



NAJIS 2004: No Integration Without Representation, Boston, Massachusetts

Leveraging technology in the justice community is more critical than ever. With the introduction of leading edge “enabling” technology, it is easy to envision a future with true information sharing, connectivity and communication among justice partners. However, there is still more to be done.

Our ability to use technology to improve the justice system is not just the responsibility of governmental agencies. A true information-sharing environment requires that everyone be repre-

sented at the table. What better place to discuss working together toward common justice goals than in the birthplace of our nation, Boston, Massachusetts. Hence, the theme for NAJIS 2004: “No Integration Without Representation.”

Bring a team! It takes both management and technical staff to make integration work. What a great opportunity for you to work together and build productive relationships away from your daily job pressures. Send a technical representative to sessions that are focused on the use of the new justice XML data exchange model, the JXDD 3.0, and its performance and scalability.

Find out who is developing justice portals and what is being used for data and network security. Do you want to learn more about e-Citation efforts, e-Manuals, and Web Casting?

Also, plan to attend the more management-focused sessions to learn about the consequences of inadequately integrated systems and explore the risks of data sharing and how to better prepare for them.

This conference and this organization are geared toward practitioners. NAJIS conferences are well known for providing extensive opportunities to network with your peers during the conference. Your interaction with peers from across the nation can help put you on the right track or can serve as a benchmark to measure your jurisdiction’s progress.

You will also enjoy a reception and a fun social event. Located at the Radisson Hotel, Boston, in the heart of Boston’s Theatre District and within walking distance of the Freedom Trail, we’re anticipating an excellent venue for this event. Join us in Boston for an exciting conference!

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2004 NAJIS Conference

The 2004 NAJIS conference will be held September 15, 16 and 17, 2004, at the Radisson Hotel, Boston. For hotel reservations call 800-333-3333, toll free.

Room rates are \$169.00. When making hotel reservations, please mention that you are registering for the NAJIS conference. Reservations must be made by 3:00 p.m., August 24, 2004.

For more information about the conference contact NAJIS at 202-448-1720.

Alternative Funding for Justice Integration Projects

by Steve Prisoc

Significant growth of state-level integration initiatives began in 2000, when the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance's Office of Justice Programs partnered with the National Governors Association (NGA) to offer \$25,000 justice integration planning grants to states. Soon after, the NGA provided states with the opportunity to apply for up to \$1,000,000 each in grants to initiate or enhance justice information sharing projects. Twenty-six states ultimately applied for the assistance and were awarded integration grants through the NGA.

Since those grants were awarded in 2001, no significant monies have been allocated through the NGA to assist participant states with completion of their projects, except for the award of additional \$25,000 planning grants to a number of states in 2003. This drop in funding has endangered many projects, and without resources to continue these projects many will no doubt languish or die.

Because of the lack of new federal money for integration and state funding constraints, justice information sharing initiatives throughout the country are now at risk. The changing economic climate has led to severe reductions in government budgets at all levels and the current shortfalls pose significant challenges to those responsible for information sharing efforts, nationwide.

Many state integration managers are hopeful that new sources of federal funding will magically appear and provide relief, but due to shifting priorities little funding is anticipated for state and local justice information sharing projects. As result, many state-level integration managers have two choices: they can either seek alternative funding or they can pull the plug on their projects. Unfortunately, sources of alternative funding are rare and it is unlikely that all states will be able to amass enough alternative funding to completely finance the

continuation of existing projects, but alternative funding does have potential to partially fill the funding gap for some projects.

Possibilities for alternative funding include homeland security grants, private foundation grants and partnering with private sector companies. Of these, homeland security funding sources may hold the most promise for integration projects since homeland security initiatives are currently well-funded and many homeland security objectives can be directly linked to justice systems integration.

Homeland Security Funding

Many integrators seem optimistic that homeland security funding will help them continue their integration projects but there are numerous agencies at all levels of government competing for these funds. Some homeland security objectives quite naturally align with justice integration goals but integration efforts that solely target court-level information sharing may not qualify as homeland security initiatives unless they can be tied to anti-terrorism and intelligence efforts.

On the other hand, projects emphasizing the sharing of incident-level data or aggregation of information that can be used for intelligence purposes may qualify for homeland security funding. Another promising area might be creation of interoperable justice communication networks—particularly networks serving “first responders.” Emphasizing integration as a tool for getting needed information to first responders, particularly in the context of enhancing enterprise justice communications infrastructures, might just attract funding.

Large chunks of homeland security monies have been distributed directly to states. The states are required to pass 80% of Homeland Security funding to counties and municipalities; however, states can retain funds by claiming they will spend them on initiatives that will benefit localities. Significant funding is also being provided directly to major

metropolitan areas.

To attract some of this local homeland security funding, integration managers may find it worthwhile to partner with police and emergency managers to increase the information sharing capacity of computer-aided dispatch systems and police records management systems. Another promising area might be the improvement of police, fire and EMS mobile data systems. Interoperability between disparate mobile data systems is also of prime importance, particularly since multiple agencies using non-communicating systems may have need to coordinate activities in response to threats or disasters. Also, emergency and law enforcement communication systems—both wired and wireless—are essential to the justice enterprise, thus it is important that they be considered a part of justice systems integration initiatives. Of course, it is very important that these systems be developed in ways that will allow them to seamlessly pass needed information to the courts, prosecution and other allied justice agencies.

Where are the Dollars Going?

On October 3, 2003, President Bush signed a bill committing \$31 billion toward homeland security initiatives. Among these are projects such as Bio-shield (\$5.6 billion to protect against chemical or biological attacks), first responder grants (\$4 billion), major urban areas (\$725 million), science and technology projects (\$900 million, mostly to counter bio-terrorism), and critical infrastructure protection (\$800 million). Many more dollars will go to state-level homeland security agencies to assist them in securing borders, transportation systems and ports.

When explaining the bill, President Bush emphasized that protection of borders, roads, seas, rail transportation and air traffic is of prime importance. He also identified the need to protect against chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and to address vulnerabilities associated with power grids, chemical plants, communications systems and transportation

networks. Notably, he did not mention justice information sharing.

Illinois is a fairly representative in terms of how homeland security dollars are being allocated to states. During Federal Fiscal Year 2004, the state was allocated \$34,142,222 under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for the purpose of enhancing overall security and preparedness levels. Chicago is one of several urban areas targeted by this initiative due to its critical infrastructure, population density and "credible threat intelligence information." This funding will also be shared with contiguous counties and mutual aid partners. In addition, \$6,319,029 was awarded to Chicago for funding of mass transit security projects. These funds will enable installation of physical barricades, video surveillance, motion detectors, thermal/IR imagery, chemical/radiological detection systems, integrated communications systems and prevention planning, training and exercises. Illinois will also receive a \$9.3 million grant to build a new state-of-the-art State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). In addition, other Homeland Security monies will flow through the state directly to local law enforcement and other first responders.

Private Foundations

Private foundations are another potential source of justice integration funding, but foundations have been hurt by the same economic forces that have made funding more difficult to obtain for justice information projects.

While foundation income is generally down, at least one foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundation has intentionally kept levels of spending from declining too precipitously because the need to distribute grant funds to deserving initiatives is more pressing during hard times than good times. The MacArthur foundation does not make criminal justice funding a priority, but the foundation has funded juvenile justice projects.

Most foundations are reluctant to provide direct funding for criminal justice; in fact, a cursory Web search turns up only one foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, that makes criminal justice a funding priority. Unfortunately, this foundation lists only a modest \$1,000,000 as its total 2004 target for criminal justice.

Ideas for projects that may attract foundation support are proof-of-concept exchanges between juvenile agencies and police or prosecutors to speed the juvenile justice process. Another possibility for funding might be a proof-of-concept exchange between mental health providers and juvenile detention facilities.

For programs related to adult offenders, foundations may be interested in programs that enable jails to receive information from mental health or social service providers on detainee medications, special treatment needs or—perhaps most important—self-destructive tendencies.

The Foundation Center Website (www.fdncenter.org) is an excellent source of information on private grantmakers. The Website provides links to nearly 1,000 grantmaker Web sites. It also provides a full range of informational materials posted by individual foundations.

Partnering with Private Companies

Companies that wish to become more involved in justice systems development may donate developers, software and support for projects. Their reasons for doing so vary, but generally companies might wish to use justice IT projects as a test-bed in hopes of paybacks in the form of later sales of software or services. Another influencing factor comes into play when a company has developers or analysts "on the bench." In this circumstance, many companies might rationalize that it is better to occupy personnel on activities that may not be immediately billable, but which may someday return profits, than to leave that person on the bench. Of course, it is unreasonable to expect companies to simply give you their time and expertise since they must make money to

survive, but information sharing projects that were expected to produce deliverables that could later be marketed to other jurisdictions have attracted non-billable support from large companies such as Microsoft and Oracle. Of course, the possibility of getting future contracts for continued software maintenance and/or licensing has also likely been a factor in getting corporations to donate services and software.

Examples of public/private partnerships include the RAIN system in King County, Washington, and the CLEAR system in Chicago, Illinois. The RAIN system was created with software and expertise donated by Microsoft and allows a number of law enforcement agencies to share arrest and incident information. Microsoft also donated software and expertise for the ODIS system, a police records management system used by the New Orleans Police Department. Another police records management system, the Chicago Police Department's CLEAR system, was largely created by developers donated by the Oracle Corporation.

A different type of partnering took place when Dayton Hudson's Target Stores partnered with Minnesota's justice sharing system, CRIMNET. Target's contributions to CRIMNET included professional-quality video services and public relations expertise. According to Bob Ulrich, Chairman & CEO of Target, "we have a terrific opportunity to share our expertise and help create a value-added partnership with law enforcement and the court system."

Alternative funding is not a panacea solution and funding is scarce, period. The tactics described here may not fund entire IJIS initiatives but they may help fund smaller projects, which if successful, can be leveraged to gain support.

While alternative funding probably can't entirely fill the current funding vacuum, it may have potential to provide a safety net that can keep integration projects afloat until national funding prospects improve.

NAJIS 2004 Conference Registration: Boston, September 15-17, 2004

Name: _____

Title: _____

Dept./Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____

E-Mail: _____

Federal ID # 38-3448014

- Early Registration fee is \$325, if postmarked on or before August 1, 2004, or \$395 if postmarked later. Group rate is \$325 for three or more individuals from the same agency registering at the same time. Registration includes NAJIS membership, conference, program, luncheon, and outing. Additional charges for spouses and children to attend luncheon and outing will be announced.
- I will be attending the outing.
- I plan to bring ___ guest(s) at \$50 per person to the outing.

For hotel reservations call 800-333-3333, toll free. **Reservations must be made by 3:00 p.m., August 24, 2004.** For vendor inquiries please contact Gordon Lansford at 785-291-3527, or Gerald Hardt at 602-230-0252. For registration inquiries please contact NAJIS at 202-448-1720. Register online at www.najis.org.

Please make checks payable to NAJIS and mail registration to:

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