



**Client Agency**

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)

**Participating IJIS Institute Staff**

Redha Morsli - Program Manager

**Participating IJIS Institute Consultants and Firms**

Joseph Mierwa - VisionAir

Dan Waddington - Police Dynamics

**Dates Services Provided**

May 2-4, 2006

**Overview of Technical Assistance Request:**

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) requested assistance from the IJIS Institute to review its County Justice Information Exchange Project (CJIEP) and provide recommendations to implement secure data exchanges.

Pennsylvania counties placed improving public safety through the reduction and prevention of crime and developing better criminal justice policies and practices at the forefront of their government planning. One of the means sought in resolving these issues is improving access to critical criminal justice information across agencies and increasing the quality of the information. Quick, reliable, and secure access to key information for criminal justice agencies, corrections, and law enforcement is the first step towards improving public safety and preventing crime.

In its continued mission of representing the interests of Pennsylvania counties, CCAP managed the CJIEP pilot with participation at both the county and state levels from many criminal justice agencies.

Each of these agencies has its own system(s) to maintain critical criminal justice information. Individual differences in organization, agency requirements, and information technology infrastructure have resulted in a variety of agency applications and corresponding data formats at all government levels, including the county.

Keeping in mind the diversity of legacy systems and in maintaining a global perspective, CJIEP followed the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative<sup>1</sup> and utilized the Justice Information Exchange Model (JIEM)<sup>2</sup> in analysis and development. The CJIEP pilot developed and tested five Web Services, which were based on county justice agency users' business requirements. The CJIEP pilot produced a blueprint for the continued dissemination of these services to other

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative, please visit the following website:  
[http://it.ojp.gov/topic.jsp?topic\\_id=8](http://it.ojp.gov/topic.jsp?topic_id=8)

<sup>2</sup> For more information in the JIEM tool, please visit the following website:  
<http://www.search.org/programs/info/jiem.asp>

counties; and thus, the ability for counties to start sharing critical criminal justice information electronically.

The information exchange infrastructure is based on a framework that makes the most of current technologies and is able to evolve with dynamic business processes in the criminal justice field. It utilizes the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM)<sup>3</sup>, a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA), and Web Services.

With multiple county criminal justice agencies sharing critical criminal justice data electronically using wide-area networks and Internet connectivity, ensuring the data remains secure is the last hurdle. CCAP requested the IJIS Institute evaluate the county criminal justice agency technology environment and provide technical recommendations for a security strategy of the information exchanges.

### **Type of Technical Assistance Services Provided**

The IJIS Institute reviewed the County Justice Information Exchange Project (CJIEP) and provided recommendations to implement secure data exchanges. The recommendations described in this report are both tactical and strategic in nature with the ultimate goal of advancing the security practices for the CJIEP initiative. The IJIS Institute TA team recognizes that it may not be possible to enact every recommendation in this report, but strongly encourages that a committee or working group be created and that a security policy document be developed in conjunction with a comprehensive threat modeling analysis.

### **Observations and Recommendations Overview**

In order to keep the project workable, a pilot was developed using subsets of counties, justice agencies, and processes. At this point in the project, it is imperative to conduct a thorough security assessment and document the findings. A critical, ongoing need exists to provide a comprehensive oversight process designed to protect information assets and electronic systems. It is recommended that a Technology Working Group be created to provide oversight and monitoring of technology within CJIEP. The team presented an initial, very high-level security gap analysis and template of the CJIEP project. It highlights security gaps, in the CJIEP project, that should be addressed. In addition, it is presented to use as a template for performing a threat model analysis of the CJIEP system.

A copy of the TA report can be found on the IJIS Institute website at [www.ijis.org](http://www.ijis.org).

### **Contact Information**

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on the GJXDM, please visit the following website: <http://it.ojp.gov/jxdm/>