

MEMORANDUM

From: Les Smith, TIJIS Chair, *Tarrant County Criminal Justice Coordinator*
To: TIJIS Steering Committee
Date: January 24, 2006
Subject: Draft Executive Proposal to Revise and Update the Texas Justice Information Integration Initiative (TJI³) Plan – Submitted for Review and Comment

Note: *This is an incomplete draft proposal for discussion purposes for the TIJIS Steering Committee. In particular, further discussions need to take place to define an appropriate governance structure and a TIJIS member stakeholder organization directly in the criminal justice business area that can provide contract management for this project and ongoing administrative support to TIJIS.*

Background

Criminal justice entities in the state have long recognized the urgency for developing a comprehensive strategy for the integration of cross-jurisdictional (e.g., municipalities and counties) justice information systems. Most information systems operated by Texas criminal justice agencies are discrete, and are often incapable of linking and exchanging information effectively. Virtually all aspects of criminal justice information systems are constrained by a lack of interoperability.

These deficiencies are found within the principal categories of the criminal justice system: community, police, prosecution, courts and corrections. There are also interoperability issues associated with the administrative functions of the criminal justice system such as the inability to rely on information systems to support critical decision-making. Additionally, policymakers lack access to reliable data and statistics on which to measure effectiveness of laws, policies, and programs.

The concept of an “integrated justice information system,” means different things to different people in different contexts and it is important that we clarify these perceptions and consolidate the strategies. For example:

- The officer on the street who makes a traffic stop needs to be able to determine quickly if the driver is an immediate threat to peace officers, based upon cross-jurisdictional information.
- Prison and jail administrators need comprehensive and accurate information to properly segregate institutions in order to manage and control inmate populations.
- Parole officers need comprehensive and accurate information on individuals released from prison in order to provide an efficient case management process to manage and reintegrate the ex-offender into society.
- Prosecutors need complete and accurate information about not only the current case details but also the defendant’s previous background and criminal history in order to make accurate decisions about charging the subject.
- Judges hearing first appearances for arrested persons need to have a correct identification of the offender and comprehensive and accurate data on the subject’s background and criminal history to make decisions concerning bail, pre-trial release and sentencing.
- Crime victims need timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders in order to be notified immediately upon a change in the inmate's status, such as a release, escape, or court appearance.

The original concept of organizing Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) in Texas emerged from a meeting on June 12, 2002, in Austin that was sponsored by Tarrant County and was hosted by the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) and the County Information Resources Agency (CIRA). That meeting focused

on developing a model regional information management system to enable counties and cities throughout the Texas to share criminal justice and emergency management information.

The then newly formed IJIS group agreed to prepare a schedule for future meetings in which the following entities are represented:

- Texas Law Enforcement Agencies (state and local)
- Texas County and Criminal District Courts (Includes Justice of the Peace Courts)
- Texas District Attorney's Offices
- State and Federal Criminal Justice Agencies (Includes Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, FBI, and State Office of Emergency Management, Office of Homeland Security)

In addition, the Texas Criminal Justice Information User's Group (TCJIUG) agreed to sponsor the IJIS Committee at its annual conference and to host special meetings during the year between conferences. The first annual meeting of the IJIS Committee was held in conjunction with the fall TCJIUG conference in San Antonio, October 15, 2002. On April 20, 2005, the TCJIUG-IJIS steering committee agreed to separate from TCJIUG and develop a separate Charter and By-Laws under the name of Texas Integrated Justice Information Systems (TIJIS).

One of the major efforts of TIJIS has been to support implementation of the Texas Justice Information Integration Initiative (TJI³) plan. At the request of the Criminal Justice Policy Council, the initial plan was developed in 2002 by the Department of Information Resources (DIR). DIR was guided by a broad cross-section of criminal and civil justice entities in the state. The plan provides a high-level blueprint for sharing justice information in the state.

Project Proposal

There is now strong interest among TIJIS members in revising the TJI³ plan because it is four years old and much of the landscape has changed and evolved. Moreover the previous plan intended to provide general guidance rather than specific action items that are now needed.

The TIJIS Committee proposes that revision to the TJI³ plan be done in coordination with the office of the Governor, the Legislature and other criminal justice governance participants so any legislative and administrative requirements necessary to achieve the goals of the plan will be known well in advance of the legislative session.

The revision would produce three key deliverables:

1. A **Gap Analysis Report** indicating where key data does not currently exist, is not consistent, or cannot be shared; and existing barriers preventing data collection, sharing and integration.
2. A **Criminal Justice Information Reference Model (CJIRM)** that delineates key data flows among producers and consumers of Criminal Justice data and proposed extensions to the Texas Justice Data Dictionary currently maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).
3. A **Three Year Integrated Justice Information Systems Strategic Plan** that contains specific prioritized list of action items based on the analyses above, which recommends integration projects to be achieved within the next three years, and proposed changes to statutes necessary to implement critical elements of the plan.

Together the work on these three key deliverables will contribute toward a more integrated and effective approach to criminal justice information systems in Texas. Most importantly, successful implementation of these deliverables will produce a safer state for the law enforcement and criminal justice community and the citizens of Texas.

Project Plan

The committee proposes that the plan be updated in three phases. Each phase produces a deliverable that provides key data and parameters for the following phases.

Phase 1: Gap Analysis Report

1. Review the current TJI³ plan to determine what factors have changed, such as: new stakeholders, environmental factors, initiatives and projects, stakeholders, and legislation.
2. Review progress on the current plan.
3. Produce a Gap Analysis Report identifying what data and information is missing, cannot be exchanged, or is not timely.

Phase 2: Criminal Justice Information Reference Model

1. Analyze key categories of producers and consumers of Criminal Justice information such as counties, courts, and municipalities; the categories of information collected; and the purpose for collecting or needing the information.
2. Analyze governance groups, interest groups, and other external stakeholders and how their scope of control or influence affects the data produced and consumed.
3. Analyze key data flows, communication channels and timing among producers and consumers of Criminal Justice data.
4. Propose extensions to the Texas Justice Data Dictionary currently maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).
5. Produce a Criminal Justice Information Reference Model.

Phase 3: Three Year Integrated Justice Information Systems Strategic Plan

1. Catalog the key interests and requirements of stakeholders.
2. Redefine the Mission and vision.
3. Prioritize goals and strategies and recommend action items for filling the gaps identified by the model.
4. Recommend if legislation is needed to enable or support key action items.
5. Produce a Three Year Integrated Justice Information Systems Strategic Plan.

Timing and Funding Requirements

The committee's goal is to have the updated plan completed by October 1, 2006. It is estimated that it will take 60 days to obtain consultant support through an RFP process and then 6 months for the consultants to complete the plan.

Preliminary funding estimates below are based on the effort required to produce the previous TJI³ plan, and on a similar research project to foster technology re-use in the state that is smaller in scope and requirements. The prior TJI³ plan required about six calendar months for three personnel to complete on a part-time basis. The reuse project used three personnel: a project manager and two consultants. The total time is estimated to have been 480 hours, approximately 160 hours from each participant.

The reference model proposed in the revised plan will be more ambitious than any deliverable in the prior plan, and it will contain more actionable detail. Thus it is projected that the project may take as much as 2,400 hours of billable staff time with an agency project manager, agency contract personnel support, and two consultants. The estimated cost is \$300,000.

Governance

This section needs to be added to complete this proposal. The TIJIS Steering Committee needs to define an appropriate governance structure and a TIJIS member stakeholder organization directly in the criminal justice business area that can provide contract management for this project and ongoing administrative support to TIJIS.