Building a Bridge Between Industry and Government

The Story of the IJIS Institute
Dedication

This publication is dedicated to public safety and justice responders worldwide that have tirelessly responded to ongoing crises and ensured the health, safety, and productivity of our communities. We owe you a debt of gratitude.
I am pleased and privileged to celebrate with you the many proud accomplishments of the IJIS Institute during its first twenty years. The vast IJIS community: public sector practitioners from justice, health, education and numerous other domains, private sector members, partner organizations, funders, Board leaders, staff, and executive directors have all contributed to the success IJIS has enjoyed over these past two decades. They are to be congratulated for their vision, creativity, and commitment to supporting the public sector mission. They've all set a high bar for measures of success and value that we are all poised to shepherd through in the years to come – years of service to the health and safety of our communities, and to the broader community of service providers and consultants that support them. That commitment to service has been a hallmark of the IJIS Institute since its founding in 2001, and it continues to this day.

Where we’ve been
Beginning with an identified need for information sharing and engagement throughout the justice community, the DOJ BJA supported the IWG and set the tone for collaborative engagement. Formation of the IJIS Institute soon followed, with a commitment to provide training and technical assistance to the field. The significance of the IJIS Institute’s impact was evident early on, and it grew steadily as the years moved along. At every pivotal point for our nation, many of which are sorrowfully or steadfastly embedded in our memories, IJIS was there to provide guidance, leadership, and support. From major disasters to national security adversities, as well as everyday justice system practices, IJIS has been an integral component in the development of lasting solutions. Its work has demonstrated the value of sharing accurate, timely and complete information for making informed decisions in response to major incidents, and to the ones we experience daily.

Throughout this booklet you’ll find examples of how the IJIS Institute serves as a bridge connecting the public and private entities of the justice community and enabling information sharing.
Where we are
At this momentous point in the span of the IJIS Institute’s history, its role and its importance have become increasingly evident. It is an indispensable feature of the health and safety solutions landscape. From standards coordination to technology integration, and from interoperability to certifications and program management, IJIS is not only a leader in justice information sharing, but it has also become a guiding force in public safety, homeland security, health and human services, courts and corrections, school safety and more. This wide array of vital services – delivered with a focused approach based upon a proven methodology – is a testament to the foresight of the IJIS model. Bringing industry together to work side by side with the public sector and academia is now a tested and effective design for advancing solutions that enhance the lives of people and communities everywhere.

Where we’re going
We’ve now witnessed the first twenty years of the IJIS Institute. With the ongoing benefit of keen Board support and leadership, and the continuing engagement of an alumni corps of IJIS executive directors coupled with a growing cadre of partners and members – all in support of sought-after programs and services – the IJIS Institute is well positioned to lean in toward its next twenty years…and the decades to follow.
The IJIS Institute began in 1999 as the IWG with support from the U.S. DOJ, OJP, BJA where members of the justice information technology community were invited to participate in discussions on integrated justice and how it’s designed, specified, and procured. Industry input was sought, and commercial sector leaders formed an advisory group from firms with strong criminal justice expertise.

The IWG became the IJIS Institute in 2001 as a nonprofit corporation designed to address the many activities that the IWG could not address due to its lack of a legal structure. The Board of Directors was elected to provide a single voice for industry in the development of new standards and practices in the justice, public safety, and homeland security sectors.

Today, the IJIS Institute is an inclusive organization, welcoming to its membership of practitioners, academia, industry and more. It includes all who support information technology-enhanced solutions for local, tribal, state, and federal agencies in the public safety, law enforcement, justice, and homeland security arenas, while expanding its reach into new arenas including health and human services, school safety and transportation.

Call boxes
First installed in America in Chicago in 1880, police call boxes were used by both officers and trusted members of communities, representing the initial use of technology for justice data sharing purposes, which lasted into the 1950s.
Board of Directors Message

Setting goals and acting as fiduciaries of the IJIS Institute has been the key responsibility of the IJIS Board of Directors over the years. While Board members have transitioned in and out of these leadership roles at regular intervals, their collective stewardship has channeled the energy and expertise of IJIS members and staff toward myriad accomplishments. Recognition of the IJIS Institute as a consummate leader on justice and public health information sharing stems from the commitment each Board member has made to excellence, and to advancing the IJIS cause.

The IJIS Board of Directors: Steering Progress
In my four years as an IJIS Institute Board member, I’ve gravitated towards its initiatives that accelerate 911 telecommunicators, first responders and their industry partners towards higher quality outcomes. I share a conviction with my IJIS Board colleagues that IJIS Institute’s committees such as the Emergency Communications and Response Advisory Committee bring IJIS’s practitioner and industry members together in a unique and magical way to drive solutions to urgent public safety challenges.

Roger Mann, CEO, Smart Response Technologies

IJIS members (both from industry and government) are devoted to effectively leveraging technology to make our communities healthier, safer, and more just. IJIS provides us a unique forum to share our ideas and solutions – to solve problems free from the noise and concerns generated by sales practices and procurement protocols.

Joe Wheeler – Vice President of Justice and Courts, Mission Critical Partners
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Mobile data terminals
Dating their origin to the 1980s, mobile data terminals played a key role in getting swift access to crucial justice data such as dispatch messages and various intelligence files for officers in the field, with more robust data and mapping solutions following in the 1990s.

IJIS helps us to maintain key knowledge about the needs of the public safety community. True to our purpose as public safety’s private sector partner for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (FirstNet), our membership in IJIS facilitates direct engagement with public safety and industry on key technology issues facing the public safety market in a distinct and collaborative way.

Ryan Burchnell – Director of Market Strategy and Development, AT&T FirstNet

I have been a member of the IJIS Board of Directors since July 2021. I have a particular passion for data and analytics to inform government and enhance decision-making. To actualize this passion, I was involved in the development of the IJIS Justice and Public Safety Advanced Analytics Committee. My goal on the Board is to create a convergence amongst various IJIS information sharing and technology efforts and enhance their impact through the use of advanced analytics.

Juan Colon, National Director of Opioids & Illegal Drug Solutions, SAS Institute

While I have been on the Board for less than a year, I have been involved with IJIS for many years as a justice practitioner. IJIS can provide a unique forum for industry and practitioners to exchange ideas on justice related issues. This forum allows industry to better understand the technical issues confronted by the justice practitioners, while the end users can learn what technologies are available to address those justice needs without having to enter a formal procurement process. I was able to leverage this forum to evaluate strategies for NIBRS and N-DEx deployments as well as to support continued discussions on fingerprint interoperability.

Mike Lesko – Senior Director, Government Technology & Services
NEC Corporation of America
For nearly 10 years, I participated with IJIS as a federal employee and watched how relationships can be leveraged between government and industry to advance the missions of local, state, federal and tribal agencies. Since joining the IJIS Board in 2020, I’ve come to realize how deep these relationships run and witnessed first-hand the commitment industry shares in protecting our nation. I am proud to be part of IJIS and look forward to developing new and meaningful relationships.

**Stephen L. Morris – Associate Partner, Global Business Services, IBM**

In my nearly six years serving on the Board, I have enjoyed watching the organization grow and mature. During this time, we have seen the Corrections Advisory Committee grow in influence and research, the formation of the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee and the update and ongoing adherence to a Strategic Plan. IJIS has expanded its problem-solving abilities in the industry to include the expanding footprint of those who support safer communities. This balanced value proposition will continue to serve the criminal justice community into the future.

**Tanya Stauffer – Business Development Manager, Analysts International**

I am in my 6th and final year on the Board and am pleased with the progress we have made over this period in advancement of the IJIS purpose, mission, and engagement on relevant/trending issues, and ensuring long term financial stability of the organization. IJIS is in an excellent position to continue providing thought leadership across key initiatives and in helping drive outcomes that matter to the community, the public safety agencies it supports, and the member companies that serve this marketplace.

**Dan Twohig – Vice President of NG9-1-1 Call Routing / NCGS, Motorola Solutions**

I've been active with IJIS since 2016 and was elected to its Board in 2021. I'm especially focused on information sharing across different domains, which is critical for hybrid/alternative response models in calls-for-service. IJIS can lead the way through its unique forum for bringing together government and industry to solve big problems.

**Rick Zak – Director of Justice and Public Safety, Microsoft**
Our Journey

Training, Technical Assistance, and Help Desk Training - 2004
IJIS was awarded grants by DOJ BJA to deliver NIEM/GJXDM training to over 1,100 students in 25 states and to more than 75 public safety and justice agencies nationwide. It also provided TA to more than 70 state/local/tribal agencies supporting technical and strategic planning, technical artifacts, and addressing information sharing technology challenges facing their agencies. Lastly, it created and operated the NISS Help Desk and Knowledge Center which responds to more than 1,300 help desk issues from 600 registered users across more than 100 agencies to help users find answers to technical questions regarding the content, principles, and best practices for using GJXDM, NIEM, GRA, etc.

SAVIN - 2007
SAVIN developed to support the efficient exchange of data based on standards, the SAVIN IEPD project helped advance the creation and adoption of victim information and notification standards through the development of a NIEM conformant National Reference IEPD. Given this progress, support continued through the SAVIN TA Program that addressed the acquisition, transition and deployment of standards-based technology solutions for SAVIN programs, promoting more effective information sharing with more accurate and timely information on offenders who pose a potential threat to their victims.

PSDI Project - 2007
PSDI Project funded the upgrade of the External Alarm Interface exchange from GJXDM to NIEM and developed research to help revolutionize communications capabilities of first responders including: Priority Data Exchanges for Local Communication Centers; Guide to Information Sharing and Data Interoperability for Local Communication Centers; and the Revision Assessment for the Incorporation of Fire and EMS Functions to the Law Enforcement CAD Functional Specifications.

FBI N-DEx – 2007
FBI N-DEx provided criminal justice agencies with a national repository for sharing, searching, linking, and analyzing criminal justice information across jurisdictional boundaries to connect the dots between data on people, places, and things that may seem unrelated in order to link investigations and investigators.

NSI & Fusion Center Support - 2008
An outgrowth of the Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 and was central to the operation of fusion centers nationwide. It was a collaborative effort led by DOJ, DHS, ODNI and others including federal, state, and local law enforcement partners. It addressed operational, policy, training and technical solutions needs. IJIS was pivotal in the design and implementation of a “Shared Spaces” distributed data exchange environment deployed to share data efficiently.

Gang Intelligence Information Sharing – 2009
Provided a standards-based approach to gang intelligence information sharing, helping to combat the proliferation of gangs and to support the gathering and sharing of criminal intelligence about gangs across law enforcement and justice systems at all jurisdictional levels.

PMIX State Assistance – 2010
Provided training, technical assistance, and implementation artifacts for the creation and deployment of the ability to exchange “live” patient dispensed-prescription history data through a standard based hub to help states and their solution providers in adopting the new PMIX specification and establishing exchange capabilities with other states. This effort became the foundation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program initiative, and ultimately the basis for the RxCheck Hub solution that has been deployed to nearly all states nationwide.
Our Journey

Springboard Certification Program - 2011
provided independent evaluation and certification services designed to advance information sharing within and across stakeholder jurisdictions and professions by working with sponsor organizations to evaluate, test, and certify information sharing and interoperability solutions.

UCAD Project - 2011
project focused on assisting first responders and local public safety communication centers to improve information sharing and data interoperability for public safety first-responders. Outcomes include the development of a Priority Exchange List, a Guide to Information Sharing and Data Interoperability, and laid the groundwork for the UCAD Functional Requirements.

Justice-to-Health Information Exchange - 2011
under the sponsorship of the BJA and in collaboration with the Urban Institute, this project provided information exchanges addressing the continuity of care and effective treatment of individuals who are part of both the health care and criminal justice systems.

PREA Data Standard – 2012
provides a standard that can help enable the collection and sharing of PREA-related information that can exponentially improve overall information sharing, data analysis, and data quality; and to measure the impact of the PREA data standard and provide better understanding, insight, and support for agencies to overcome challenges associated with achieving compliance and addressing PREA reporting requirements.

NCS-x - 2012
based on the progression of reporting crime statistics nationally from a UCR/summary-based model to a NIBRS/incident-based model, the NCS-x effort was constituted to coordinate efforts with local law enforcement, state reporting programs, and the software industry designed to generate nationally representative incident-based data on crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Years later, IJIS has been instrumental in ensuring industry support and engagement, as well as expedited implementation models.

Incident Management Information Sharing – 2013
provided advice and policy recommendations from local / state / tribal / federal on ways to standardize nationwide incident management information sharing capabilities across the first responder, emergency management, and homeland security communities to increase and strengthen partnerships across all sectors and domains involved in public safety.

Project Interoperability/SCC – 2016
as a progression of lessons-learned from the NSI, Project Interoperability sought to encourage unified standards usage across domains. It produced a collaborative, participatory, and transparent start-up guide for information interoperability across all aspects of government and the private sector using a variety of tools and best practices to enhance information interoperability capabilities. The SCC was developed to provide the governance structure to guide success and provided advice and counsel on matters related to information sharing and safeguarding standards and other related issues in responsible information sharing across the nation and around the globe.
In honor of twenty-one years of organizational accomplishments, the IJIS community gathered to celebrate our anniversary. As the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions loosened, we gathered at the long-awaited face-to-face event, our National Symposium held on May 3rd and 4th held in Washington D.C. Public sector practitioners from the federal, state and local levels across the nation; private sector service providers; and, partners from numerous practitioner membership groups and nonprofit entities joined to learn about the evolution and progression of the organization, and the seemingly endless number of IJIS milestones that shaped information sharing for the better. Whether fundamental to public safety, emergency response, homeland security, health and human services, school safety, transportation and so many other domains, or addressing fundamental issues of data exchange standardization, cyber security, enterprise data sharing nationally, or others, the IJIS community has significantly and positively influenced data-sharing nationally at the federal, state and local levels, and even internationally.
Though our mission has evolved over our twenty-year history, our fundamentals have remained constant...supporting the health and safety of our communities. As such, the goals of our future will continue to align with meeting and supporting the needs of our public sector mission practitioners. The priorities of our IJIS community reflect the priorities of our nation’s communities: preventing, responding to, mitigating incidents of violence across our nation including school safety efforts; responding to the multifaceted substance use disorder problem that plagues our society; supporting the implementation of incident-based reporting across our 18,000 law enforcement agencies so as to better collect, access, share and respond to criminal activity; and supporting efforts to improve and reform our criminal justice system to realize greater value, equity and efficiency. These are only a few of the efforts that IJIS will act on to support progress.

Given the complexity of these challenges, there are no singular causes, nor easy fixes to immediately improve the reality that has become part of our everyday life. Though no easy fixes exist, we must and will engage. Join our IJIS community to best collaborate and make a difference in our collective future!
IJIS Twenty Years in Review

The IJIS Institute took its roots with an eye on helping to foster successful outcomes within public safety. Beginning its evolution with members from the private sector, its initial goal was to provide a forum where the private sector could participate more fully to support the operational priorities of the public sector in the advancement of justice and public safety. 

Collaborate, partner, advocate together

While IJIS continues with the tradition to bring diverse stakeholders together with the purpose of developing solutions jointly, it soon realized the potential to broaden its areas of focus. By providing this trusted forum for knowledge sharing and cross-functional collaboration, its breadth and partnerships continued and expanded. In its 20 years, it has gone on to reach further to help benefit the stakeholders that serve justice, public safety and more recently homeland security, as well as other related sectors in public safety. This enables the opportunity to bring together industry experts in both government agencies and private business to advocate together in driving high-value solutions for public safety challenges that communities are facing today and in the future.

Expanding our reach to expand solutions

Technology has made a long journey in a short amount of time. IJIS came along at a strategic point to help guide public safety and the private sector engage with communities through innovative committees. Within these 20 years, IJIS has made a concerted effort to broaden its collective efforts. Its “collaboration network” is one that not only represents myriad talents and skills across public and private sector at the federal, state, and local levels, it affects a dynamic partnership that results in innovative and unprecedented solutions. As it continues to discover key milestones to not only contribute to, but to help identify as future successful advances, IJIS will persist in providing an engaging and collaborative forum to help promote safer and healthier communities.
**IJIS Today**

**Our mission** is to drive public sector technology innovation and empower information sharing to promote safer and healthier communities.

**Our Offerings**
The IJIS Institute is a nonprofit collaboration network working to promote and enable technology in the public sector and expand the use of information to maximize safety, efficiency, and productivity. IJIS offers many different opportunities for individuals and organizations alike to participate in its collaborative community including:

- **Services Provided**
  - Training and Technical Assistance
  - Program Management
  - Policy Analysis and Development
  - Technology Advisory Services

- **Events Held**
  - Annual National Symposium & Mid-year Briefing
  - Bi-annual Corrections Leadership Technology Forum
  - Topic Specific Summits i.e., Court Technology, Emergency Communications & Response, Substance Abuse Disorder, Cyber Security, etc.

**Our Call to Action**
Join the IJIS Institute and together we will all work towards improved information sharing and safeguarding in justice, public safety, and homeland security. Whether you are a public sector practitioner, a private sector industry representative, a non-profit professional, or academic individual, join us in improving the safety and welfare of our communities nationwide. Contact us at membership@ijis.org.

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2007
Apple Inc CEO Steve Jobs announces the iPhone.
IJIS advocates for policies, processes and information sharing standards that impact our safety and security, builds knowledge on behalf of our stakeholder groups, and connects organizations and leaders within our communities of interest.

Using data access, sharing and standards, IJIS drives private sector industry to help public sector agencies understand and use technology to support efficient and innovative solutions that will better meet and aid their operational priorities and challenges. Examples include facial recognition, digital evidence, artificial intelligence and more.

The IJIS Institute provides a trusted forum within and across its areas of focus where resources are developed, collaboration is encouraged, and public sector stakeholders can realize the benefits of technology and the power of information to keep our communities safe, healthy, and thriving. IJIS aids government agencies by bringing industry to the table in a constructive fashion while fostering considerable recognition for the companies that are dedicated to helping the public sector find high-value solutions.

Looking Forward

Durable tablets
While notebook computers continue as mainstays for officers in the field, widespread use of durable tablets has grown in recent years as key features such as mobility, ergonomics and durability came into play alongside cost.

2010 Earthquake devastates Haiti, killing approximately 160,000 and destroying the majority of the capital Port-au-Prince.
Conclusion

For 20 years, during an unprecedented time in modern history, the IJIS Institute and its community of supporters and contributors have provided an array of solutions, expertise, guidance, and tools to help our communities and stakeholders realize improvements in their daily lives. While the technology industry has made, and continues to make great strides, our mission remains the same: empower information sharing to promote safer and healthier communities by driving public sector technology innovation.

Over the course of two decades, IJIS has risen to support the challenges presented by the attacks of 9/11, disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy, increases in substance use disorders, the cries for justice reform, and the COVID-19 pandemic to name only a few. Over the same course of two decades, IJIS has developed its skill sets from serving as a bridge for communication between industry and public sector practitioners, to serving as a premiere advisory resource to both public and private sector domains in the design, development and implementation of innovative and effective data sharing solutions. IJIS is the only entity that brings together and facilitates disparate groups to define, prioritize, design, develop, and ultimately implement collective solutions, all to meet distinct operational priorities.
The IJIS Institute’s activities are also rooted in an awareness that no complex data sharing solution can be successfully realized without the assessment, understanding and adherence to guiding policies that may stem from federal, state, or local levels. Impacts to operational processes must also be shepherded carefully. In the end, complex challenges require complex, comprehensive and multifaceted solutions. Over twenty years, IJIS has evolved to not only understand the depth of the challenges but has also refined a suite of services that best supports the public sector in meeting their mission priorities.

This is the IJIS vision for the future. It will continue to steadfastly support the public sector in promoting safer and healthier communities and asks that you join this calling and support the betterment of communities nationwide.
Appendix

Over the past 20 years, people from all different spheres of life have brought talents and experience to the IJIS Institute and its work. While many of the people that work alongside IJIS have a deep understanding of the technical terms and issues IJIS tackles every day, not everyone who reads this document will recognize the full array of the terminology and abbreviations used throughout. With that in mind, the list of terms and explanations that follows has been developed to bridge that gap.

BJA - Bureau of Justice Assistance
CAD - Computer Aided Dispatch
DOJ - Department of Justice
GFIPM - Global Federated Identity Privilege Management
GJXDM - Global Justice XML Data Model
GRA - Global Reference Architecture
IEPD - Information Exchange Package Documents
IJIS – Integrated Justice Information Systems
IWS – Industry Working Group
LEXS - Logical Exchange Specification
NCS-x – National Crime Statistics Exchange
N-DEx - National Data Exchange
NIBRS - National Incident-Based Reporting System
NIEM - National Information Exchange Model
NISS - National Information Sharing Standards
ODNI - Office of Director of National Intelligence
PM-ISE - Program Manager Information Sharing Environment
PMIX - Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange
PREA - Prison Rape Elimination Act
PSDI - Public Safety Data Interoperability
SAR - Suspicious Activity Reporting
NSI - Nationwide SAR Initiative
SAVIN - Statewide Automated Victim Information Notification
SCC - The Standards Coordinating Council
SCP - Springboard Certification Program
S-TAP - SAVIN Technical Assistance Program
TA - Technical Assistance
UCADFR - Unified CAD Functional Requirements
UCR – Unified Crime Reporting