

## A Senator's Perspective

*Senator John A. Kissel on the Connecticut Information Sharing System*

CJIS Governing Board Co-Chairs  
Mike Lawlor,  
*Under Secretary, State of Connecticut OPM  
and*  
Judge Patrick L. Carroll, III  
*Deputy Chief Court Administrator*



Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary, OPM

### IN THIS ISSUE

Senator John A. Kissel	1
CJIS Governing Board	2
CISS Program Overview	3
CISS Project Updates	4-5
CISS Workflows	4
CISS Business Update	5
OBTS Update	6

Senator John A. Kissel has been a member of the Connecticut legislature for more than 20 years. He is currently the Ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee. As such, he is also a member of the CJIS Governing Board. He's served on the committee for 19 years, and has been its ranking member for 11. Kissel represents a swath of Connecticut that includes Enfield, Somers, and Suffield where six prisons holding 8,000 inmates are located, so criminal justice in Connecticut is an area he is keenly interested in.

In a recent conversation, he talked about the need for the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS). He recalls the events of July 2007 that set the wheels in motion to begin work on CISS — a horrific crime in which two offenders invaded a Cheshire home, beat the father unconscious, killed his wife and two daughters, and set the house on fire.

Facts that emerged after the

crime demonstrated the need for criminal justice agencies to do a better job of exchanging information. In this instance, one of the offenders most likely would not have been paroled if the parole board had all of his records.

“What stood out most dramatically [in the Cheshire crime] was the lapse of important information... If the Board of Pardons and Paroles had in its possession all the information that was part of [the convicts'] files, those people might still be alive today.” Kissel was involved in drafting legislation — Public Act 08-01 — to authorize CJIS to build CISS.

The Cheshire crime is only one of the most dramatic examples of crimes that might have been prevented if the right people had all the information necessary at the right time to make the best decisions.

Newington Police Officer Peter Lavery was killed in 2004 when he

*Continued on page 2*



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Revolutionary Technology Linking  
Connecticut's Criminal Justice &  
Law Enforcement Community  
April 2013 — Vol. 2, No. 4  
[www.ct.gov/cjis](http://www.ct.gov/cjis)

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responded to a domestic disturbance, unaware of the history of the suspect. He entered a home after being told that the suspect did not have a weapon; he was shot with a modified assault rifle. Had Officer Lavery known that the suspect was a convicted felon who had been fired from a Department of Correction job for weapons violations, he would have approached the situation differently. The information existed, but not where the Newington Police could access it.

“We can fix this,” Kissel says. “It all comes down to information sharing. It’s simple and non-dramatic, but information sharing is the key.” Of course, Kissel says, there is no “cookie cutter” approach to building CISS. It is complicated on many levels — as much from a technology perspective as from an agency perspective.

Several other states have systems to exchange criminal justice information, but none approach the scope of the system that Connecticut has in the works. It takes a lot of money and it takes political will.

Support for the CISS project is unanimous in the legislature. “Public safety is one of the least partisan issues — it cuts across all party lines,” Kissel says.

Kissel’s own philosophies about criminal justice are multi-dimensional. “How can a law-and-order Republican believe in

rehabilitation?” he asks rhetorically. He says that not all offenders can be rehabilitated, but the younger someone is, the greater the chances they can turn their lives around if given the appropriate services.

Public safety is the priority, but that does not conflict with other goals of reducing recidivism and rehabilitation, he says.

Kissel tells of going on a “ride-along” with an officer in Northeast Connecticut, which helped impress on him the dangerous nature of their jobs. “If he’s alone in the middle of the night and makes a stop on a lonely country road... Before that officer gets out of his car, he wants to know something about the person he’s just stopped for a lapsed registration — what is the likelihood of weapons possession?”

A lot is riding on getting complete and accurate information to that officer, and every officer on the street.

The most horrible crime in recent years — committed in December 2012 by a disturbed young man who armed himself for battle to kill first-graders and their teachers — is not a crime CISS could have helped prevent. In the wake of the

Newtown tragedy, Kissel says, all efforts in the Legislature are focused on limiting gun violence through tighter regulations. Whatever firearms legislation is passed, CISS will eventually

use whatever weapons information databases are available to help law enforcement and



*Continued on page 3*

# CJIS Program Overview

*Mark Tezaris, CJIS Program Manager*

The CJIS Project Management Office (PMO) and Xerox have been strategizing the best way to complete Phase 1 of the CISS project within the next two years. Both teams are in the midst of detailed planning for Wave 0, Version 1.5; Search Release 1; and Wave 1.

To complete Phase 1 of CISS, we must plan the scope of the project through to completion. Using the Rolling Wave project methodology, the waves that are further out (2-8) will be planned on a high level with major milestones and dates. As we get closer to each wave, we will create the detailed plans needed.

In order to accelerate the pace at which both the CJIS and Xerox teams move in implementing the CISS scope and requirements, we will need to focus on a few key areas.

First, it is crucial for everyone involved in this project to stand back and re-focus on the original vision for this project — to improve the safety of the public and law enforcement. And, in the process of improving access to information,

we will reap tremendous benefits in terms of efficiency, thereby saving money. A study done by MTG Management Consultants in 2009 detailed the benefits of CISS in both workers' time and in dollars. The savings to the State is projected to be about \$15 million dollars a year when CISS is fully implemented.

The second key area is to work

**We need to re-focus on the original vision for this project — to improve the safety of the public and law enforcement officers through better information exchange.**

with the CJIS agencies on search source system data sharing; specifically, to work out what other business requirements need to be incorporated into the CISS plan. This will involve a small team that understands the real issues and

concerns from each agency and negotiate what is needed to move forward in a win/win strategy based on trust and verification.

The third area is business and technical requirements gathering for source systems and Information Exchanges (IEs) for the entire project to give to the Xerox team so they can continue to develop code, test, and stay on top of the releases for CISS. This will help both the State and Xerox deliver CISS to the CJIS community.

This strategy will require a “surge” of human resources to accommodate a dedicated team that will focus on all business and technical requirements gathering needed for completion of the project. The rest of the CJIS and Xerox teams will focus on the successful implementation of the developed scope. These plans and schedules developed with the agencies will be communicated to the CJIS community in the next few weeks. ■

*continued from page 2*

criminal justice do a better job.

But in a society where we are constantly reminded that no one is immune from random crime and violence, there is an urgency to use all the tools available to protect the public. Kissel emphasizes that Connecticut's law enforcement officers and its citizens deserve

the assurance of knowing that the State's criminal justice agencies and CJIS can work together to build CISS. “There will be crimes that no one can prevent. That shouldn't deter us from working hard to prevent those that we can,” Kissel says. “We owe it to our citizens and our officers.” ~Margaret M. Painter

## **The next CISS Status Meeting is April 1, 2013.**

For more information, or if you are unable to attend and would like the presentation and hand-outs from the meeting, contact [margaret.painter@ct.gov](mailto:margaret.painter@ct.gov)

# CISS Project Management Updates

*John Cook, Lucy Landry, and Eric Stinson — Senior Project Managers*

The CISS project is moving forward with three separate but interrelated waves — Wave 0, Version 1.5; Search Release 1; and Wave 1.

## Wave 0, Version 1.5

The objective of Wave 0, Version 1.5 is to establish the technology architecture for the CISS application. The scope of this part of the project centers around the construction of the software development lifecycle environments (SDLC) supporting development, system testing, user acceptance testing/training, and production activities.

During March, the team established a project charter and plan for W0v1.5, including work tasks, resource assignments, and schedule. In addition, the CJIS and Xerox teams completed work activities necessary to build and test enterprise hardware and software infrastructure components

The hardware infrastructure build-out continued in March, with a collection of servers, Storage Area Networks (SANs), and Local Area Network (LAN) switches. The software, called the *Virtual Machine Manager* (a component of the Microsoft System Center) was also installed to help consolidate, integrate, and virtualize use of these hardware resources. Together, these hardware and software components layout the foundation to create and maintain the SDLC environments.

The team also began building toward the first SDLC environment

called Development. At this stage, the majority of the work is focused on the design and preparation of the virtual software environment for hosting virtual networks, storage containers, and servers.

For April, work will center around completing the Development environment, firewall and networking design, and build-out of applications for the systems testing environment.

## Search Release 1

The goal of CISS SR1 is to provide expanded functionality to the existing W0V1 CISS application. An enhanced, more responsive User Interface, with expanded and enhanced functionality and additional Search Sources, will provide a better user experience. (See “In Brief” on page 5.) ■

**Click here  
for a guide  
to  
Acronyms**

## CISS Workflows

CISS Wave 1 will implement the first of the 8 workflows included in Phase 1. Now that Wave 1 is getting underway, it's a good time for a quick refresher on exactly what we mean by *workflow*. Within the context of CISS, a workflow is essentially the *movement of information, triggered by a specific event*, from an originating agency to all of the other agencies that have a need to receive that information, which is determined based on a set of *business rules*.

The first workflow we're working on is for the Uniform Arrest Report (UAR). *The triggering event* is an arrest. After someone is arrested, the law enforcement agency (LEA) creates a UAR. This begins the workflow and triggers the next steps which will move the UAR information to other agencies. *The information being moved* will include the UAR, an incident report, and any other documentation related to the case (e.g., witness information, toxicology report, photographs, etc.). The UAR and other initial information will be transmitted as soon as possible. Other information will be sent when it becomes available.

*Business and data security rules* will determine which agencies will receive what information in a data exchange. Each exchange has its own specific set of business and data security rules. For example, for UARs, one business rule defines what information is appropriate to be sent to DCJ. Another business rule states exactly what should be sent to DMV if the arrest involves a DUI. ■

## CISS IN BRIEF

### WAVE 0, VERSION 1.5 (W0v1.5)

#### CURRENT WORK

- W0v1.5 project charter signed off
- Project schedule with resource assignments
- CJIS & Xerox teams completed preliminary work to build and test hardware and software infrastructure

#### NEXT MONTH

- Complete development environment
- Complete firewall and networking design
- Complete build-out of applications for the system testing environment

### SEARCH RELEASE 1 (SR1)

#### CURRENT WORK

- SR1 project charter signed off
- SR1 detailed schedule completed
- Internal walk-through of screen re-design mock-up
- Initiated data mapping activities with DESPP and judicial agencies
- Field Observations at DESPP for Weapons & Special Licensing, SOR, and SPBI

#### NEXT MONTH

- Establish connectivity with DESPP and Judicial systems to support search source activity
- Complete requirements definition for all SR1 functionality
- Complete all software detail design activities
- Team site integration with specific DESPP and local LEAs
- Data mapping for DESPP Criminal History, Weapons/Special Licensing, Sex Offender Registry, and COLLECT

### WAVE 1

#### CURRENT WORK

- Detailed scope finalized
- Workflow 1 — UAR and workflow 6 — Common Exchanges have been updated
- BA team is working on detailed requirements for workflows
- RMS certification requirements package is being documented
- Detailed planning is underway
- Field Observation at BOPP — Pre-screens for Pardons hearings

#### NEXT MONTH

- Walkthrough of workflow diagrams with stakeholder community
- Review detailed scope with stakeholders
- Create detailed project schedule
- DESPP field observations for COLLECT and CAD/RMS
- Data mapping for DESPP SPBI, AFIS, and CAD/RMS systems
- Continue to define Agency System Administrator requirements

## CISS Business Update

*Nance McCauley, CJIS Business Manager*

In March, the business team focused on refining and documenting business requirements for the RMS Vendor Certification, 22 prioritized items out of W0v1, the user interface screen layout changes, and the computer-based training requirements.

The business team has been working closely with DESPP over the past month. Field observations have been conducted with DESPP to observe the following business processes related to CISS: Weapons/Special Licensing; Sex Offender Registry (SOR); SPBI (State Police Bureau of Identification); and COLLECT (Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing network).

We also observed the Pre-screenings for Pardons session at the Board of Pardons and Paroles to increase our knowledge of business processes related to CISS.

On March 15, representatives from the criminal justice agencies met to share business and technical information. (This CJIS Community Meeting is reviving the previous Implementation Meeting that was disbanded.) The CJIS Community Meeting was well attended and gave our stakeholders an opportunity for candid discussion between agencies. Minutes from that meeting will be posted on the CJIS web site. ■

## OBTS Update

### Offender Based Tracking System

*John Cook, Senior Project Manager*

For the past several months, the focus of our work on the Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS) has all been geared toward maximizing its usefulness to CISS. During March, CJIS implemented OBTS software updates that were postponed in December due to CISS application work priorities. The following software changes bring noticeable benefit to the user community.

► **HTML Sort Order** — The display of data retrieved from the OBTS database was found to be in an improper sorting order. The sort order was imposed by changes that occurred inside the database server, which affected database tables including attorney names, case, and message console.

► **Data Purity/Uniform Arrest Record (UAR) vs. Ticket #** — Some arrest records used to initially populate the OBTS database, called Day One Data Population

(D1DP), contained unknown UAR numbers that used a generic identifier of 99999999. Users who tried to search using the generic number returned multiple, unrelated cases. During data purity exercises, some arrest records were found to contain a sourced Ticket Number. This was fixed by setting the generic UAR number to a NULL value for records that contain a Ticket Number.

► **Data Purity/Alien Registration Code** — Some of the original records used to populate the OBTS database (D1DP) contained an Alien Registration state classification using a code of "AR." However the correct code for this value is "ALIEN\_REGISTRATION" and records without this code can't be located when searched. This was fixed by replacing the records with the faulty code with the correct code.

► **Exact Name Searches** — The Exact Name Search was redesigned in the 2011 7.3 release cycle period, which moved functionality from the application server to the database. Since then, we have made changes in the 7.4 release to improve overall

efficiency for Exact Name Searches. The changes included query and index optimizations to reduce or eliminate unnecessary table lookups, and moving search reason logging from the application server to the database. We streamlined the Exact Name procedure source to match the Smart Name procedure source. This modification will consolidate and better facilitate future maintenance endeavors.

► **STC (Sentence in Time Calculation) Detainers** — In 2009, OBTS was modified to receive and store multiple detainers, including the ability to receive and process different code types and descriptions. After new software went into production, the STC project was cancelled causing a system rejection of multiple detainers. We are working to replace support of multiple detainers back to maintaining a single detainer.

► **OBTS Interface Fix** — For some search requests, the html user interface was adjusted to properly display lists of data. ■

### The Connecticut Impaired Driver Records System (CIDRIS)

has reached the process improvement stage. The CIDRIS team, including representatives from CJIS, DESPP, and DMV continue to evaluate and improve the accuracy of messages being sent through CIDRIS. CJIS also began planning with Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to identify business and technology considerations necessary to integrate the agency's computer systems with CIDRIS.



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