

2026 IJIS Community Forum

June 30th - July 2nd, 2026 | Cape Coral, FL



Welcome to the 2026 IJIS Institute Community Forum

The IJIS Community Forum is the IJIS Institute's premier conference and educational event that bridges the gap between technology and policy through public- and private-sector collaboration. Through the education and networking opportunities at the Community Forum, public-sector mission challenges intersect with industry innovation, policy, and operational best practices to help empower effective, innovative and efficient information-sharing that ultimately results in safer and healthier communities.

Through a focused set of discussions, practitioners, technology partners, and community stakeholders will explore practical approaches to information sharing, governance, and operational coordination that improve outcomes across emergency management, justice, public safety, substance regulation and enforcement, and effective community engagement.

Join us in celebrating twenty-five years of accomplishment! For 25 years, during an unprecedented time in modern history, the IJIS Institute and its community of 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: to empower information sharing to promote safer and healthier communities by driving public sector technology innovation.



Share Your Event Experiences

Let others know about the great speakers and informative sessions at the IJIS Community Forum, as well as the connections you are making. Use the hashtag [#IJISCommunityForum](#) to post your status updates to Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook!



Complete the Event Survey for a Chance to Win an Apple iPad and more!

Be sure to complete and turn in your event survey to be included in the drawing to win an Apple iPad. You must be present to win. IJIS Institute staff and its Board of Directors are not eligible to participate in the drawing.

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AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Help Desk	Tarpon Foyer
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	IJIS Institute Advisory Committee Meetings (Observers Welcome)	
	~ Information Technology and Architecture Advisory Committee	Calusa 2 nd floor of hotel
	~ Law Enforcement Advisory Committee	Cypress 2 nd floor of hotel
	~ CJIS Advisory Committee	Palm 2 nd floor of hotel
	~ Courts Advisory Committee	Hibiscus 2 nd floor of hotel
10:30a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Advisory Committee Collaboration Meeting	Hibiscus 2 nd floor of hotel
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Welcome and Opening Session ○ Maria Cardiellos, Executive Director, IJIS Institute ○ Honor Guard Presentation of Colors / Pledge of Allegiance ○ Opening Comments – Jim Pingel, Chair, Board of Directors, IJIS Institute, and VP, Digital Justice Transformation, Mission Critical Partners	Tarpon 4-6
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Honoring the Past while Embracing the Future and its Challenges ○ Maria Cardiellos, Executive Director, IJIS Institute	Tarpon 4-6
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Welcome Address from Local Leadership ○ John W. Mina, Sheriff, Orange County, Florida	Tarpon 4-6
2:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	Opening Keynote ○ Kyleanne Hunter, Chief Executive Officer, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Marine Corps Combat Veteran to Iraq and Afghanistan (AH-1W Super Cobra Attack Pilot)	Tarpon 4-6
3:10 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	Networking Break	Tarpon Foyer
3:40 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Plenary Session #1 – Achieving Objectives Through Technology and Governance ○ Scott Brillman, Director of Fairfax County, VA Department of Public Safety Communications (9-1-1) ○ Sebrina Jackson, Supervisor, Metro Nashville, TN Department of Emergency Communications ○ James Lake, Consolidated Emergency Communications Center Director, Charleston County Government, North Charleston, SC ○ Jeff Cohen, IJIS Institute (Moderator)	Tarpon 4-6

Emergency Communication Centers require interoperability, continuity of operations, and redundancy among other factors to maximize operational effectiveness. Several technological developments and related governance efforts are offering new pathways to achieve public safety objectives. This session will explore lessons learned from joint efforts within the National Capital Region and bilateral ECC efforts between Fairfax, VA and Nashville, TN and Collier, FL and Charleston, SC.

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4:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Transition to Networking Reception**

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Networking Reception & 25th Anniversary Celebration**

Gazebo Lawn

- Memories, Tributes, and Celebration!

Join the IJIS Institute Community Forum attendees, IJIS Institute leadership and staff, and partner organizations, for an evening of appetizers, cocktails, and networking.

In case of inclement weather, the reception will be moved indoors to the Tarpon Foyer.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Registration and Help Desk** Tarpon Foyer

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Networking Breakfast** Tarpon 1

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Morning Announcements** Tarpon 4-6

- **Maria Cardiellos**, Executive Director, IJIS Institute

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Keynote: Beyond the Justice Perspective – How Can Data Sharing and Technology Help Support School Safety?** Tarpon 4-6

- **Curtis S. Lavarello**, Executive Director, School Safety Advocacy Council

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Plenary Session #2 - Public Safety and Justice Data Sharing Nationally – Collaborating on the Vision** Tarpon 4-6

- **Timothy Ferguson**, Assistant Director, CJIS Division, Federal Bureau of Investigations
- **Mike Milstead**, Sheriff, Minnehaha County, South Dakota
- **Derek Veitenheimer**, Executive Director, SEARCH
- **Bill Phillips**, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Nlets
- **Maria Cardiellos**, Executive Director, IJIS Institute (Moderator)

While Law Enforcement Agencies' inclination is to focus on immediate, real-time needs, national leaders at multiple levels focus on shared goals, trust, standards, and sustainable governance models that enable secure, responsible data exchange across jurisdictions and disciplines nationally.

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Networking Break** Tarpon Foyer

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Plenary Session #3 - Data Sharing, Policy, Regulation, and Enforcement Experiences** Tarpon 4-6

- **Carrie Christofes**, Executive Director, National Liquor Law Enforcement Association
- **Lt. Mike Loiseau**, Lieutenant, Delaware's Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement
- **Melissa Winesburg**, Director of Programs, IJIS Institute (Moderator)

Panelists share challenges and lessons learned both nationally and internationally related to alcohol control and, most recently, marijuana regulation and enforcement. How practitioners govern, regulate, and collect data relative to these substances is key.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Networking Lunch** Tarpon 1

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1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Keynote Address – The Possibilities on the Horizon ○ Jeff Jonas, Data Scientist, Former IBM Fellow, Serial Entrepreneur, Founder and Chief Scientist, Senzing	Tarpon 4-6
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Plenary Session #4 - Convene and Act: Intelligence-Gathering Behind the Secure Walls ○ Christopher Moreno, Division Chief, Technology and Data Analysis, Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation ○ Mike Milstead, Sheriff, Minnehaha County, South Dakota ○ Bob May, Program Director, IJIS Institute (Moderator) Practitioners and technologists from disparate jurisdictions highlight how communities can connect frontline observations, investigative insights, and operational intelligence while maintaining appropriate privacy, security, and oversight. Key focus areas include data sharing that spans law enforcement agencies at the local and state levels, passed and shared with fusion centers and/or HIDTA operations.	Tarpon 4-6
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Networking Break	Tarpon Foyer
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Plenary Session #5 – Model Programs from the Field ▪ Inside New Orleans’ Remarkable Criminal Justice Technology Transformation ○ Nathaniel Weaver, Director, Justice Technology Modernization Program, City of New Orleans ○ Jim Pingel, Vice President of Digital Justice Transformations, Mission Critical Partners ▪ The Miami-Dade Blueprint - Turning a Contract into a Safety System — at Zero Taxpayer Cost ○ Christopher Moreno, Division Chief, Technology and Data Analysis, Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation ○ Ashwini Jarral, Senior Advisor, IJIS Institute (Moderator) This session will highlight two unique programs in the field and how they met similar data sharing challenges with different approaches. As it relates to New Orleans, LA, it will focus on two of the many aspects of successful implementation: strong program governance structure and processes, and data integration. Another success story to share traces how Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation — operating under nearly a decade of federal consent oversight, reeling from pandemic-era losses, and running communications on wall-mounted pay phones — used the procurement process as an instrument of transformation. Each will share their challenges and model results.	Tarpon 4-6
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Closing Comments ○ Maria Cardiellos, Executive Director, IJIS Institute	Tarpon 4-6

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THURSDAY, JULY 2

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast	Tarpon 1
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8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Plenary Session #6 - Leadership: Ethics and Action in a Changing Environment	Tarpon 4-6
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- **Brian Riggs**, IJIS Facilitator

As part of the IJIS Leadership Academy, this closing session is the integrating experience of the Forum. After two days of technology, governance, and partnership conversations, attendees turn to the question underneath all of them: how do leaders decide when policy is silent, technology has outpaced governance, and the right answer is not yet clear?

The session opens with three propositions about values-based leadership, then moves into a 60-minute workshop in which small cross-sector groups work three real-world ethical scenarios. A facilitated synthesis surfaces the decision principles the room produces together. Each attendee leaves with one 30-day commitment, witnessed by a peer.

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Networking Break	Tarpon Foyer
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10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Leadership: Ethics and Action in a Changing Environment (Continued)	Tarpon 4-6
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11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Closing Comments, Surveys and Prize Winner	Tarpon 4-6
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- **Maria Cardiellos**, Executive Director, IJIS Institute

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Hotel Map



DIRECTORY KEY

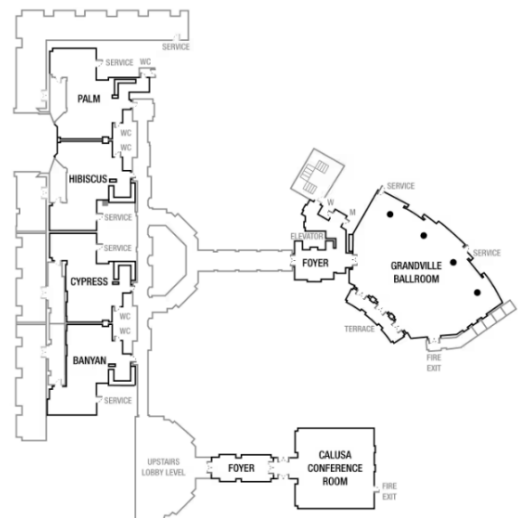
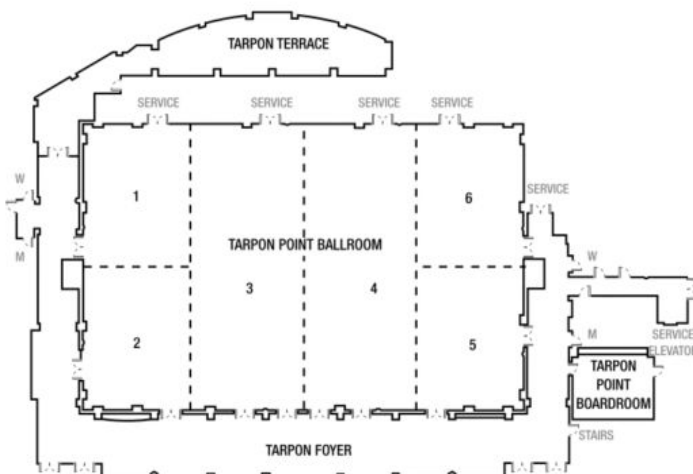
1. Lobby and Front Desk
2. Business Center
3. Event Lawn & Wedding Pavilion ★
4. Westin WORKOUT Fitness Studio
5. Main Pool
6. Marker 92 Waterfront Bar & Bistro
7. Nauti Mermaid Docksides Bar & Grill
8. Calusa Conference Room (2nd floor)
9. Banyan, Cypress, Hibiscus, and Palm Rooms (2nd Floor)
10. Banquet Facilities:
Rosen Ballroom (1st Floor)
Grandville Ballroom (2nd Floor)
The Rooftop (Roof Deck)
11. Tarpon Point Ballroom ← ★
12. Parking garage
13. Silver King Shuttle
14. Gather
15. Eva by the Sea
16. Gulf Coast Fudge Co.
17. Tarpon Point Realty
18. She Sells Shoes
19. Esterra Spa & Salon (2nd Floor)
20. Lorne's Gallery
21. The Looke
22. Pinchers Crab Shack
23. High Tide Eats (coming soon)
24. Ship Store and Harbor Master
25. Social Pavilion and Pools

5951 Silver King Boulevard, Cape Coral, Florida 33914
T 239-541-5000 F 239-541-5010 | www.westincapecoral.com

Meeting Space

MEETING ROOMS

LEVEL TWO



The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village, 5951 Silver King Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL

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IJIS Institute Sustaining Member

Thank you to our Sustaining Members for their exceptional support of the IJIS Institute and our mission.



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About the IJIS Institute

The **IJIS Institute** is a nonprofit collaboration network designed to promote and enable technology in the public sector and expand the use of information to maximize safety, efficiency, and productivity. The IJIS Institute has Collaboration Members working within and across several major public-sector domains.



Join the Conversation!

- ✓ Follow the [IJIS Institute on LinkedIn](#) to talk to your colleagues about important technology and information sharing topics.
- ✓ Follow [IJIS Institute on Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and use the hashtag **#ijiscommunityforum** for the 2026 Community Forum.



Save the Date!

Justice, Public Safety, and Security Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit

September 9-11, 2026

Corrections Technology Leadership Forum

November 3-5, 2026

Find out more at <https://ijis.org/upcoming-events/>

