

## Minutes Summarized: First IJIS Meeting - Austin, Texas June 12, 2002

The IJIS research summit was held on June 12, 2002 at the LBJ School in Austin, Texas. The Texas Association of Counties and the County Information Resource Agency recorded these minutes from an interactive survey facilitated by Tarrant County Administrator G.K. Maenius.

### Questions/Answers

#### Actual Minutes (Summarized)

1. Is there a need for a large-scale collaboration in the development of the criminal justice system? Yes
2. At what level and to what degree at each level? *State, Regional, Local – city, county*
3. Should there be coordination at all three levels? Yes

Collaboration is not what we're really trying to accomplish. We want to share data and satisfy the needs of the local governments in collecting data. The data has to be transportable – usable by both sides and sharable by all. Data must be able to be exchanged between those who need the information. Standards must be established as to how to exchange and when, and the infrastructure to exchange the data must be established. The data to be exchanged must be agreed upon and the "core" identified. All entities gain specific unique data that can be shared.

Each collaboration must be defined. Existing initiatives must be identified and assessment of where other systems could interface with them.

1. Are we at a point that we are not collecting the data needed? Completeness of the data is an issue. Not all data needed is being collected and sent to the state – an education and enforcement issue.
2. Do we know what data we need to collect? Probably yes.
3. What is the role at state level for collaboration? The same information is being reported to the state multiple times. The locals will have to depend on the state to streamline the process by eliminating the duplication. Data is being pushed up, but how do the locals get to see it and use it. Why stop at county level for data sharing – why not the state level?
4. How do we get there? Using a building block approach – city/county regional to state – is the easiest, quickest way, but funding is always a problem. More emphasis should be concentrated at the local level as a building block to the statewide level. Guidelines come from the state level so that everyone is meeting some state standard and all systems will be transferable up to a point.

Statewide systems are driven mostly by statute – not by offenses of neighboring “agencies”. Sharing offense reports is a new concept from what we’re used to talking about. Be careful about naming them first. Start with user requirements and then go into technologies to support those functions.

Three components:

1. enterprise data model
2. data quality standard
3. enterprise data exchange

Technology is the easiest part of the process, but there is technology that lets disparate systems work.

If each individual is paying a vendor for the same thing, is there a way to coordinate the efforts – to pool money and buy collaboratively? Perhaps it is not possible in defining the data models since so much work has already been done. Take the concepts from this point, list them and take them to the rest of the state. Vendors will tend to write to that model. The data models in question must be developed at a sub-state level (coordinated local level).

The state has developed a data dictionary that must be used for criminal reporting. Dallas has taken that and added on. What else do we need? As an area of collaboration to move this effort forward, working groups could address these special issues. Perhaps the first working group should be to determine what the data models or collaborations are.

Working groups don’t need to just be local groups, but could also include the state level.

There is a need for collaboration and to tell everyone what is being done. The urban counties are ready to do something to begin the process of regional collaboration. Disaster will not stop at county lines. Systems should not be developed in one county that cannot be used in another county. Necessary elements and structure may be modified, but transportable to other county governments. All entities are part of the bigger picture – counties, COGS, state.

End of Actual Minutes (Summarized)