arrested, and it's possible that without biometric verification of identify offenders, they could conceivably game the system, but without the COQ, New Mexico judges and prosecutors would not have access to any criminal history information at all.

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Conference News

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cially valuable to those who are investigating, evaluating, and purchasing software, hardware and other technologies for their organization.

NAJIS is an all-volunteer organization and relies on its volunteers to develop and present the conference program.

Conference registration information is provided on page 5— or go to www.najis.org for the most current information about the conference.

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2012 NAJIS Annual Conference—Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Early Registration and Welcome Reception—5:00—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Plenary Sessions

Keynote Address— Social Media’s Impact on Criminal Investigations

NAJIS Roundtable—Attendees share justice IT projects and problems

Breakout Sessions—Business Focus

What’s this App?

Implementing Statewide Master Charge Codes or Offense Tables

Breakout Sessions—Technology Focus

GRA Exchange Implementation—Submitting Incident Records to Prosecutors and N-DEX

Implementing the SAVIN IEPD—Montana Pilot

Plenary Session

eEverything—The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Thursday, October 11, 2012

Plenary Sessions

Disaster Recovery and Continuity Planning—the Vermont Experience

Breakout Sessions—Business Focus

Re-Entry of Offenders—The Hampden County Project
Funding Opportunities in Lean Times

I-Dex and the ROI Journey

Innovative Information Sharing over NLETS

Breakout Sessions—Technology Focus

eFiling Solutions that Work—Criminal and Civil

Closing the Gap on Dispositions—A Maryland Success Story

Interstate Information Sharing Efforts—Maryland and Delaware

Strategic Cut-back Management—Leadership in Lean Times

Plenary Session

Electronic Warrant Management—Best Practices

Friday, October 12, 2012

Plenary Sessions

Leveraging Social Media in the Justice Community

Low-Tech and No-Tech Productivity Solutions

Conference and Hotel Registration Information

This year’s conference will be held at the Holiday Inn By The Bay in beautiful Portland, Maine, on October 9-12, 2012. Take advantage of the early conference registration rate of \$395 per person by registering on or before September 1st. After September 1, registration is \$495 per person. Conference hotel rates are \$149 per night. You can make reservations by following the link on the NAJIS website at www.najis.org. or by calling Make your hotel room reservation by calling 1-800-345-5050. The conference hotel room rate is available until September 8, 2012.

Conference Registration Fee

Before September 1—\$395 per person

On or After September 1—\$495 per person

Registration includes all programs, events and two luncheons

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) is offering a reduced annual membership rate of \$55 if you join when registering for the NAJIS conference.

For Vendor Information

Contact David Naisby at 717-214-7461 or dnaisby@state.pa.us

Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland, Maine

