

CCJJ Exploratory Data Planning Group

Background

In March 2014 the CCJJ identified data sharing as a priority for future work. The Exploratory Data Planning Group (EDPG) was created to define the data sharing problem, identify key stakeholders, and propose a work plan for a new task force.

Two alternative systems were considered: one which focused on helping policy makers evaluate criminal justice programs, and another which focused on improving offender management. The EDPG felt that the latter system would have a larger impact and would provide the most benefit to the criminal justice system. Although the focus of the proposed system is offender management, this approach has the potential to be expanded (using established governance) to benefit other members of the criminal justice system including policy makers.

Problem Statement

Offender information is created and maintained by many agencies across the criminal justice system. Data sharing through CICJIS (Colorado's Integrated Criminal Justice Information System, housed in the Department of Public Safety) currently facilitates the exchange of limited amounts of data between some agencies but a single repository of offender data that can be accessed by all agencies does not exist. As a consequence, criminal justice professionals do not have access to the data that they need to effectively manage offenders. This creates inefficiencies, increases costs and decreases public safety. For example, assessments and interventions are duplicated across agencies.

Proposed Solution

It is the belief of the EDPG that a single repository for selected offender data should be created, similar to an individual health record, with information that follows an offender through the system. Each of the relevant criminal justice agencies would contribute data to it, and criminal justice professionals would have secure access to it. Benefits of such a system are targeted to the front-line criminal justice professionals who have contact with or manage offenders. Managing offenders could be more efficient, cost effective, and successful if these criminal justice professionals had access to all relevant offender data, including risk/needs information and program participation, when they need it.

The proposed solution would not replace existing systems but would augment them. As envisioned it would contain criminal justice and treatment/programming data that would facilitate continuity of care and enhance offender management: criminal justice events such as arrests, current and past placements such as probation and corrections, risk assessments, treatment received and outcomes. This system would also directly address two CCJJ recommendations made in FY2008 that promoted a comprehensive offender profile that follows the offender through the criminal justice system be created (see Appendix for FY08-BP46 and FY08-BP47).

Issues

The EDPG recognized that data sharing proposals often fail to be realized. With that in mind the group identified the following issues that would need to be addressed by the task force:

- Obtaining executive support for the project
- Limiting the project scope to a well-defined problem

CCJJ Exploratory Data Planning Group

- Ensuring data privacy and statutory confidentiality requirements
- Ensuring data security
- Ensuring agency control of data

Stakeholders

The EDPG has identified the following key stakeholders for the proposed task force:

Department of Corrections	The Judicial Branch	Office of Behavioral Health
Department of Public Safety	Department of Human Services	Colorado Sheriffs
Health Care Policy Finance	County Commissioners	Pre-Trial Professionals
Community Treatment Providers	Office of Information Technology	Colorado Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CICJIS)

Task Force Work Plan

The EDPG identified the need to have full support of the agency executives for this project to be a success. Therefore the work of the task force is divided into two phases. Phase I focuses on making the business case for this new system (i.e. why should this system be built). With approval of the CCJJ to proceed, Phase II builds upon the work of Phase I to flesh out the system requirements and produce a concept document for final approval.

Phase I - 4 months

The goal of Phase I is to make the business case for an offender data repository to the CCJJ. This phase will:

- Define the purpose of an offender data repository and the problems it solves
- Identify the consumers of this data
- Identify the data elements that the repository will contain
- Identify the source agencies that will contribute data
- Identify the benefits and beneficiaries of the offender data repository

Phase II - 11 months

Upon approval for the offender data repository by the CCJJ (including the executive directors on the Commission), the focus of Phase II will be to further define the proposed system and create a concept document that provides a more complete analysis of the system requirements. In this phase the task force will:

- Identify issues with data definitions across systems
- Identify the privacy issues that need to be addressed
- Identify the security issues that need to be addressed
- Identify acceptable uses of the data
- Obtain guidance from OIT and CJIS on what they would need to proceed
- Identify next steps
- Compile results of Phase I and Phase II into a concept plan and present to the full CCJJ for approval

CCJJ Exploratory Data Planning Group

Appendix

FY08-BP46: STANDARDIZED COMPREHENSIVE OFFENDER PROFILE

Determine the cost and feasibility to develop a standardized comprehensive profile for each convicted felon, to include a Pre-Sentence Information Report (PSIR) that is entered into an automated system and made accessible to authorized personnel.

This recommendation has not been implemented. The Commission is committed to the transfer of information that would form the foundation of individualized, dynamic case plan. This complex reform initiative furthers the Commission’s statutory mandate to “focus on evidence-based recidivism reduction initiatives....” and ensure the “...cost effective use of public resources.” [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].

FY08-BP47: OFFENDER PROFILE TO FOLLOW THROUGHOUT SYSTEM

Representatives from probation, community corrections, DOC, and local jails must work together to develop and implement a protocol whereby a standardized, comprehensive profile of an offender, the offense, and the victim impact--which may include the PSIR--and individual empirically-based assessment information (such as the Level of Supervision Inventory, and specialized assessments), should follow all individuals convicted of a felony throughout the system, from pre-sentence to release. This assessment should be regularly updated, at a minimum prior to significant decision points in custody or during community supervision, to assure that program placement is linked to criminogenic needs and to document treatment progress and new skills obtained. A systematic quality assurance procedure must be implemented with this initiative. Protocols to share this information while protecting the privacy of the individual must be developed and implemented within and across agencies.

This complex recommendation reflects fundamental reform, and has not been implemented. The Commission is committed to the transfer of information that would form the foundation of individualized, dynamic case plan. This complex reform initiative furthers the Commission’s statutory mandate to “focus on evidence-based recidivism reduction initiatives....” and ensure the “...cost effective use of public resources.” [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].