

The Evolution of CISS

In 2007, influenced by the Cheshire home invasion, the State of Connecticut undertook a review of its criminal justice process. As a result of that review, State of Connecticut Public Act 08-01(P.A. 08-01) was passed. The Act not only provided for change to the penal code, it also provided for change to the current criminal justice information sharing process in an effort to provide for a safer community for the citizens of the state.

As part of the changes put forth by P.A. 08-01, the CJIS Governing Board was charged with designing and implementing a comprehensive, state-wide system to facilitate the sharing of information between all criminal justice agencies. A plan for a new information sharing system, the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS), was established.

Additionally, the statute expanded the membership of the Governing Board and added provisions for an Executive Director and staff to fulfill the requirements of the statutory mandates.

After he took office in 2010, Governor Dannel P. Malloy approved the plan to develop CISS, a technically modern criminal information system that would build upon Connecticut's existing criminal justice information systems, contain all essential offender information in one shared system, and provide historical and current criminal information seamlessly.

CISS Components

CISS provides the CJIS stakeholder community with the ability to share information through two basic methods: information dissemination to agencies by way of Search Releases, and Workflows, which are a by-product of information gathering and information exchanges.

Workflows

Workflows consist of electronic Information Exchanges that will replace much of the manual movement of paper that occurs today. Information Exchanges are sequences of operations that automatically send specific information (for example, arrest details) directly to authorized users based on predefined business rules and security requirements.

From the time when an officer makes an arrest, a notice will go out to all of the Agencies in the criminal justice system which are authorized to receive this information. As new information from affected agencies is introduced into the system, authorized users can follow a case from beginning to end, from arrest, incarceration, and court appearances to prisoner release.

Search

CISS will provide a "Google" like search for authorized users to quickly search for information in data systems from every participating Connecticut criminal justice agency. Information sources will include local or state law enforcement systems, participating Judicial Branch systems, the Departments of Correction, Motor Vehicles, Court Support Services Division, and the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

For example, if a law enforcement officer enters a vehicle's license plate number into the CISS Search screen, the officer will learn whether the car's registration is current and whether the registered owner is wanted by any agency in Connecticut.

The Office of the Victim Advocate could learn, among other things, whether a person was recently arrested, has court cases pending, is on parole or probation, or has a history of violence against police officers. Similarly, Public Defenders can enter a search for information about a vehicle, locations or property while at the scene of a crime.



Connecticut Information Sharing System

The Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) is a comprehensive, state-wide information technology system to be used by Connecticut Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share criminal justice information in a secure environment, thereby enhancing informed decision-making.

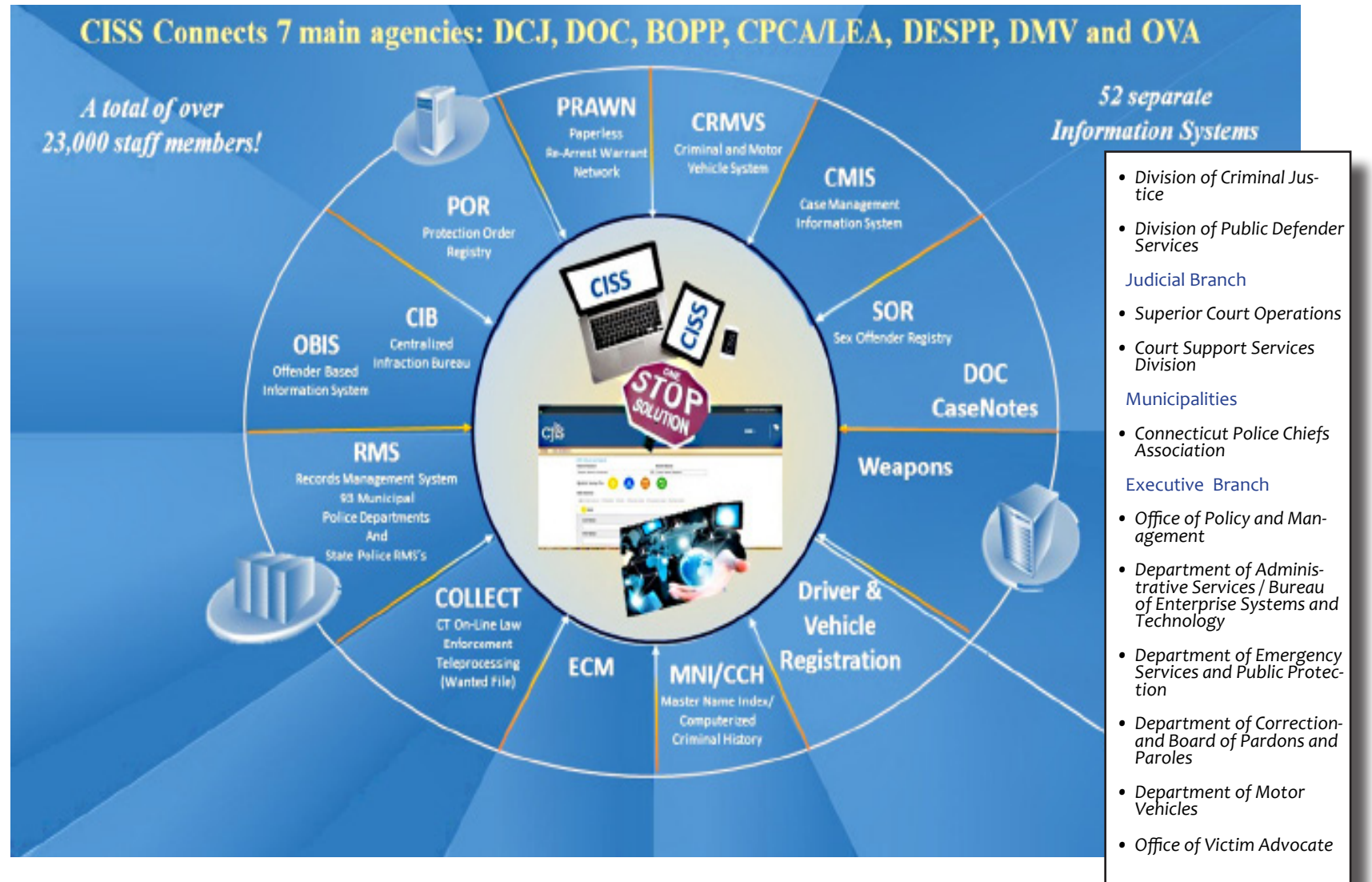
The benefit in realizing the time and cost in the legislation and building of the CISS application is that critical information will be sent and received more quickly, accurately and at a lower cost, while improving the safety of the general public and law enforcement officers.

Information that is shared will be accessed only by authorized personnel based on predefined business rules and security requirements according to federal laws and the laws of the State of Connecticut.

Benefits of CISS

The advantages of increasing criminal justice information sharing capabilities are tremendous for the criminal justice community and the State of Connecticut. The benefits of CISS include the following:

- Improve officer and public safety through improved accuracy, quick access, and completeness of criminal justice information.
- Improve justice decisions based on accurate, complete, and timely information.
- Automatic electronic notifications to criminal justice personnel of key events that could be pivotal in deterring crime.
- Provide a clearinghouse for arrest activity within the State of Connecticut.
- Streamline the arrest and misdemeanor summons process reducing errors and redundant data capture, while eliminating or minimizing manual paper transfer between Law Enforcement and Judicial Agencies.
- Save an estimated \$15 million a year through establishing electronic workflows.



CISS Timeline

