



Client Agency

California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Participating IJIS Institute Staff

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Dates Services Provided

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Overview of Technical Assistance Request

Beginning in FY 2002, Congress appropriated funding to the U.S. Department of Justice to support Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PMPs). These programs help prevent and detect the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances, particularly at the retail level where no other automated information collection system exists. States that have implemented PMPs have the capability to collect and analyze prescription data much more efficiently than those without such programs, where the collection of prescription information can require a time-consuming manual review of pharmacy files.

The efficiency increases afforded by PMPs has allowed the early detection of abuse trends and possible sources of diversion within states. A growing problem that offenders have come to realize, however, is that even states with effective PMPs may not communicate effectively with each other. This leaves open the possibility for cross-border doctor shopping, where offenders travel from state to state, but work within individual state limits, in order to accomplish their illicit goals. The IJIS PMP initiative has been funded under BJA to help state PMPs develop measures to combat this recognized weakness.

Phase I of this initiative, conducted in 2005, developed a baseline standard for facilitating automated information exchange between disparate state PMP systems. A steering committee consisting of knowledgeable practitioners and industry participants experienced in the use of the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) guided the development of a draft Concept of Operations (ConOps) and a prototype Information Exchange Package Document (IEPD). In addition, California and Nevada volunteered to serve as the Phase II sites for development and testing of a pilot exchange capability between existing PMP systems.

Background information on these systems appears in an appendix of this report.

Type of Technical Assistance Services Provided

The Phase II project leverages the momentum from Phase I by implementing the pilot capabilities in California and Nevada; it demonstrates the feasibility of automated PMP exchanges based on the GJXDM standard.

Leading technology professionals from the IJIS Institute membership are providing expertise to the pilot exchange partners in California and Nevada. The experience gained from the pilot

project is producing a series of reusable artifacts and lessons learned to expedite the implementation of exchanges between other state PMP systems in the future.

In a prior engagement, the IJIS Institute provided consulting services to the California and Nevada PMPs to develop a GJXDM Domain Model and Mapping for the interstate exchange of PMP information.

The current engagement provides additional services to develop high-level architectures describing current “as-is” and future “to-be” states of the California PMP system. These architectures would be utilized to perform a gap analysis and create rough-order-of-magnitude estimates of the labor and cost required to develop the various desired components.

This critical step informs decision makers in both California and Nevada what elements are required in order to stand up a PMIX capability. It also provides the IJIS Phase II project manager and PMP Committee with a stronger understanding of the required effort and cost.

Observations and Recommendations Overview

A copy of the TA report can be found on the IJIS Institute website at www.ijis.org.

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