STATE OF MARYLAND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION ADVISORY BOARD
POST OFFICE BOX 5743 PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21282

Leigh B. Middleditch, Chairman

MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY G. BROWN
LT. GOVERNOR

2007 Annual Report
On Interoperability

Submitted by

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION
ADVISORY BOARD

2007

"Interoperability is a fundamental requirement for security integration, and we will make it a reality."
Governor Martin O'Malley
MACO Convention, August 2007

Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board
2007 Annual Report on Interoperability

Background

  The Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board (CJIAB) was created by statute in 1976. The Board's primary duty is to advise the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals on the development, operation, and maintenance of the State's criminal justice information systems. Under Maryland law, the Board has the additional responsibility for submitting an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that describes the compatibility and interoperability of communication and information management systems maintained by the State's judiciary, public safety and criminal justice entities. [1]

  As a statutory entity, the CJIAB has the responsibility for criminal justice integration and interoperability. It works to establish policies, relationships and infrastructure to enable sharing of local justice information across the entire justice system. The Board also provides advice concerning standards, procedures, and protocols that ensure the compatibility and interoperability of communications and information management systems maintained by the Judiciary and public safety entities in the State. The CJIAB includes representatives from a broad section of the criminal justice community including public safety, the courts, law enforcement, and homeland security. The Board includes members from the legislative branch, county and municipal government, and the public.

  The concept of interoperability refers to the ability to share critical information at key decision points throughout the criminal justice enterprise. Interoperability also includes the sharing of certain information with agencies that are not directly involved in criminal justice, such as public health, drug treatment providers, and social services, which need greater access to criminal justice information. Furthermore, interoperability also extends to exchanges of information with the general public, where appropriate.

  Traditionally, jurisdictions and agencies have built standalone information systems to meet only their individual needs. Systems were not typically designed to support the operations of more than a single agency. This created an environment in which many agencies and local jurisdictions had older systems that were not capable of 'speaking the same language' which necessarily limited their ability to interconnect. The lack of interoperability created problems. For example, when an officer pulls a suspect over and detains this person on the side of the road, there is a limited amount of time the officer has in which to either find probable cause to make an arrest or release the individual. If there is an active warrant in a neighboring jurisdiction for this subject, but the two jurisdictions do not share resources or have compatible information systems, the officer may not be able to access the active warrant information, forcing the officer to ultimately let the individual go without arrest. The only person who wins when information and resources are not being shared is the criminal, who can slip through this

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[1] *Maryland Code, Criminal Procedure article, §§ 10-207(a).* This Annual Report on Interoperability is submitted to the Governor and to the General Assembly pursuant to statutory reporting requirements codified in Criminal Procedure article § 10-210(6) and State Government article, §2-1246, respectively.

gap. By increasing interoperability, criminal justice entities across Maryland will be able to close the gap together, increasing public safety.

The Current State of Interoperability in Maryland

Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) interoperability initiatives have improved public safety in Maryland by bringing together dissimilar information systems, data, and processes. This increase in coordination and communication has resulted in more effective and efficient identification, management and tracking of criminal justice information. These initiatives support and carry out the Governor's Security Integration approach for Maryland, which incorporates law enforcement information needs with those of homeland security requirements.

The sections that follow describe the public safety impact and significant accomplishments of three components of ID Maryland: the Network Livescan (NLS) project, the Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS) Replacement program, and the new National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) program.

ID Maryland - Network Livescan (NLS)

The Network Livescan (NLS) project consists of three subprojects: Hazmat CDL, Criminal Rollout, and Electronic Applicant. The Hazmat CDL project aids in performing the required background checks on applicants for commercial driver's licenses to transport hazardous materials. Criminal Rollout places electronic fingerprinting machines in criminal justice facilities to assist in rapid identification and comparison to national criminal databases during intake processing. Electronic Applicant allows the state to electronically process the applicant fingerprints for various licensures and compare them to electronic criminal databases. The common thread of these projects is the NLS equipment, which provides the ability to collect and transmit electronic fingerprint images from remote locations to the Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS) at the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). NLS supports the goal of helping to keep Maryland communities safe by providing for rapid identification of offenders and non-offender subjects and achieve the objective of the CJIS Central Repository to have records that demonstrate a 90% rate of accuracy, timeliness and completeness in annual audits.

The Public Safety Impact and significant accomplishment of the NLS Projects:

a. *Hazmat CDL*
    Implements the federal requirements established under the USA PATRIOT Act to perform background investigations for applicants of new or renewal commercial driver's licenses.

    Improves safety of Maryland roadways and promotes public confidence in security of transportation of hazardous materials.

    ▪ 2,895 checks were performed at MVA locations in 2007.

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- Crossmatch software has been rolled out to 5 Hazmat sites to provide access for applicant background processing for the general population.

b. *Criminal Rollout*
Places electronic equipment in criminal justice facilities to allow law enforcement to make rapid criminal identifications from national databases.

Enables 20-minute response time for processing of fingerprints resulting in rapid positive identification of criminal suspects.

- Phase I of the Criminal Rollout (deploying Livescan Equipment to 15 sites where impact was projected to be the most significant) was completed in July 2006.

- Phase II of the Rollout is underway with 33 NLS sites installed.

- NLS machines were installed and in production in the following law enforcement locations: Cumberland Police Department, Hagerstown Police Department, Annapolis Police Department, Maryland State Police Westminster Barrack, The Berlin Police Department and the Pocomoke City Police Department.

- Now being used by the law enforcement agencies responsible for registering sex offenders in each of Maryland's 24 subdivisions.

- NLS implementation will capture fingerprints of anyone coming into the DPP sites, providing a better mechanism for closing the identification gaps.

- Livescan implementation at the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) sites is progressing towards the following capabilities:

  o DPP goal will have a total of 27 NLS machines, with a minimal of one in each jurisdiction, and additional machines in high volume locations.

  o DPP Upper Marlboro site is in testing mode and is preparing for implementation.

c. *Electronic Applicant*
Enables electronic processing of fingerprints for applicants of various licenses such as childcare.

Expedites timeframe for processing distinct images of non-criminal applicants' fingerprints from 6-8 weeks to 2-3 workdays if images are captured by Livescan technology.

- Maryland overall applicant response time has dramatically declined from an average of 15.7 reported for JAN-AUG 06 to an average of 8.5 days reported in JAN-AUG 07.

- FBI Overall Response Time has significantly decreased from an average of 64 days reported in January 2006 to an average of 3 days reported in August 2007.

- CJIS storefront and Central Hiring started using new applicant software and process in June 2006.

- Planning has started for rollout of applicant software to law enforcement agencies and other authorized state agencies. This will provide easier access for applicant background processing for the general population.

- Maryland State Police Licensing Division is submitting electronically for background checks for licensing requests.

- Baltimore County Board of Education, Carroll County and Charles County Board of Education are also submitting electronically for applicant background processing. Queen Anne's County Board of Education is currently in test mode.

- The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and the Police and Correctional Training Commissions are submitting applicant requests electronically.

ID Maryland – MAFIS Replacement

The MAFIS provides automated fingerprint identification for criminal processing. The identification system can be also used in the process of performing civil background checks. The system is also utilized by local agencies for the purpose of criminal investigation. The MAFIS Replacement Program upgrades all the components of an antiquated system that has reached its capacity limits for reliable service and is not compatible with new advances in fingerprint technology.

The Public Safety Impact and Significant Accomplishments of the MAFIS Replacement Program:

Enables searching of records against MAFIS and the electronic submission of records to FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint

Integration System (IAFIS) to receive responses from the FBI within 2 hours for criminal queries and 24 hours for applicant queries.

Facilitates the ability to positively identify a criminal suspect while still in custody.
Improves accuracy and reliability of results with data consistency via one-time entry.

Moves Maryland toward achieving a 100% rate of transmitting electronic criminal and applicant fingerprints to IAFIS.

- The design of the new MAFIS Replacement system has been completed and approved.

- User Acceptance Testing is scheduled to start in late January.

- The test system for the Photo ID system has been installed. Planning is in process for photo conversion from legacy systems.

- Approximately 3.5 million paper fingerprint cards have been converted to electronic format.

- The conversion of 6 million cards are expected to be complete by April, 2008.

ID Maryland – National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

This program will give law enforcement personnel access to online databases that will assist them in their duties, including the FBI's NCIC database, Maryland's Hot Files, the MVA database, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications Service (NLETS). This project will achieve the federally established goal of rolling out the NCIC system to all statewide law enforcement agencies. The NCIC system investment supports the entire core/priority mission functions performed by the Maryland State Police and other law enforcement agencies.

Public Safety Impact and Significant Accomplishments of the NCIC:

Implements a web-based system that provides police officers in the field throughout the state with access to the FBI's NCIC, a computerized database of criminal justice information available nationwide, 24/7/365.

Allows Maryland law enforcement personnel to access Maryland's Hot Files, the MVA database, the NLETS, the Convicted Sex Offender, Convicted Person on Supervised Release, and SENTRY (an index of persons incarcerated in federal prisons) on their mobile data terminals.

Gives law enforcement the ability to transmit and view images which include mug shots, fingerprints, signatures, and identifying photographs to confirm a subject's identity and enables the capability of attaching photos to missing person and stolen property files.

- Assessments and reviews of 330 sites have been completed.

- Successfully installed the upgraded NCIC system in five (5) Pilot Sites.
- Successfully installed in Production the ability to retrieve MVA Photos from user workstations.

- Testing of the new Remote Mobile Data Terminal System (RMDTS) has begun. Salisbury Police Department is the test Pilot site for this application. Implementation of this new process will also include the ability to retrieve MVA Photos on the MDTs.

- Planning and scheduling for the Statewide Agency rollout for the Omnixx/NCIC system has begun.

Maryland Judiciary Case Search

Provides public Internet access to information from case records maintained by the Maryland Judiciary. Allows users to search for Circuit and District Court cases and to see party and event information about those cases. This information includes defendant name, city and state, case number, date of birth, plaintiff name (civil cases only), trial date, charge, and case disposition.

Public Safety Impact and Significant Accomplishments of Case Search:

Includes detailed case information for all Maryland District Court traffic, criminal, and civil cases and Maryland Circuit Court criminal and civil cases.

The Maryland Judiciary Case Search system concept and planning began in early 2004. In 2006, the Judiciary launched the new Case Search website. In this initial version, Case Search provided summary data on all cases maintained by the Judiciary. Work continued through 2007 to increase the amount and timeliness of data available, including making criminal case information available as updates are entered into court systems. (Previously, criminal case information was current as of close of business the previous day.)

Case Search currently has over 12 million cases and averages 250,000 hits per day.

Goals for 2008

The goals listed build upon the progress made during 2007. Significant success has been achieved with the cooperation of the Boards members and state criminal justice agencies. As part of this progress the Board agreed at its December meeting to establish four working groups:

> Records Improvement and Public Safety Data Standards
> Interoperability/Information Exchange
> Legislation and Legal
> Research and Analysis

These four working groups will identify priorities in these areas and work to establish partnerships and resources that may be utilized as the Board moves toward its goals and objectives in 2008, which are highlighted below:

- In partnership with State CIO and State Enterprise Architect support public safety integration of existing systems and development of distributed applications and public safety data standardization methods such as Global Justice XML (GJXML) and NIEMS - now required to be used in new information sharing projects that are funded through state and federal grants.

- Continue to support the ID Maryland advancement with the replacement of outdated criminal history databases. This will continue to ensure efficient criminal identification for all law enforcement in the state of Maryland. The CJIAB agrees that automated fingerprint identification systems are critical assets to the success of Maryland's public safety strategies.

- The Board will continue to support enhancement of interoperability with the FBI databases. For example, compliance with the new National Instant Check System (NIC) bill that encourages the states to share gun-purchasing disqualifiers to them so guns don't get sold to individuals not deemed appropriate.

- The Board will continue to support and assist with the installation of additional Livescan devices across the state and implement the MAFIS replacement program toward achieving a 100% rate of transmitting electronic criminal and applicant fingerprints to IAFIS.

- The conversion of 6 million cards are expected to be completed by April 2008 to electronic format improving accuracy and reliability of results with data consistency.

- The Omnixx/NCIC system will begin roll out on or about mid January 2008 to over 13,000 statewide law enforcement and criminal justice personnel.

- The Criminal Justice Records Improvement Master Plan will be reviewed and updated to insure the most accurate, complete and timely information to Maryland's Criminal Justice agencies.

- During first quarter of 2008, DPSCS will complete installation of Livescan equipment at 15 Department of Parole and Probation sites. This effort ensures the capture of needed P&P data not previously available due to bad prints or other reasons.

Future enhancements to Case Search will include:

- Providing District Court traffic in real-time, as well as wider ranging and program specific court information such as civil and domestic violence orders.

- Expanding the judgments and liens search to include District Court data.

- Working with the Registers of Wills to add their data to the system.

- Working towards secure access so criminal justice agencies can obtain access to non-public information.

Conclusion

In today's world, no state can ignore the importance of working with criminal justice agencies within and across state lines. The CJIAB will continue to take a leadership role to support solutions that effectively leverage critical information across criminal justice agencies. Building on the accomplishments of 2007, the goals outlined for 2008 will enhance interoperability in Maryland.