



EXTRA

**Criminal & Juvenile Justice
Information Advisory Group Meeting
November 9, 2018
Volume 3 Issue 3**

In this issue

- Subcommittee updates
- Membership and subcommittee chair changes

Have a question or suggestion?

Contact Jill Oliveira (651-793-2726 or jill.oliveira@state.mn.us) for more information

Advisory Group Focuses on Advancing Subcommittee Efforts

Civil Commitment Feasibility Study

Advisory Group members heard the findings of a feasibility study on creating an easier way for law enforcement to access civil commitment information. The civil commitment information is already available from the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS). A new data pass from MNCIS through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) Law Enforcement Message Switch (LEMS) would make access much more convenient for law enforcement.

Analysts met with six law enforcement focus groups made up of about 60 police chiefs, sheriffs, SWAT members, dispatch personnel, and mental health professionals. Participants overwhelmingly favored making civil commitment information available through LEMS. Many participants were unaware that public information on civil commitments existed. Patrol officers reported being largely unable to access the information in the field.

Police officers typically search for criminal history information – not civil information like commitments – when they interact with a person.

The focus group participants said that, at minimum, they would like an indicator in the LEMS query response that a civil commitment record exists on a person.

Analysts also identified two potential risks to providing access to civil commitment information through LEMS.

- Without biometrics, law enforcement would need to take additional steps to ensure a record matches a person.
- Civil commitment information may not show up in a search if a name is not provided or is incorrect.

The Advisory Group passed a motion to support including public civil commitment data in data shared with criminal justice partners. The BCA will work with the Judicial Branch to identify costs, resources, project scope, and data privacy laws and policy implications, and then report those findings back to the Advisory Group.

Collaborative Relationships & Funding

The subcommittee has not met since the last Advisory Group meeting in May. The subcommittee is tasked with finding legislators before the upcoming session who would champion a budget request for \$1.25 million to build an electronic path for court case document distribution to attorneys.

Data Practices Update

Data Practices Subcommittee members continue to try to find opportunities to tell legislators about the Advisory Group's findings on public and practitioner perceptions about criminal justice data. The group will attempt to get on the agenda for an upcoming training for new legislative staff on December 5.

Next Advisory Group Meeting

Friday, February 15, 2018

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Room W249

Note: The information in this publication is an unofficial summary of activity. It should not be considered official meeting minutes or an official program status report. Information subject to change.

Minnesota Justice Information Services – 1430 Maryland Ave. E. – St. Paul, Minnesota 55106 – bca.dps.mn.gov

Data & Identification Standards

The Data & Identification Standards Subcommittee reported back to the Advisory Group on two public hearings held to gauge the public's appetite for improving identification standards by taking photos of persons who receive traffic violations or petty misdemeanors. The goal is to prevent subjects from committing identity theft or intentionally providing false information about their identity and the potential for criminal records mismatch that can result. Approximately 5,000 people in Minnesota have someone else's criminal acts associated with their name because of this issue.

However, the public forums revealed a lack of public support for police officers taking photographs

at the point of contact. The subcommittee recommended tabling the issue for two or three years to see if public sentiment around privacy issues involving photographs would change.

The Advisory Group mostly disagreed with tabling the issue. It passed a motion to include in the next biennial report to the legislature a section about the issue to highlight the urgency of the problem.

The motion also called for a new subcommittee chair to be named to replace Galili (who is retiring) and for the subcommittee to continue its work. Advisory Group members who are interested in taking on this role should send an email to the Advisory Group email, bcaadvisorygroupsupport@state.mn.us.

Arrivals and Departures for the Advisory Group

Farewell to Departing Members

The Advisory Group is bidding farewell to two long-time members who have been vocal and committed advocates for criminal justice information integration.

- During her 15-year tenure with the Advisory Group and Task Force, Deb Kerschner represented the Department of Corrections on the Task Force, served in every role of Task Force leadership and as the Task Force designee on the Policy Group, and served as the Advisory Group's first chair.
- Oded Galili was the Department of Public Safety designee on the Task Force starting in 2004 and stayed on as a member of the Advisory Group, most recently chairing its Data and Identification Standards Subcommittee.

The Advisory Group wishes both of you the very best.

Advisory Group Welcomes Two New Members

The Advisory Group welcomed two new members at its November meeting.

- Kay Pedretti is Director of Court Services for the Minnesota Judicial Branch. She joins the Advisory Group as the designee from State Court Administration.
- Andrew Pieper is the Deputy District Administrator for the Fourth Judicial District. He will represent the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

Welcome to both of you!



Kay Pedretti



Andrew Pieper

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