

STATE OF MARYLAND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION ADVISORY
BOARD

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INTEROPERABILITY

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THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION ADVISORY
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
BACKGROUND	3
<i>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES</i>	
TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS	
Arrest Disposition Reporting (ADR) Mainframe Replacement	5
The Significant Accomplishments and Public Safety Impact of the ADR Replacement Project	5
<i>JUDICIARY</i>	
TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS	
Maryland Judiciary Case Search	6
Maryland Electronic Court System (MDEC)	7
<i>JUDICARY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES</i>	
TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS	
The Maryland Electronic Court System (MDEC)	8
<i>MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION</i>	
<i>TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS</i>	
Outstanding Arrest Warrant Program	11
State Identification Cards	11
Customer Connect	11
NIC/USA	11
<i>JUDICIARY AND MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION</i>	
TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS	
Case Search	13
2022 GOALS	15

Executive Summary

The Maryland Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board (CJIAB) submits its *Annual Report on Criminal Justice Interoperability* pursuant to Criminal Procedure Article §10-210(6) and State Government Article, §2-1257 *Annotated Code of Maryland* respectively. This report describes the public safety impact and significant interoperability accomplishments of the Maryland Departments of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Motor Vehicle Administration, and the Judiciary for the calendar year of 2021. The projects demonstrate either technological enhancements or data sharing efforts as they relate to criminal justice interoperability between State agencies and across state lines.

Criminal Justice Information System 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.

The CJIAB will continue to take a leadership role to support solutions that effectively highlight projects that demonstrate either technological enhancements or data sharing efforts as they relate to criminal justice interoperability between State agencies and across state lines.

Background

The Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board (CJIAB) was created by statute in 1976. The CJIAB'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.

The CJIAB includes representatives from a broad section of the criminal justice community including public safety, the courts, law enforcement, and homeland security. The CJIAB also includes members from the county and municipal governments, and the public.

As a statutory entity, the CJAB has responsibility for criminal justice integration and interoperability. The Board works to establish policies, relationships, and infrastructure to enable sharing of local criminal justice information across the entire criminal justice system. The CJAB 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 sections that follow describe the public safety impact and significant interoperability accomplishments of the Departments of Public Safety and Correctional Services, State Police, Judiciary, and Motor Vehicle Administration.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (DPSCS)

TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Arrest Disposition Reporting (ADR) Mainframe Replacement

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services plans to replace its Arrest Disposition Reporting (ADR) system with a cloud-based state of the art relational database and web interface. The ADR Mainframe System provides Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) services to authorized criminal justice agencies throughout the State of Maryland. ADR is the designated electronic repository for CHRI for the State.

“Arrest data from law enforcement agencies (in the form of fingerprint cards) and electronic data transfers from Arrest Booking System (ABS) or Network Live Scan (NLS) devices are added to the arrest database by Customer Information Control Center (CICS) online transactions. This collection of data is needed to perform the primary functions of ADR so as to provide CHRI to criminal justice agencies and some authorized non-criminal justice agencies. This service is provided to users in real-time through the online transactions. This is a planned 5-year project. Phase I of this project is to collect and write requirements and business documentation in order to proceed to the next phases.”

The Significant Accomplishments and Public Safety Impact of the ADR Replacement Project:

Phase I consisted of the following tasks:

- (1) ADR/Computerized Criminal History (CCH) current state analysis, which was a 6-month effort completed back in November 2018.
- (2) This task was followed by the Procurement process slated to be completed by the end of this year.

Phase II will consist of the implementation of the new CCH/ADR, which is projected to be completed three years from the Notice to Proceed.

JUDICIARY

TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Maryland Judiciary Case Search and Justice Related Web Interface Applications

The Maryland Judiciary Case Search website provides public Internet access to information from case records maintained by the Maryland Judiciary. Users can search for appellate and trial court cases and view party and event information about those cases.

The Significant Accomplishments and Public Safety Impact of Case Search and Web Portal Applications:

- Case Search currently averages 1.5 - 2 million hits per day. Infrastructure improvements were implemented to provide faster, consistent response time.
- Mechanisms to prevent the harvesting of data by robotic means were implemented in Case Search.
- State's Attorneys' Offices and other justice partners continue to use a Court Record web retrieval service for District and Circuit Court Criminal and District Court Traffic cases for MDEC counties.
- A Court Docket retrieval web service for law enforcement was implemented. The application includes officers' case information for pending hearings. Case data is provided by agency location and officer.
- Text messaging service for hearing notifications was expanded to include registration via a text messaging dashboard (instead of the Public Defender Eligibility database) in 2021. The service is popular and highly utilized. To date, 1,821,264 messages have been sent to 97,520 recipients.

Future enhancements to the Maryland Judiciary Case Search and Web Interface Applications:

- The Case Search infrastructure continues to move toward a new service-based architecture that will allow for portability across various platforms and the cloud. The new architecture provides improved maintenance and recovery for the Case Search system.
- Court Record web service will expand to include civil cases in addition to criminal and traffic cases.
- The Judiciary added appellate case records from the Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals to the Case Search system.

The Maryland Electronic Court System (MDEC)

The goal of this project is to replace the disparate legacy case management systems with an integrated statewide Case Management System. MDEC is a paper-on-demand system with an e-filing component for litigants. Significant business process redesign has been completed because of the transition to electronic records. The MDEC system will serve all courts and facilitate more efficient operations and more timely data exchange with criminal justice partners. As of October 2021, with the implementation of MDEC in Montgomery County, 22 of the State's 24 jurisdictions have been converted to the MDEC system.

The Significant Accomplishments and Public Safety Impact of MDEC:

The technical architecture for the integrated environment has been established and all legacy and MDEC related data is being replicated. This major accomplishment is the foundation upon which the Judiciary Case Search portal has delivered case data to law enforcement personnel.

The Judiciary released an open model option for e-filing, introducing e-filing service providers (EFSP) in addition to the Judiciary-provided portal, to interface with MDEC's e-filing service.

Future development of the Maryland Judiciary Case Management System will include:

- Continued development for data exchange with justice partners using REST (Representational State Transfer) protocols.

- Development with/through Tyler Technologies to allow for e-filing in juvenile matters and case initiation for criminal cases.

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Maryland Judiciary Case Search and Justice Related Web Interface Applications

The Judiciary and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services expanded their ongoing and statutorily required criminal justice exchange to improve upon criminal record accuracy, completeness, and timeliness.

Significant accomplishments:

- Mechanized the expungement process. The Judiciary and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services automated the process for reporting court order expungement data to the Expungement Unit of the Criminal Justice Information System – Central Repository to assist in processing the orders within the legislatively-mandated time frame, decreasing the burden on CJIS staff by alleviating manual data entry.
- Redesigned the reporting of criminal convictions to the Criminal Repository to ensure criminal record accuracy, completeness, and timeliness.
- Overhauled the eCitation feed to support Maryland State Police migration to more modern technology.

Plans to incorporate Department of Natural Resources citations in 2022.

MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION (MVA)

DATA SHARING

I. MDOT MVA – Outstanding Arrest Warrant Program

In accordance with Transportation Article, § 16-204, Annotated Code of Maryland, law enforcement agencies can notify the MDOT MVA to flag an individual's driver's license and vehicle registration if the individual has an outstanding arrest warrant. After notice to the individual named in the outstanding arrest warrant, and opportunity for the individual to contest the identification of the individual as the subject of the arrest warrant, the MDOT MVA will suspend the driver's license of the individual and refuse to renew or transfer the individual's vehicle registration(s). The individual is directed to the law enforcement agency that notified the MDOT MVA of the outstanding warrant to resolve any question of whether the warrant has been satisfied. If the individual goes to an MDOT MVA branch office while the arrest warrant remains outstanding, the appropriate law enforcement agency will be notified by Maryland State Police or the Maryland Transportation Authority Police who are stationed at the MDOT MVA branch office and the individual will be detained. Once the warrant has been satisfied and the MDOT MVA is notified, the flags are lifted, and the individual is unsuspended and able to renew their vehicle registration(s) and driver's license.

Since the program's inception, the MDOT MVA has issued 314,198 suspension notices and imposed 182,404 suspensions. Of those, 167,659 warrants have been satisfied.

The Significant Accomplishments and Public Safety Impact of MDOT MVA – Outstanding Arrest Warrant Program:

- Warrant satisfaction rates have steadily increased over the duration of the program, but have stalled over the last few years and currently stand at approximately 92% of suspensions imposed.

II. MDOT MVA – State Identification Cards

As part of its reentry efforts the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Division of Correction provides State Identification cards to those inmates who are about to be released from a correctional facility. An inmate's photo and digital signature are captured at the correctional facility and electronically submitted to the MDOT MVA. The inmate's paperwork is forwarded to a branch location nearest to the detention facility. MDOT MVA processes the information and returns the State Identification card to the facility to be provided to the inmate upon their release.

This year, there were 599 inmates that were issued identification cards through this process. This number is significantly lower than previous years, likely due to COVID.

The Significant Accomplishments and Public Safety Impact of MDOT MVA – State Identification Cards:

- The inmates are provided an opportunity to have appropriate identification that is needed to obtain services or employment at the time of release thereby alleviating a reentry roadblock.

III. MDOT MVA – CUSTOMER CONNECT

The MDOT MVA rolled out Phase 1 of its multi-year system upgrade, Customer Connect, in July 2020. As part of the Phase 1 roll out, vehicle records and transactions were migrated to a new platform. Phase 2 of the upgrade was rolled out on December 6, 2021. The second phase of the project included driver services and impacted interfaces with the courts and law enforcement.

While the interface with the courts did not change, the new system is expected to reduce the manual work that has historically been required by the MVA to process the data in the files received by the courts.

For law enforcement, the second rollout moved the METERS interface completely to web services that use NLETS XML format, in conformance with how other states send and receive data. With vehicle and driver information in one system, the MVA is able to provide a full snapshot of the vehicle and driver records to law enforcement.

One of the larger changes with the second phase is with the driver license number (DLN), previously called a Soundex. The Soundex number included data from the driver's name and date of birth. The new DLN format, referred to as the MD ID, is a randomly generated number that will provide enhanced security, protection of personal information, and ease of use for MDOT MVA customers. With the implementation of the new MD ID driver's license number format, a customer can maintain their driver's license number even after a name or credential change. The MD ID will appear on new physical credentials that are issued in Customer Connect and will be used when communicating with interface partners, including law enforcement and AAMVA.

The MDOT MVA continues to work with external partners, including the courts and law enforcement, to ensure that they receive the information they need through new interfaces. The goal has been to provide uninterrupted service with more information and additional options for retrieving it.

IV. MDOT MVA – NIC USA – PHOTOS AND SIGNATURES

The MDOT MVA provides record access to eligible entities through our partner NIC USA, which offers various records products. Governmental entities, including criminal justice agencies, can obtain records through NIC at no cost, giving subscribers real-time access to records. Also, eligible subscribers can have instant access to photographs and signatures on record at the MDOT MVA.

JUDICIARY AND MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION

TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Maryland Judiciary Case Search and Justice Related Web Interface Applications

The Judiciary and the Motor Vehicle Administration continued to improve the data accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the data exchange.

- Redesigned the interface used to monitor traffic dispositions sent to the Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Administration. The enhancement provides additional navigation filters and reporting details for Judiciary and MVA personnel.
- Created a mechanized solution to report juvenile delinquency cases from the courts to MVA.

JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS

Maryland Judiciary Case Search and Justice Related Web Interface Applications

The Judiciary and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) continue to work to improve the efficient exchange of statutorily required criminal justice data in order to improve upon criminal record accuracy, completeness, and timeliness.

Significant accomplishments / ongoing efforts:

- The Judiciary and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services automated the process for reporting court orders for expungement to the Expungement Unit of the Criminal Justice Information System (Central Repository). Implementing this process allows CJIS to process court orders for expungement more efficiently, once the order and certificate of compliance are received from the courts.
- The reporting of criminal convictions to Public Safety was enhanced and now includes vacated dispositions and violations of probation for each charge in addition to case level reporting.

2022 Goals

The CJIAB will continue to identify priorities and work to establish partnerships and resources that may be utilized as it moves toward its goals and objectives in 2022, which are highlighted below:

- Support the State's efforts in the expansion of the sharing of criminal justice information.
- Continue the effort to implement the project to update and replace the Arrest Disposition Reporting Mainframe system as well as other outdated criminal history systems.
- Establishment of Maryland Electronic Court System (MDEC) throughout the State.

Conclusion

Building on the accomplishments of 2021, the Board will continue to focus on its legislatively mandated responsibilities, especially regarding the operation and maintenance of the Criminal Justice Information System to enhance interoperability and improve public safety in Maryland.