

Client Agency

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)



Participating IJIS Institute Staff:

Redha Morsli – Program Manager

Participating IJIS Institute Consultants and Firms

Matthew A. D'Alessandro - Motorola

Fred Lengerich - SAIC

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Other Participating Consultants and Organizations

Dale Good – SEARCH

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Dates Services Provided

June 8 – 11, 2004

Overview of Technical Assistance Request

In early 2004, the Illinois Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS) Board requested that the IJIS Institute, as part of a technical assistance (TA) project, review and assess two integrated justice initiatives that the IJIS Board is seeking to implement. The first is a justice portal that provides a single point of access to several state and county-level subject record repositories for use by justice decision makers. The second initiative is a model interface that allows various police information systems throughout Illinois to share data with the Chicago Police Department's Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting System (CLEAR).

Specific work to be performed during the TA project included:

- A review of basic technologies available to achieve the goals of the portal and the CLEAR interface projects
 - Identification of integral components of an overall integration tactical plan and blueprint: a) for coordinating separate integration initiatives, and b) that provides a structured schedule that allows for sequencing of integration activities in light of prioritization issues, funding restrictions, and the need to leverage existing data and telecommunication capabilities and successes
 - Information on how differing architectural designs for system interoperability produce corresponding risks and benefits, including how specific designs impact data ownership and stakeholder input into system operations
 - Methods for determining sufficiency of existing network infrastructures (versus need for enhancement), as well as hardware and software applications of legacy data systems—in readiness for interoperability requirements associated with the planned integration initiatives
 - Suggestions for managing and coordinating multiple projects and vendors
 - Advice on how the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) can best be used to ensure that reusable solutions will be put into effect rather than custom interfaces¹
 - Suggestions on strategies to resolve disagreements between project principals regarding centralized versus distributed architectures for data warehouse functionality
 - Instructions on developing realistic budgets for various system development and interface activities
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Type of Technical Assistance Services Provided

The scope of assistance was limited to four business days. The consultants initially reviewed written documentation provided by the ICJIA and conducted a follow-up conference call with IJIS Board representatives to answer questions and clarify the objectives and agenda for the site visit. On June 8-11 the IJIS Institute and SEARCH consultants conducted a series of on-site interviews and meetings with ICJIA and IJIS Board representatives in Chicago, Illinois. Following the visit, the consultants prepared a final report of specific findings and recommendations and delivered it to the customer in August, 2004.

Observations and Recommendations Overview

After a solid beginning and the successful development of a comprehensive Strategic Plan, the integration project finds itself at a crossroad and the IJIS Board is faced with the daunting task of translating strategic vision into a tactical plan. During the site visit, it was observed that the IJIS Board was encountering difficulties in defining a unified sense of direction regarding next steps. As the board began the process of defining the proposed portal solution and other integration initiatives, it was observed that the project was experiencing uncertainties vis-à-vis state and local roles, future system roles, and the development and implementation of standards. Based on the IJIS Institute and SEARCH findings, the consultants made various recommendations. These recommendations can be summarized into five general areas: Assess and fine-tune governance; complete detail planning; define system roles; develop standards and policies; and create a Program Management Office (PMO). A detailed description of the recommendations can be found in the official TA report submitted to ICJIA in August 2004.

Contact Information

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