



Review and Assessment of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System

Client Agency

Criminal Justice Planning Agency
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Participating IJIS Institute Staff

Steve Ambrosini
Director of Operations, IJIS Institute

Participating IJIS Institute Consultants and Firms

Paul Embley, *National Center for State Courts*
Linda Hill, *The Archer Group*
G. Thomas Sandbach, *Justice Technology Consulting*

Dates Services Provided

November 11-14, 2008 (onsite)

Overview of Technology Assistance Request

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) received the request for Technology Assistance (TA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA). The request was for the IJIS Institute to provide TA services to their Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Network organizations to help advance the Commonwealth's justice and public safety modernization efforts.

CJPA is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Grant Programs in the CNMI. CJPA is a part of the Office of the Governor, established as the staff of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the "Council". Through an Executive Order, the Council, through the CJPA office, is tasked to comply with the federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safety Streets Act of 1968, as amended.

The primary goal of this TA engagement is to assist the CNMI CJIS Network team in the development of an integration architecture strategy. As these new systems are implemented across the primary justice and public safety organizations, it is imperative that they do not develop as silos. The desire is for an architecture that will ensure a comprehensive information



management environment, enabled to effectively share information of interest to all justice and public safety organizations.

Type of Technology Assistance Services Provided

The TA Team worked with the designated CNMI representatives to develop an overall justice integration framework (conceptual architecture) and implementation strategy. This framework will address all of the major application components comprising the CNMI integrated justice environment. A conceptual architecture, depicting the required capabilities to support a central exchange of information, will be developed, including recommended use of relevant standards and technologies (such as the National Information Exchange Model) and services (master name index).

Additional issues explored included the definition of major information exchanges, life cycle development methodology, external connectivity, and policy and governance.

Specific on-site activities that were performed by the TA Team included:

- ◆ Define current organizational structure and approach to governance under the CJPA CJIS Program.
- ◆ Define existing applications, user communities, and stakeholders (summarized above) who must buy in to the integration architecture strategy.
- ◆ Assess current technology environment and any plans for future upgrades.
- ◆ Define critical data exchanges and associated functional requirements, as well as the approach to implementation of these capabilities.
- ◆ Confirm security and privacy policies in place today and identify future requirements.
- ◆ Confirm existing technology standards that have been, or are intended to be, adopted.
- ◆ Define the risks and benefits of different alternatives available for inclusion in the integration architecture strategy, including issues of data ownership and quality.
- ◆ Define how standards (such as those identified above) can best be used to ensure maximal reuse and minimal development of customized solutions.

Overview of Observations and Recommendations

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



Contact Information

IJIS Institute
Steve Ambrosini
Director of Operations
steve.ambrosini@ijis.org
(703) 726-3684

or IJIS Institute
info@ijis.org
(703) 726-3697