

# **CJIS** Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Blueprint *News*



**Project Status** **YELLOW**

### *What's Inside ...*

Moving Forward	1
Why CISS?	2
Why Now?	2
Next: It's All in the Timing	2
And ... It's All in the Money	2
Next Steps	3
Next Issue	3

### **CISS – What's in it for YOU?**

- The right data.
- In the right format.
- At the right time.
- Supporting critical business processes.
- Improving public service.
- Improving public safety.

### **What is the CJIS Blueprint Project?**

The CJIS Blueprint Project is an initiative to assess the current business and technological capabilities of our CJIS partners to identify their future needs and develop a blueprint or plan of action to achieve results. To help us with this initiative, MTG Management Consultants, LLC, has begun the first phase by working with CJIS partners to develop an "as is" logical model view of our current information exchanges (i.e., what exists now). Once the current environment, or as-is logical model, has been fully mapped out, MTG will begin Phase 2. Phase 2 is essentially a vision of the future, or where we want to be, which is called the "to be" logical model. Together, these two models will help us to identify the gaps between where we are and where we want to be. This gap analysis will be the basis for developing system requirements for the new CJIS.

### **Moving Forward**

At its August 21 special meeting, the CJIS Governing Board voted unanimously to move ahead with the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) project, and adopted the following motions:

- That the CJIS Governing Board approve the Gap Analysis report and its recommendations presented by MTG and direct the CJIS Executive Director to implement the recommendations.
- That the CJIS Governing Board approve the Blueprint RFP recommendations presented by MTG and direct the CJIS Executive Director to implement the recommendations.

The board asked MTG to create a legislative business case and validate the savings analysis through the savings validation committee. The Board also requested MTG to look into the cost of developing two-way interfaces to CJIS agency applications. This option will be discussed at the next appropriate board meeting.

In addition, the board approved the following items:

- CISS will have a focus core staff for infrastructure support (IS) and application support (AS). These positions will report to the CJIS executive director and will be supported by Department of Information Technology (DoIT) personnel.
- CISS will be the development priority, and agency initiatives will be coordinated with CISS. This means that the CISS program will be the priority for all justice agencies, and new justice agency initiatives will be coordinated through the CISS program manager.
- CISS will have 6-month milestones.
- CISS will be a budget priority.
- CISS will be constrained by economical limits based on total cost of ownership and return on investment.

The Gap Analysis report was the basis for these recommendations, and its findings were also approved by the governing board.

*The CJIS Governing Board voted unanimously to move ahead with the CISS project.*

## Why CISS?

The governing board's actions were preceded by a discussion of the compelling reasons for CISS and why now was the right time. So, why CISS?

*There are many compelling reasons to move forward with CISS at this time.*

- The current application situation in the justice agencies.
- Known gaps in information flow.
- The limitations of Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS).
- Current costs of staff effort, technology, and lack of progress.
- The future path without CISS will yield limited change.

## Why Now?

There was discussion about several compelling reasons to move forward, including how the state may never be more well positioned to act than now. Some of the considerations are:

- The justice community agrees on the issues and the need for a solution.
- It often appears that there is never a good time for a CJIS effort; however, it is important to consider the following:
  - » Connecticut has the governance in place.
  - » Agencies are cooperating, and the need for more collaboration is high.
  - » There is legislative will to address CJIS need.
  - » The justice community is working together.
- The transition with OBTS provides a good point for change.
- CJIS can be done at a measured pace to reduce impact on capital funds.

The discussion of the need for CISS and the importance of moving forward now were the basis of the decisions of the governing board.

## Next: It's All in the Timing

The proposal is that the CISS program should move forward in steps, to spread out both budget costs and staff effort. The proposed steps are:

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- Procure and implement a CISS portal (*first step*).
- Procure and implement CISS middleware (*second step*).
- Implement enterprise-wide security (*third step*).
- Implement agency connections (*subsequent steps*).

These steps translate into the following timeline:

- Searchable, service-based, portal interface for criminal justice information done by June 30, 2010.
- Messaging configured and tested by December 31, 2010.
- Agency-to-agency messaging implemented by June 30, 2011, with priority information exchanges implemented.
- Additional messaging supporting defined information exchanges implemented in 6-month increments beginning in December 2011.
- Support for and alignment with agency efforts throughout this timeline.

## And ... It's All in the Money

Funding for the CISS initiative has not yet been established, but the following recommendations have been made to the board:

*CISS should be the funding priority for the state and for the justice agencies.*

- CISS should be the funding priority for the state and for the justice agencies.
- CISS will be a budget priority.
- CISS design and implementation choices will focus on a combination of most beneficial **then** most economical.
- CISS funding decisions will be total cost and return on investment.

## Next Steps

The next steps in the project are to:

- Secure funding for Phase 1 of the CISS implementation.
- Complete the CISS requirements and conduct a structured review of the requirements with the appropriate governing board committee.
- Complete and issue the Phase 1 RFP.

Upon completion of these steps, Phase 1 development will begin.

## Next Issue

The next issue of *CJIS Blueprint News* will update the status of the budget, CISS requirements, and RFP.

## Project Status

The CJIS Blueprint Project remains in yellow status, as the project timeline has been pushed back due to a number of factors. The issue of project scope has been resolved, and funding remains the key factor in predicting the future timeline.



*Next Month – Acquisition Update*

