

CJIS

Annual Report to the Nebraska Legislature



September 15, 2000

Criminal Justice Information System Advisory Committee

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

CJIS
Criminal Justice Information System



The Annual Report of the CJIS Advisory Committee
to the Nebraska Legislature

September 15, 2000



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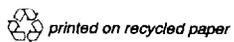


Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
CJIS Mission Statement	5
CJIS Advisory Committee Member Agencies	5
History	7
1997 CJIS Intent Language	10
Committee Activities	11
Management and Operations	13
Funding Sources	14
Project Selection	17
CJIS Projects	18
CJIS Funded Projects	18
Other Projects	25
Related Projects	26
Current CJIS Funding and Budgets	28
Concerns and Opportunities	29
Appendices	31
CJIS Advisory Committee - Representatives by Affiliation and Agency	33
VINE Materials - Examples of a Tear-Off Pad	35
NCJIS Flier	37

Executive Summary

The CJIS Advisory Committee exists to improve the automation and sharing of information within the criminal justice system. CJIS refers to the broad range of programs and activities undertaken as well as the committee itself. The committee is composed of twenty-five voting members covering all areas of state and local responsibilities. Included are the state's criminal justice agencies as well as local professional associations and individual departments. There are two primary goals that the CJIS effort works toward: better access to data and integrating data across jurisdictions. The end goal is to pass data electronically from agency to agency as someone moves through the system with that data available statewide for a variety of uses. This is a goal that can only be achieved through incremental steps and by assisting in implementing or improving automation in a number of areas. Additionally, CJIS provides a mechanism for agencies to share information about internal projects. This report will describe the CJIS projects and describe the status of the overall effort.

The last year has had several major projects go operational. Projects have been undertaken cooperatively and have involved numerous agencies and goals. In the last year the following activities have been put into place.

1. NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System) - an Internet based data warehouse that went live in May, 2000 and is now used by over 100 agencies. It allows secure access to a variety of databases including Nebraska criminal histories, jail bookings, corrections holds, registered sex offenders and probationers.
2. VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) - a system allowing victims of crime, as well as the general public and law enforcement, timely access to information on people held in jail or prison. Additionally, a person can register to be notified when someone is released or transferred. Since installation began in May, 1999 over 12,000 calls have been made to VINE for information and 1,299 victims have registered to be notified of a release. In addition to developing software interfaces to the largest facilities for VINE, 64 jails were provided with computers and a records system.
3. Sleuth - through a statewide contract CJIS will provide a standardized records system to law enforcement for local use as well as state level data collection. It is now being tested in six agencies.

One significant step for the spreading of information to all state and local agencies about the CJIS projects and activities is a statewide technology conference. The first was held October 6-7, 1999 and the second was held September 11-12, 2000. These one and a half day CJIS Technology Conferences brought together over 320 state, federal and local criminal justice professionals and covered a variety of topics. These have been well attended and well received. It is anticipated that there will be an annual conference.

The CJIS Advisory Committee was formed by the Nebraska Crime Commission in 1995 following a recommendation of the Nebraska Intergovernmental Data Communications Advisory Council (NIDCAC) to create a standing committee to provide advice and direction on issues relating to data sharing and the use of information technology among criminal justice agencies. It is the goal of the CJIS Advisory Committee to provide a forum to exchange information about data activities as well as provide an ongoing structure to address issues such as standards, interagency cooperation, and funding. By both initiating and coordinating criminal justice related projects, data and information can more easily be shared among criminal justice agencies and monies can be leveraged to best meet the needs of state and local agencies.

The CJIS effort has taken a structured approach which has been built upon and followed the development of a Strategic Plan in 1997. CJIS is currently updating the Strategic Plan to review projects, examine funding, review priorities and incorporate changes in technology and the advances many agencies have made. The updated plan will be completed by 2001.

The Committee has used a combination of state appropriation and federal grant funds to initiate various projects. Funding was appropriated in 1997 to the Crime Commission for implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Legislative language accompanying the appropriation required an annual report to the Legislature each year. A project of this scope and involving this many state and local agencies can easily succumb to differing priorities, funding hurdles, lack of inertia or failure of reaching and maintaining its true and initial direction. Instead, the CJIS project has maintained focus and used a truly collaborative approach in implementing very real programs that are not only providing direct benefits but are also helping to change the way that criminal justice does business. CJIS is not alone in these efforts nor is it the only entity working on data sharing. However, CJIS has become a forum for the sharing of information on automation projects and a way to work on and improve individual state agency projects by improving cooperation.

Funding for CJIS projects is available from two primary sources: state appropriations and grants, primarily federal grants. The Crime Commission administers the federal Byrne Drug and Violent Crime funds, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victim Of Crime Act (VOCA) and the CJIS Advisory Committee has received limited funds from those programs. Other federal funds have been used include monies from the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP, administered by the Nebraska State Patrol). A grant was received through the Nebraska Information Technology Council (NITC) which will help build on the appropriation and federal grants but other funding sources are needed.

The Crime Commission has requested continued funding for the next biennium for CJIS. The first year's request is for \$324,000 and \$644,000 for the second year. It is anticipated that \$300,000 in federal money will be available through NCHIP in the first year of the budget cycle. CJIS and the Crime Commission hope to dedicate the federal Byrne 5% funds (each year's Byrne grant must allocate at least 5% to criminal justice records improvement) to CJIS for continued operation and enhancement of NCJIS. This would

provide stability to a cornerstone of the CJIS strategy. While funding is paramount it is imperative to have sufficient resources for oversight and management. When it is feasible tasks have been outsourced. However, as CJIS has moved from planning and design to full project implementation it is necessary to have sufficient staff within the Crime Commission to oversee the projects. To that end the Crime Commission has requested the addition of one FTE to supplement the ½ FTE now dedicated to CJIS administration and implementation.

The need to expand and build on projects that have begun is evident. Agencies understand the process and benefits from sharing data and it is important to build on particular projects. Funding over the next biennium is targeted to the following projects.

1. NCJIS Enhancements
NCJIS, the CJIS Internet based data server, has been very well received and has gained broad use in its short lifetime. Additional databases will be added (to include vehicle information, court/JUSTICE data and warrants) as well as additional functionality (such as a notification system to allow tracking of individuals and when they have subsequent reports).
2. Local Applications
The law enforcement application, Sleuth, is in six test agencies and will be installed in police and sheriff departments over the next two years. It is highly recommended that police and sheriffs share a system so they can share local data. Federal funding is anticipated to acquire a similar program for county attorneys and defenders. In both instances there will need to be additional state funding and ongoing training and support.
3. Data Interfaces
While standalone applications, at the jail or court or law enforcement levels, are very useful and assist in local operations we can get distinct benefits from passing information across systems. These complex tasks will provide a major task for CJIS but with significant benefits ranging from better data integrity to reduced levels of double data entry. As well as passing data, CJIS will work to implement interfaces to share photos or other multimedia files, particularly through NCJIS.
4. Federal and Regional Data Exchanges
NCJIS provides a solid portal to a range of state level data. The Nebraska State Patrol maintains the NCIC switch which allows restricted access to federal, FBI and multi-state files. By converging these systems and developing shared access across them, with enhanced security and cross indexing, Nebraska can greatly broaden the availability of data. Other states are also developing data portals. The ability to share data across the nation or within regional systems will help in the identification of offenders and enhanced public safety. CJIS will also pursue sharing data with neighboring states to address the mobility of criminals.

The CJIS Advisory Committee recognizes the need for coordination of the vast number of projects being implemented at the state and local level. CJIS is active in the Nebraska Public Safety Wireless Communications Advisory Council (NPSWAC) as well as other projects to help in attaining a global approach in a variety of solutions. The efforts of making mugshots available statewide via NCJIS is being done with the coordination of the Department of Motor Vehicles so that we can also eventually share license images. CJIS will offer its assistance and participation in any of these types of efforts to best meet multiple goals. These types of cooperative planning and joint visions are needed to best meet needs of the citizens of the state, not just for data and technology but for public safety.

CJIS Mission Statement

Create and maintain a Nebraska criminal justice information system for authorized state and local criminal justice and non-criminal justice users that supports operations, policy analysis, and public safety and that is accurate, timely, complete, appropriately secured to protect privacy rights, cost-effective, and accessible.

CJIS Advisory Committee Member Agencies

1. Clerks of the District Courts
2. Douglas County Information Systems
3. League of Municipalities
4. Lincoln Police Department
5. Nebraska Association of County Court Employees
6. Nebraska Association of County Officials
7. Nebraska Attorney General's Office
8. Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime
9. Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy
10. Nebraska County Attorneys Association
11. Nebraska Crime Commission
12. Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association
13. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
14. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Juvenile Services
15. Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition
16. Nebraska Interagency Data Communications Advisory Committee
17. Nebraska Parole Board
18. Nebraska Probation Department
19. Nebraska Sheriffs Association
20. Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office
21. Nebraska State Patrol
22. Omaha Police Department
23. Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska
24. Police Officers' Association of Nebraska
25. Representative of County Correctional Departments

* It must be noted that there has been ongoing and active participation by a number of non-voting agencies including the Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Roads, Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Federal Highway Administration.

History

In 1994 the Nebraska Intergovernmental Data Communications Advisory Council (NIDCAC), a body created by the Legislature to examine issues pertaining to information use, created a criminal justice information systems (CJIS) subcommittee. With a broad representation from state and local agencies, the subcommittee looked at goals and problems relating to criminal justice data in Nebraska. The subcommittee adopted and forwarded to NIDCAC a recommendation that the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) create a standing committee to provide advice and direction on issues relating to data sharing and the use of information technology among criminal justice agencies.

The Crime Commission acted on the recommendation and in December of 1994 adopted a membership structure and scope for the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Advisory Committee. The Committee met first in February of 1995 and has been active since then. It is the goal of the CJIS Advisory Committee to provide a forum to exchange information about data activities as well as provide an ongoing structure to address issues such as standards, interagency cooperation, and funding. At the time there were few resources to share and no one knew how to bring together the broad range of projects nor address the varied concerns.

While there were and are a number of projects initiated by independent agencies, both state and local, there was neither a structural nor philosophical agreement on how to make the systems work together and to maximize the impact that limited funding could have. At the same time technology is changing rapidly and making available a vast number of tools that can be used by small and large agencies. Whereas computers and technology were once limited to large agencies with dedicated staffs now anyone can purchase powerful machines to do record keeping and office functions. While there are also a number of ways to share information, such as the Internet and the world wide web, the security concerns of the criminal justice community also raises questions on how to best make data available across jurisdictions.

The need to exchange information as well as make information timely and accurate is critical for criminal justice. As agencies continue to develop and work on their own systems the CJIS Advisory Committee can serve as a way to build links between systems. Although state agencies serve as a central focus or repository for much of the information shared by agencies, it has to be recognized that local criminal justice agencies are both the main source, owners and largest users of this data on a day to day basis. Because of that, the CJIS Advisory Committee has representatives from a wide range of state and local criminal justice entities and related agencies.

To bring about a structured approach to the problem the CJIS Advisory Committee moved to better document the needs across the state and to find ways to best solve those needs. The CJIS Advisory Committee contracted with a consultant, Executive Consulting Group (ECG) of Seattle, to develop a statewide data architecture and strategic plan for

improving criminal justice information. Funding for this effort was made available by a grant received from the US Department of Justice by the Nebraska State Patrol for criminal history improvement. The plan was to focus on promoting and maximizing the use and transfer of data between state and local agencies.

This effort was intended to provide the State of Nebraska with a viable plan to improve the flow of criminal justice data. The development of standards, identification of appropriate mechanisms or possible technological approaches and the identification of prioritized milestones with supporting cost/benefit information will assist the State of Nebraska in the ongoing process of improving criminal justice information. It was envisioned that state and local agencies would continue to implement and improve systems to meet their needs but that the criminal justice community must act to allow those systems to best share information at the local, state and federal levels.

The goals of CJIS as defined by the planning process are

- 1) **Increase User Access** - Create and maintain a system that seamlessly supports the operation of the criminal justice system by providing operational, statistical, and policy information to all authorized members of the criminal justice community and other stakeholders on a real-time, immediate, or timely basis.
- 2) **Improve Data Quality** - Create and maintain the systems necessary to ensure the accurate and timely collection of the information that meets all local, state, and federal standards and needs for information.
- 3) **Improve Data Completeness** - Create and maintain the systems necessary to ensure the collection of complete and comprehensive information on persons and events within the criminal justice system that meets all local, state, and federal needs.
- 4) **Maximize System Efficiency** - Maximize the cost-effectiveness of operating the criminal justice system by implementing information technology systems that enable key professional staff to become more effective and efficient.
- 5) **Ensure Privacy Rights by Maintaining Necessary Security** - Establish security mechanisms within the state and local CJIS's to ensure that inappropriate information dissemination does not occur and the privacy rights of all individuals are protected.

The strategic plan was completed in March of 1997, along with the data standards. It was presented to and accepted by the Crime Commission who then formalized an earlier action to establish the CJIS Advisory Committee. This also broadened the representation of the Committee. Additionally, the Crime Commission administers federal monies for criminal justice records improvement through the Byrne Formula Grant Program and will use recommendations of the Committee to allocate those funds. The desire is to be sure that many agencies can share in the benefits of the funds as well as have input into how they are used.

The report was also presented to the Appropriations Committee of the Nebraska Legislature and the Governor. The Legislature and Governor expressed support and acted to provide funds to the Crime Commission to carry out the purposes of the Strategic Plan. This served to recognize the CJIS Advisory Committee within the Crime Commission and its scope of duties. The appropriation was for the biennium and included a requirement of an annual report to the Legislature.

The Strategic Plan and the initiation of projects is not static nor does it depend on a single approach. In mid 2000 an update to the CJIS Strategic Plan was begun. This involves numerous comprehensive planning sessions to review the original projects and establish priorities for the next few years. While the CJIS members are the most active in the plan review it is still necessary to get broad input. The initial findings and recommendations were presented at the September CJIS Technology Conference. This broader audience was useful in verifying the direction we take. The updated plan is to be completed by the end of 2000. It has provided the basis for budget requests and project prioritization. In addition to the CJIS Strategic Plan there are two other key documents. (NOTE: all of these documents are available on the Crime Commission's web site.)

The CJIS Data Standards were developed to provide ways for agencies to build or update systems in ways that would be ready for data sharing. While the standards are voluntary they largely reflect federal standards, used extensively by criminal justice agencies. Further efforts have developed the initial data exchange standards and conversations. When transferring data, it is best done by looking at the business process and defining the data sharing or conversations between agencies.

In 1998 we completed the CJIS Network Communications Strategy. Initially it was thought that this effort could define data sharing across existing state networks. Instead, given the high costs associated with these networks, it was recommended that criminal justice use TCP/IP as the standard protocol. This is what gave rise to NCJIS as an Internet based data portal, providing secure and cost effective access for any authenticated agency providing its own Internet access.

The intent of CJIS is to build or develop components, with available funding, that will tie together or improve the criminal justice system's sharing of data and the use and sharing of technology. Because CJIS is a cooperative, voluntary initiative involving the range of state and local criminal justice agencies there has been a growth and learning process. People and agencies are participating from a recognized need for data improvement and an unselfish approach to improving Nebraska's public safety efforts.

1997 CJIS Intent Language

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Information System Advisory Committee shall develop a structured criminal justice information system environment. The framework shall include: (1) A process that identifies the scope, risks, and accountability for criminal justice projects at both the state and local level; (2) criteria for evaluating and ranking projects based on benefits and value; (3) a process to amend the strategic plan to include other long-term and short-term criminal justice projects; and (4) a system to provide for review and accountability for projects developed within the directives of the strategic plan.

The budget division of the Department of Administrative Services shall create a separate budget program within each agency receiving funds from the appropriation to this program to properly account for such funds.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Information System Advisory Committee submit an initial report by December 1, 1997, and an annual report by September 15 of each year thereafter detailing the funding requested for subsequent years, projects undertaken, and the progress made toward integration of the various Nebraska criminal justice information systems networks and sharing of criminal justice information by state and local agencies.

Committee Activities

Upon completion of the Strategic Plan in March of 1997 the CJIS Advisory Committee needed to address the realities and difficulties of implementing the plan. While the plan identified some seventy plus projects in eleven categories it also was a five year plan with a budget of over seven million dollars. Complete funding was not available and the Committee needed to consider what could be reasonably and realistically taken on. The CJIS projects, although building toward integration and linking data systems, can be looked on as independent projects in that they can be taken on in different time frames and without total reliance on other projects. Nonetheless, various projects do and did provide the basis for additional programs and for incremental success.

Although some federal funds had previously been identified, specifically Byrne monies from the Crime Commission and National Criminal History Improvement Project (NCHIP) funds the State Patrol receives, there was a shortfall in the first year's projected budget which would affect the number of projects that could be taken on. Therefore, the CJIS Advisory Committee was very fortunate to receive funding recommended by the Appropriations Committee and approved by the Governor in 1997. Continued funding, through appropriations as well as seeking federal funds, must provide the basis for implementing CJIS projects. While local agencies can and must provide some level of funding there are constraints on local agencies for new or different technologies.

The CJIS Advisory Committee has benefitted from continued and diverse participation. Both state and local agencies and associations have been involved in project planning, committee activities, meetings and project implementation. The committee recommended to the Crime Commission that three participants be added in 1998: the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime and Douglas County Information Systems. These have added not just diversity and technical expertise but also represent significant users or suppliers of data.

None of the projects that have been undertaken or considered can be effectively put into place without the committee's participation and agreement. Similarly, the planning and future operation and success of any program is dependent upon all agencies involved being aware of the benefits and commitments entailed, operationally and financially.

CJIS projects have been implemented or targeted with voluntary participation by local agencies and limited startup costs. These projects and the use of technology can not be used effectively nor accepted and integrated into agencies without their complete involvement. There is also no authority to require or impose the CJIS programs on state or local agencies. Participation and funding continue to be collaborative. Project proposals as well as project planning and implementation are done through committees primarily composed of those agencies directly affected.

In addition to involving the agencies and associations through the committee itself there have been an ongoing array of presentations to and meetings with groups to let people be

aware of projects and CJIS in general. This visibility is important for cooperation but can always be expanded. These have included the Nebraska Sheriffs Association, the Law Enforcement Coordinating Council, Nebraska County Attorneys Association and similar associations. The committee has had participation from the Department of Motor Vehicles and Department of Roads, as well as presentations on related projects such as imaging and accident reporting, and will continue to reach out to a broad base.

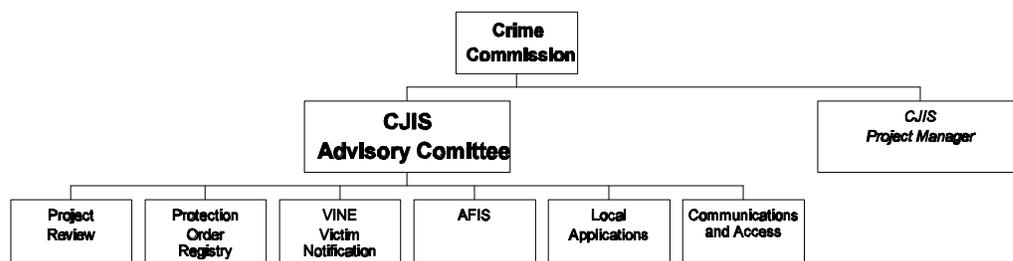
The CJIS Technology Conferences have presented a concentrated way to focus on issues and activities that affect criminal justice. These conferences were conceived as both working sessions as well as a way to generate discussion on activities and projects. They have been put on with no registration fee and the cooperation and involvement of professional associations and some vendors, allowing us to limit costs to participating agencies.

The first year of the Strategic Plan included defining the structure for project implementation and management. This has included the adoption of Operating Instruction #15 by the Crime Commission and operating documents of the CJIS Advisory Committee. Staffing for day to day management as well as for individual project management has been dealt with in various ways. Individual projects have been staffed by existing agency personnel and consultants have been used for larger projects.

Given that there was not full funding for the first year it was decided not to hire a full time project manager for the project as specified in the plan. Instead, the Crime Commission was granted funds, upon recommendation of the Committee, to fund one half time of the position of an existing staff for CJIS activities. This was the Crime Commission's CJIS representative and Chair of the CJIS Advisory Committee. While this approach did not use as much personnel funds as identified in the Strategic Plan and allowed for more project monies to be available for projects, it did not allow for a full time dedicated CJIS position. In fact, the plan identified further personnel needed within the Crime Commission for certain tasks.

Many of the early projects involved extensive planning and design, the bulk of the work for which were contracted out to a management group. As projects were put into place the Crime Commission took on the majority of project management and project implementation tasks. This has created a large strain on Crime Commission staff and on non-CJIS activities. In the summer of 2000 the CJIS Advisory Committee acted to support the addition of one FTE to the Crime Commission. This would allow 1 ½ FTEs to be available for CJIS project management. The request for an additional position has been submitted to the Governor for consideration.

It was envisioned that CJIS projects would be typically undertaken by people and agencies most closely associated with the mission to be accomplished. Given the broad scope of projects undertaken so far they have almost exclusively been led by the Crime Commission. Subcommittees are used to prepare proposals, design projects and assist in implementing them. These subcommittees are composed of CJIS members as well as non-members.



Funding Sources

The use of new technologies and methods to access data can save staff, provide services and expand on what data is currently available. The use of these technologies is not necessarily without significant costs. The CJIS Advisory Committee must continue to consider not only the costs of implementing new systems but the ongoing costs that these systems have. There will be costs at the state and local level when technology is put into place.

One example of trying new approaches for supporting systems involves VINE. While the ongoing statewide operating costs of VINE will be paid by the state, currently through a combination of state and federal monies, there was the issue of supporting jail systems that were provided to jails that needed them. Sixty-four jails received PCs and JAMIN, a jail software program. Support for the PC hardware and victim notification are provided by VINE. Jails were given the option of paying for an ongoing maintenance contract for JAMIN. Without the support contract they would still be able to use JAMIN and participate in VINE but they would not receive updates nor software support. The Crime Commission will provide basic support for any jails not paying for maintenance but this must be reviewed for effectiveness, time needed and viability for the jails. It provides an innovative way to look at joint state and local sharing of costs.

As well as personnel, training, hardware and software costs, there are costs related to communications and upgrades that are necessary over time. These costs must be anticipated and accepted for systems to operate effectively over time. The CJIS Advisory Committee has funded initial operating costs as well as recommended and identified appropriations necessary to continue programs.

Funding, for identified projects as well as to initiate future projects, will be an ongoing concern for the Committee. The Committee will seek any external funds that are available that can be used to implement the Strategic Plan. There are three apparent sources of funding for CJIS projects: state appropriations, federal funds targeted for information systems and discretionary grant sources. The CJIS Advisory Committee has used a combination of these funds for its projects so far. In addition to projects specifically initiated or maintained by CJIS there are related projects that the CJIS Advisory Committee has supported funding for.

1) State Appropriation

The Crime Commission has received specific appropriations for the implementation of the CJIS Strategic Plan in the last two bienniums. These funds are used for the management and operations of the Committee as well as for specific projects. Additional funds are requested in the current biennium to move forward with NCJIS, local applications (the automation of law enforcement and prosecution), data integration (developing interfaces between systems), CJIS committee activities and interfaces outside the state.

2) Federal Funds for CJIS Activities

The Crime Commission receives federal monies through the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program, monies targeted for drug and violent crime. The Commission is to put at least 5% of these funds toward improving criminal justice record systems. In the past these funds were used for various state programs. Since the formation of the CJIS Advisory Committee the Commission had put these funds toward the implementation of the CJIS plan. Projects funded by Byrne or the appropriation are identified and planned by the committee and then submitted for review and approval of the Commission. It is hoped that these funds can be designated as a CJIS resource dedicated for support and operations of NCJIS.

In addition to the 5% funds it is recommended that a Byrne grant be submitted to fund the additional FTE requested this biennium.

3) Other Federal Funds

The Nebraska State Patrol has made applications for and received funding under the National Criminal History Improvement Project (NCHIP) of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. These funds are targeted toward improving the collection and dissemination of criminal history information. While the Patrol has specific needs that these funds can be used for there has also been an opportunity to put some funds toward CJIS projects under the committee. The sharing and coordination of activities with available funds allows Nebraska to broaden the impact of funds and meet general goals. This shows the cooperative and collaborative nature of the Patrol's participation in CJIS and data sharing.

The Byrne monies are anticipated to continue for the next few years while the NCHIP funds may not. NCHIP grant applications have been developed with cooperation and input from members of the CJIS Advisory Committee.

It must be noted that federal grant programs, such as Byrne or NCHIP, can require match money to be used in addition to federal funds. These can sometimes be contributions in kind but often, as with the Byrne program, there must be new monies dedicated to projects. Even though the Committee will seek outside funds there is a need for State funds to continue to allow these types of federal programs to flow into Nebraska.

Currently the Crime Commission has also received monies other than the Byrne funds which may be able to be used within the CJIS framework. Both Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) monies and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds allow for the improvement of processes and data systems. The boards connected with those monies have looked to the CJIS Advisory Committee to implement or act as a resource to projects that these funds can be used for. Monies from these programs have been used for victim notification and the protection order registry.

4) Discretionary Grant Funds

In 1997, 1998 and 1999 grant applications were submitted to the US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice under an innovative program grant and the Department of Labor under a communication initiative. The grants were submitted by the Crime Commission on behalf of the CJIS Advisory Committee and the Nebraska County Attorneys Association. The grants requested funds to assist in certain CJIS projects. These discretionary federal funds are very limited and we were notified that a very large number of applications were received. We have not been awarded funds through these programs but will continue to seek various funds.

In 2000 CJIS submitted a grant application to the Nebraska Information Technology Council (NITC) for NCJIS Enhancements. The grant was awarded to the Crime Commission on behalf of CJIS. The \$62,500 will be used to obtain soundex software (to allow for soundalike searching) and modifying local systems to allow for expanded data submissions.

Project Selection

The primary source of projects is the CJIS Strategic Plan, although projects can be brought independently to the Committee. Any project must be submitted to the CJIS Advisory Committee for review and approval prior to being submitted to the Crime Commission. A Project Review Committee has reviewed and recommended projects as well as initially developed budget recommendations. The CJIS Advisory Committee adopted a Framework for CJIS Project Proposal and Strategic Plan Review which guides project adoption and the funding of all programs.

Any project proposal is to include: **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PRESENTATION**
Any project must describe the applicability and benefits to the criminal justice community as well as its relation to the CJIS Strategic Plan. The following format should be used.

- 1) **SCOPE:** Describe the project, including functional requirements, time line, budget, source of funding, benefits or value, and contribution to the strategic plan
- 2) **RISK:** Explain what factors could affect the success or failure of the project and what steps are planned to control the risks.
- 3) **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Who has primary responsibility for project management? What entities are involved in project implementation and what is the role of each?

The CJIS Advisory Committee includes the following criteria in its consideration of proposed projects. While some of these may not be fully applicable for all types of projects there may be other projects that require other factors to receive primary or partial consideration.

- a) Feasibility - Will the project work? Can it be implemented?
- b) Risk - What is the measure of success or intermediate and long term risks?
- c) Total Cost - Are costs acceptable?
- d) Funding - Is funding available? What sources can be used?
- e) Relative Benefits and Value (in terms of the goals of the strategic plan)
- f) Time line (short or long term implementation)
- g) Importance to Other Projects - Are other projects contingent on it? Will it aid or inhibit other projects?

All projects are fully reviewed and voted on by the Committee before being forwarded to the Crime Commission for approval. Funds are used and allocated in the same manner as federal grant funds that the Crime Commission administers. Although projects are reviewed by the CJIS Advisory Committee and the CJIS Project Manager as they are being implemented this provides another level of fiscal and project reporting, particularly valuable given the diverse and numerous agencies involved.

CJIS Projects

The projects described below are divided into categories based upon their starting time or funding source (CJIS, agency, etc) which defines the responsibility and authority. The CJIS Advisory Committee will continue to review and implement projects on an ongoing basis if funds are available.

CJIS Funded Projects

1) Planning

The early initiatives to develop planning documents and a structured approach to projects has guided the CJIS Advisory Committee. The following documents provide the basis for the direction of CJIS in Nebraska.

* CJIS Strategic Plan - The general planning document identifying approximately 70 projects and general directions for data sharing and priorities. The CJIS Advisory Committee started to formally review the Strategic Plan and update it in August, 2000 using the same contractor who originally helped develop the strategy. We believe we can complete an update to the plan by the end of 2000 which will guide us for the next few years in a consistent and focused manner that reflects the progress made so far as well as changes in technology.

* CJIS Data Standards - While the standards developed are voluntary they provide a touchstone for the collection and transfer of data between agencies. The standards were developed using federal, state and local database items.

* Criminal Justice Network Communications Strategy - In 1998 a project was undertaken to identify how to use existing or new communications networks to share data among state and local criminal justice agencies. After examining a variety of options, including state communications networking, CJIS decided to focus on the use of the Internet as the main viable (and affordable) communications path. This also reflects directions taken by other states and some federal paths. This plan has provided the basis for the CJIS server project and led to crucial security and dissemination options being made.

* CJIS Annual Report to the Legislature - The CJIS initiative must be seen as a growing and evolving process. The 1997 Strategic Plan provided a valuable first look at where Nebraska was and wanted to go but must be continuously reviewed. Annual reports such as this one provide a good mechanism to look at progress.

2) NCJIS - Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System

NCJIS, the CJIS server, provides a way for state and local agencies to access information in an easy and cost effective manner. Much of the data made available on the CJIS server is either not currently available or not available outside of the agency that owns the data. This reflects a truly cooperative effort to have broad access to data.

The project features

- * the establishment of the CJIS web server, a secure mail server and a certificate authority for security
- * establishment of a public web site with current CJIS information
- * an Agency Information System (AIS) that allows local agencies to maintain their own user profiles and request user access
- * Web-based access to centrally indexed databases
 - * currently available databases are Patrol Criminal History, jail detainees, probationers, Department of Correctional Services inmates, parolees and registered sex offenders
 - * current databases being tested include driver histories (provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles) and jail mugshots
- * current access by over 100 state and local agencies
- * improvement of individual data systems since data can now be compared across agencies.

STATUS: The NCJIS server went live in April, 2000. Training of users and local agency administrators occurs monthly

Numerous agencies can now easily access data heretofore unavailable in any form. Methods to share data across state and local agencies via file transfer is now being examined based upon specific requests for data.

One example of direct benefits is a projection by the Probation Department in saving 45 to 60 minutes per PSI (pre-sentence investigation) of which they do 5750 per month. Previously these could not be done by Probation officers alone and required staff time and involvement of local law enforcement.

Current NCJIS User Agencies

Agency Type	Number
Police Departments	35
Sheriff Offices	38
County Attorneys	14
Public Defenders / Public Advocacy	2
Corrections	4
Other (NSP,CC,NeLEIS)	3
Probation (State, Districts)	5
TOTAL	101

3) Victim Notification System - VINE

This project sought to plan to implement a system in Nebraska for victims of crime and others to obtain information on offenders. Although the intent was to meet a specific need it had the potential to affect a number of systems and agencies and provided the CJIS Advisory Committee an opportunity to address a number of areas. The project scope was dictated by legislative language in the 1998 session.

The Legislative project called for the development of a VINE Implementation Plan. It specified that a plan be presented to the Governor for approval before \$500,000 in earmarked federal funds could be put toward implementation. Additionally, \$50,000 of state funds were appropriated for partial first year operating costs.

The ongoing fear and concerns for the safety of victims of crime has led many jurisdictions to provide more timely and complete information to people. Information about court dates and the location of the offender involved plays a big part in both the physical and mental well-being of victims. This project sought to implement a commercial program called VINE (Victim Identification and Notification Everyday) to do automated victim notification using a centralized, automated phone bank and electronic detention data. VINE had been implemented in a number of jurisdictions and statewide in Kentucky.

A contract with VINE was signed in October, 1998. Implementation began in earnest in early 1999 including making enhancements to JAMIN, a jail records system that was made available to any jail not having automation. The first VINE sites went live in May, 1999.

It requires automated data available from and the communication with all corrections systems and the automation of all jails. Additionally, the technology

and basic infrastructure will meet other needs including required jail reporting and an automated detainee file, as identified in the Strategic Plan.

The VINE notification project

- * provides automated notification to registered victims of the release of their offenders
- * provides services in English and Spanish at no cost to the public
- * allows for queries by any person of the status of a detained prisoner using a toll free phone number (1-800-NE4-VINE)
- * automates 64 jails in Nebraska with a standardized software package called JAMIN, including digital cameras and mugshot capability
- * provides interfaces with the four largest jails and the Department of Correctional Services
- * provides automated collection of admission and release data and photos to be used by the Nebraska Jail Standards Division and as a CJIS statewide detainee file on NCJIS, the Internet server.

STATUS: The Department of Correctional Services and 93 counties are online with VINE as of this report. The last county is in the process of installing JAMIN and should be live by October, 2000. All counties have received training and materials on promoting and using VINE. VINE has stated that only eight states have attempted statewide implementations of its services. Nebraska will be the third state to be statewide with victim notification for all state and county facilities. Since the first counties went live in May, 1999 there have been over 1,299 people who have registered to be notified when an offender is released. Over 12,200 phone calls have been made to VINE to check on the status of a prisoner. These were calls that otherwise would have had to have been answered by jail staff or corrections officers.

4) Local Applications

The CJIS Advisory Committee has targeted various areas along the criminal justice cycle as needing to be improved to better the overall use and availability of data. These improvements should allow for better use and access to the data not only in those jurisdictions but also across systems. Before agencies and data can be integrated there needs to be automation in place.

These projects were collectively referred to as Local Applications and include law enforcement, county attorneys, probation and mugshots. The funds that were initially available did not allow for the implementation of these local applications but did allow for a measured step to be taken to determine the need and feasibility of implementing systems, the selection of possible solutions and the best way to integrate these solutions to meet the overall CJIS goals. This measured planning process has been a key component of CJIS taking on projects. A Local Applications Report identified the results of reviewing each area. The main parties that were involved in each area and the outcomes of the report are:

1) Law Enforcement (to determine needs and a common software solution for sheriffs and police departments) - Nebraska Sheriffs Association, Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska, Police Officers Association of Nebraska, Nebraska State Patrol

* This area was prioritized as needing attention. NCHIP monies were requested and received to acquire, under state contract, a standardized software program that could be made available to small to medium sized police and sheriff's departments to automate their agencies and prepare for data sharing. **This is described more extensively below.**

2) County Attorneys (to determine needs and a common software solution for county attorneys, Attorney General's office and public defenders)- Nebraska County Attorneys Association, Nebraska Attorney General's Office, Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy, Nebraska Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

* NCHIP funds were requested in 2000 for base funding to acquire a standard software package. We have not heard if the application has been granted. If so, state monies will be needed to add to the project. Of note, while the original scope of the project was small to medium sized agencies the three largest counties (Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy) have now expressed interest in participating.

3) Probation (to determine needs to possibly upgrade software being used by probation offices and determine need and methods of better data sharing) - Nebraska Probation Department

* Given a lack of commercially viable packages the Probation Department has decided to enhance its existing system, NPMIS, originally developed using NCHIP funds.

and 4) Mugshots (to determine the need and feasibility of a statewide mugshot system operating in conjunction law enforcement and booking systems and its relation to PCH) - Mugshot Subcommittee of CJIS, the AFIS Policy Board and DMV.

* JAMIN, through VINE, provided local mugshot systems for all jails not having a system. This project was melded into NCJIS to centralize a statewide mugshot database. DCS is currently implementing a mugshot system.

STATUS: The Law Enforcement Subcommittee released an RFP in late 1999 and received fourteen proposals for a statewide records management system (RMS) for law enforcement. After reviewing

the systems a contract was signed in April, 2000 with Access Data for their product called Sleuth. The base package includes offenses, arrests, property, intelligence, citations, calls for service (CFS) and registrations.

- * Six beta sites were installed and trained in June and July of 2000. These sites will be used to verify state and federal reporting and to conclude Nebraska specific modifications.

- * The contract calls for 100 installations over the next three years. It is anticipated that this will cover about 125 actual agencies as CJIS has recommended local police and sheriff departments to share an installation. This will not only decrease ongoing support responsibilities but will also allow detailed sharing of information. Networking may be required.

- * CJIS will pay for the initial three day training session. Access Data has moved a staffer to Grand Island who will be responsible for training in Nebraska and providing support.

- * Local agencies must pay an initial installation fee and ongoing maintenance. They are responsible for all hardware and basic software such as word processing.

- * Agencies can add other modules as needed. These include administration, CAD (computer aided dispatch) and civil papers. Agencies must pay for the modules and any training.

- * Data will be extracted for monthly crime and arrests statistical reporting. Other information will be extracted to add to NCJIS for statewide arrest files.

- * A CJIS mobile training lab has been set up to allow for regional training on Sleuth and other CJIS applications. This will let agencies train closer to their homes and not incur travel time and costs.

- * Funding is available for the 100 installations through a combination of CJIS appropriation and NCHIP funds. If more local agencies want Sleuth then additional funds will be sought.

5) Statewide Protection Order System

This project will implement a central file of issued and served protection orders in Nebraska, accessible by law enforcement in any jurisdiction.

Typically, a valid protection order has not been available outside of the jurisdiction

it was issued in. There is both a desire and a need to have this information known to law enforcement, not just for the enforcement of the order but also to complete the picture of those who are involved with the system. Federal statute has also raised the applicability of protection orders across state lines (known as Full Faith and Credit).

This project requires the participation of law enforcement, county attorneys, courts and victim advocacy groups. Protection orders are currently maintained primarily within a jurisdiction and only available manually. Agencies have the option of manually entering protection orders into a file maintained by NSP.

The intent of a statewide system is to provide base information on protection orders electronically to all agencies. Although protection orders require a clear paper trail and documents, this system should also help in the flow of information through the process.

The general goals include

- * providing knowledge of protection orders when issued for gun checks by the Nebraska State Patrol by electronic posting from the courts upon issuance
- * electronic posting and audit controls/availability of issued protection orders to sheriffs and allow sheriffs to update information through NCJIS and NCIC/NCIS
- * providing tracking of protection orders when issued by the courts and served by the sheriff
- * providing the ability to record service of protection orders to a central registry for access by all law enforcement
- * providing the basis for posting protection orders into NCIC, the national crime system maintained by the FBI

STATUS: The project design has been completed for both NSP and JUSTICE. A variety of changes in the design, problems in allocating programmers and re-examining the project to coincide with the extension of JUSTICE to more counties has delayed this project. The necessary programming for the project is now underway and it is projected to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year.

Other Projects

The CJIS Strategic Plan identified a number of projects that were being undertaken, particularly through the NCHIP grants received previously. The NCHIP projects have

been managed by the Nebraska State Patrol while the court automation project is through the State Court Administrator. These projects provide significant opportunities for criminal justice automation and data sharing.

1) **AFIS/PCH Interface**

This would allow automatic retrieval of criminal history records from the Nebraska State Patrol's system (PCH) based upon fingerprint identification using the automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS). This project is 95% done and will move ahead given the completion of III (see 3).

2) **Switch/PCH Interface**

This provides criminal justice users direct access to criminal history information stored in PCH via NBLETS, replacing the old system. This project has been completed.

3) **Interstate Identification Index (III)**

This enables the state central repository (PCH) to participate in the FBI III program for national indexing of criminal records. This project has been completed.

4) **JUSTICE/PCH Interface**

The State Court Administrator and NSP will develop an interface to the automated court system, JUSTICE, to transfer disposition data electronically into PCH. This project is being worked on now after having to wait for resources. It is projected to be completed in 2000.

5) **Gun Instant Check**

This project would aid the state in complying with the National Instant Check System (NICS) which resulted from the Brady Law. The state will not fully participate at this time but will instead rely upon FBI processing of NICS checks. Interfaces between PCH and JUSTICE as well as the statewide protection order registry will provide some of this functionality.

6) **JUSTICE Implementation**

JUSTICE, an automated court system developed by the State Court Administrator's office, was being implemented prior to the development of the plan and will be installed in county courts and district courts in the state. Interfaces will be built where applicable and it is anticipated that the statewide court data will be available through the CJIS server.

Related Projects

1) Statewide Intelligence System - NeLEIS

The sharing of confidential information in the course of investigations is critical to law enforcement. Being able to share data electronically would allow for a timely sharing of data which has not always been possible due to distance and the need for security. The Nebraska State Patrol has developed a statewide intelligence system that will allow agencies to electronically access information collected by the drug task forces in the state, called NeLEIS (Nebraska Law Enforcement Intelligence System). This provides the basis for general intelligence data to be collected disseminated electronically. The system went live in 1999 and will be expanding to a broad user base. Intelligence data will also be submitted through Sleuth, the local law enforcement RMS (records management system) project. Given the nature of intelligence data and it typically being contained outside of normal criminal justice data systems and the need for general criminal justice data to be more accessible, statewide intelligence projects were consciously excluded from the CJIS Strategic Plan. However, as technologies change and agencies move to access a wide variety of data there needs to be a conscious effort to find similar or consistent solutions. Networking and general access to data lends itself to solutions that can be used consistently by people and so the CJIS committee needs to work with the Patrol to meet the broader goals of data access. For this reason, the security being implemented by the CJIS server, specifically the issuance of digital certificates for verifiable identification of users beyond standard passwords, will be used by NeLEIS. This will allow us to leverage the costs and administration of the component needed by both systems and minimize the complexity for local agencies.

2) Sex Offender Registration (SOR) System

In response to federal and state requirements the Nebraska State Patrol has developed a process to identify and store information on convicted sex offenders. The SOR files reside on a computer which will easily allow administrative work to be done and will ultimately linked to the state's telecommunications switch so that information can be available upon request. The registry is active at the Patrol and includes public dissemination of Level 3 offenders through the NSP website. Other notifications for level 1 and Level 2 offenders is being implemented using VINE. NCJIS, the CJIS server, includes indexing and access to the SOR for criminal justice users. Local agencies will also be able to track their registrations in Sleuth, the local law enforcement RMS.

3) Automation of Victim Assistance Units

The victim assistance units in Nebraska perform valuable services across the state. By working with victims of crime and the criminal justice system they make the process easier for citizens and more complete for processing through the system. While much of the information collected or needed by these agencies, such as

sexual assault crisis centers and victim/witness units, is not shared by other agencies it is essential for their internal needs. Access to general information in the criminal justice system is also necessary.

Most of the units in the state had little or no automation prior to 1998. The Crime Commission funded the purchase of PC's and the development of a case management system, to consistently gather statistics needed by state and federal agencies, to assist these agencies. While they will probably not directly add data to criminal justice databases this automation allows them to participate in programs such as the victim notification system and other CJIS projects. The acquisition of the case management system is being done by the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. The system was developed under contract and is now installed in approximately twelve test sites. The remaining sites should have the case management software by the end of 2000.

Current CJIS Funding and Budgets

As stated, the 1997-1999 biennium was the first for which the Crime Commission received funding for CJIS activities. In FY98 the Commission received \$250,000 and it received \$300,000 in FY99. The FY99 appropriation was increased by \$50,000, earmarked for partial first year operating costs for a victim notification system, VINE.

For FY00-01 the Crime Commission initially received about \$800,000. In the 2000 Legislative Session Governor Johanns set aside approximately \$500,000 for use in CJIS and criminal justice automation. This was split between the Crime Commission for CJIS and the Nebraska State Patrol. This was a combination of state and federal monies being allocated and certain funds being transferred. The resulting CJIS appropriation in the Crime Commission for the biennium was \$600,764 and \$301,821.

The current biennium request is for \$324,000 and \$644,000. In addition to normal operations this will allow continuation of current projects while also undertaking county attorney automation and data interfaces as the new major priorities. Continuing local automation efforts allows us to build the basis for data sharing. The data interfaces and exchanges will actually implement sharing across agencies. As we move forward with interstate, intrastate and federal data sharing we will need to closely examine and enhance security implemented in Nebraska.

It must be noted that funding for VINE operations is not part of the CJIS budget. The annual operating expenses of approximately \$264,000 have been paid with a combination of federal grant funds and state match. Although it is anticipated that a full state appropriation will be needed at some point, the decision was made to use federal monies while they were available. It also should be remembered that while VINE is primarily a victims service it has been implemented to meet multiple goals such as jail automation, automated reporting and electronic availability of data through NCJIS. It is a good example of leveraging funds to maximize impact.

Concerns and Opportunities

While technology and computers have any number of inherent concerns, the ways that we all do business must keep pace. Business rules, statutes and expectations must be balanced and not overlooked. One area that has caused concern for many agencies is the area of public records and electronic access to data. Nebraska's current statutes on public records (and related code) affect the availability of data, change the onus placed on agencies to supply data, seem to equate electronic access with paper access and raise concerns about the ability to maintain the integrity of the data. While there is no overriding cry to exclude public access there is a desire and need to be sure that the public's best interests are always considered. A number of CJIS participants have asked to review the status of LB684 passed last session.

The implementation of systems affecting a broad range of state and local agencies in a manner that meets current needs while laying the foundation for future growth is complex. The ongoing participation of the broad range of CJIS participants points to the need and acknowledgment that a coordinated approach is necessary. The commitment of participants to consider and prioritize projects that may not meet their own specific needs shows the recognition that improvements at any and varied points along the criminal justice cycle serves to help the overall system and all of those involved.

However, the implementation of those CJIS projects has required more staff time than was originally anticipated from the Crime Commission. Initially ½ FTE was allocated to work on CJIS planning and the startup. As these complex projects have gone live there is a need for ongoing CJIS dedicated resources. The Crime Commission has requested an additional FTE to be used for CJIS projects. It is hoped that CJIS can maintain its momentum and broad involvement of agencies. Large projects can easily hit a critical mass or lose sight of its goals and vision so all participating members must be vigilant to continue the growth and not reach a threshold of work, projects or involvement.

The CJIS projects, the Strategic Plan and the general approach recognize that resources and funding are not infinite. In fact, projects undertaken should stand alone and provide a service while moving toward a larger integrated system. Projects such as the CJIS server and development of a comprehensive approach to local automation provide the real cornerstones for local and shared data throughout the system. These projects are priorities for CJIS and should be given stable, ongoing funding. NCJIS will not only provide access to data but act as a gateway for data sharing at the state and national level.

Funding, as with any technology project, will be an ongoing concern to implementing systems with broad impact and involvement. The state appropriation has been pivotal in securing commitment for participation by agencies and anticipating the continued success of systems. However, the majority of funds put toward project implementation so far has been federal grant funds. Some of these monies, such as from Byrne and NCHIP, had been set aside or earmarked for CJIS projects while CJIS was being formed and identifying projects to undertake. These also may provide a limited recurring source for monies for

CJIS activities.

Any information technology (IT) projects can not only consider the implementation costs. The ongoing maintenance, support and training costs have to be taken into consideration before a project is started. Since CJIS involves state and local agencies trying to meet state and local needs, often through a combination of state, local and federal funding, there must be new approaches to ongoing costs. Communities must look at the way they support technology for criminal justice as part of a broader picture. Criminal justice agencies must realize that they can not afford, financially or technologically, to stand alone and try and exist on their own. A partnership for costs between the state and local governments is likely to be the only way that technology can be expanded.

While systems and computers have rather visible costs there are other costs and limitations that affect CJIS and government. The shortage of necessary and trained data processing staff to manage, complete or work on projects and systems is very evident. Projects at both the state and local level have had to change time lines because of limited personnel. In meeting with local agencies to plan the criminal justice Intranet, there was a broad lack of personnel, even in larger communities, to have staff that could support day to day operations. Funding and staffing must be shared by state and local agencies but the impact for implementation and support will affect criminal justice and other projects with cumulative effects.

The CJIS Advisory Committee must continue to seek out whatever ad hoc funding sources may arise as well as establish a consistent funding base within the state. As projects grow in size and scope, the costs, both start up and operating, will need to be available. Also, while there are other sources of criminal justice funding in the state for automation, such as NCHIP or appropriations for JUSTICE implementation, these projects must be coordinated and funds leveraged as much as possible to gain the broadest impact. The example of VINE meeting multiple objectives while needing to cover various operational and funding issues is a good way to enforce the need for coordination and cooperation.

Security will always be a concern with sensitive data. NCJIS, the Internet based server, has provided an opportunity to develop a solid security model based upon the methods of data access, costs and need. As we move to sharing data with other states or integrating into federal data initiatives, the security model will need to be expanded and continuously examined. Additional needs relating to public access to data will require different ways of doing business and approaching data security.

Appendices

CJIS Advisory Committee - Representatives by Affiliation and Agency

Michael Overton, Chair
Nebraska Crime Commission

Lieutenant David Dishong, Vice Chair
Nebraska State Patrol

Manuel Gallardo
Nebraska Parole Board

John Cariotto
State Court Administrator's Office

Lash Chaffin
League of Nebraska Municipalities

Jim Jansen
Nebraska County Attorneys Association
Douglas County Attorney's Office

Larry Dix
Nebraska Association of County Officials

Chief Scot Ford
Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska
South Sioux City Police Department

Terry Lane
Douglas County Information Systems

Ken Gallagher
Office of Juvenile Services
Nebraska Health and Human Services

Dave Wegner
Nebraska Probation Administration

Gary Anderson
Omaha Police Department

Sheriff Gregg Magee
Nebraska Sheriffs' Association
Adams County Sheriff's Office

Marlene Vetick

Clerk of District Court
Platte County Courthouse

Steve Worster
Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy

Sarah O'Shea
Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

Captain Byron Patterson
Police Officers Association of Nebraska
Kearney Police Department

Cliff Privatt
NE Department of Correctional Services

Ed Ragatz
Lincoln Police Department

Mike Thurber
County Correctional Departments
Lancaster County Corrections

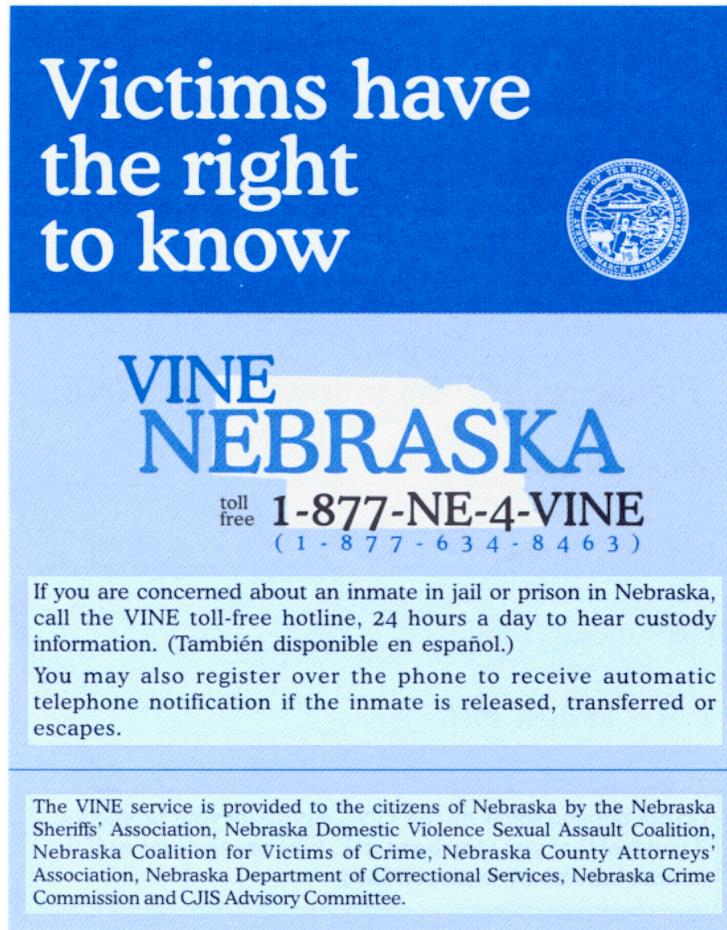
Ron Bowmaster
NIDCAC
NE Intergovernmental Data Services

Lauri Smith Camp
Nebraska Attorney General's Office

Dennis Keefe
NE Criminal Defense Attorney's Assn
Lancaster County Public Defender

JoAnna Svoboda
Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime
Lincoln Police Victim/Witness Unit

Sue Zaruba, President
Nebraska Association of County Court Employees
Hamilton County Court



The image shows a brochure for VINE Nebraska. It features a blue header with the text "Victims have the right to know" and the Nebraska state seal. Below this, the text "VINE NEBRASKA" is displayed in large blue letters, followed by the toll-free number "1-877-NE-4-VINE" and its numerical equivalent "(1-877-634-8463)". A light blue box contains information about the service, including instructions on how to use the hotline and details about automatic telephone notifications. At the bottom, another light blue box lists the organizations that provide the VINE service.

**Victims have
the right
to know**



**VINE
NEBRASKA**

toll free **1-877-NE-4-VINE**
(1 - 8 7 7 - 6 3 4 - 8 4 6 3)

If you are concerned about an inmate in jail or prison in Nebraska, call the VINE toll-free hotline, 24 hours a day to hear custody information. (También disponible en español.)
You may also register over the phone to receive automatic telephone notification if the inmate is released, transferred or escapes.

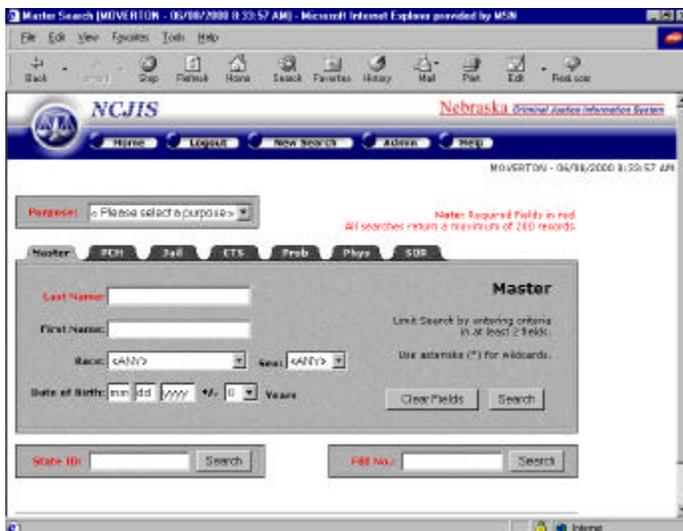
The VINE service is provided to the citizens of Nebraska by the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association, Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime, Nebraska County Attorneys' Association, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, Nebraska Crime Commission and CJIS Advisory Committee.



*A cooperative project of the
CJIS Advisory Committee*

The need to access data is a key requirement for criminal justice professionals. Nebraska is able to provide essential data via NCJIS, a secure Internet based data cooperative. By using a standard browser any verified NCJIS user can tap a variety of state and local data or communicate with other users.

The CJIS Advisory Committee is a standing committee of the Crime Commission that deals with data integration and computerization. To meet the need for timely, cost effective access to state and local data the committee has developed NCJIS, the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System. This will help to meet the need for data for agencies located anywhere in the state through their own Internet connection. NCJIS went live in April, 2000 and will continue to grow in use and volume of data.



While both state and local data is often available internally or widely within one county there has not been an easy way to share data. Using the Internet and industry standard technologies we are able to provide fully indexed access to a range of data and photos for agencies including law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, defense and probation. In addition to name based searches the data can also be searched by demographics and physical identifiers. Although data searching capabilities are the core of NCJIS we also provide secure email, LDAP capabilities and a central location for news, information and data sharing.

Data is either copied to the NCJIS servers or linked to from the centralized index. Data files remain under the control and oversight of the contributing agency.

The initial data contributors included

- * Nebraska State Patrol (criminal histories)
- * Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (corrections and parolees)
- * Nebraska Department of Probation and
- * local jails (68 county and city facilities).

Future data and functionality includes sex offenders, statewide mugshots, local arrest data, driver histories, court (civil and criminal) and a mutual aid database.

NCJIS is available to authorized Nebraska criminal justice agencies. Access is provided once an agency completes a Memo of Understanding and attends training on use, security and dissemination. Access is verified using digital certificates issued by CJIS. While encryption and computer authentication provides one level of security it is imperative for the user agencies to follow appropriate procedures and dissemination policies.

NCJIS Participation Requirements

5. Verified & approved Nebraska CJ agency
6. Current agency Internet connectivity (provided by the agency) and basic knowledge of Internet use and email
7. Designation of an Agency Administrator (responsible for training and oversight)
8. Attendance by the Agency Administrator at NCJIS training
9. Completion of a Memorandum of Understanding by the agency head
10. Continued operation in the best practices of using general and sensitive information

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