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New Criminal History System to be Implemented Next Month

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) will debut a new Criminal History System (CHS) next month, replacing its legacy Computerized Criminal History system – the state’s first electronic system for criminal history records. Development work on the system began almost three years ago, but the effort began with a successful funding proposal supported by the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Policy Group and Task Force in 2012.

BCA CHS Product Manager Carla Duellman gave Advisory Group members a preview of the new system including improvements to readability, system integration capabilities, and suspense resolution. The CHS team has been working with representatives of the many types of system users to understand their wants and needs.

Final testing is taking place now with plans to transition to the new system in mid-March.

Legislative Update

The Criminal Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association is expected to recommend that legislators introduce language related to juvenile sentencing for heinous crimes as well as more uniform probation sentencing.

Several topics that are pending at the legislature this session include:
- Body cameras worn by law enforcement
- New or updated statute language related to several crimes
- Law enforcement-related issues such as drone regulation and liability insurance for peace officers
- Background check requirements for several employment activities

Recommendations from Legislative Commission on Data Practices

The Legislative Commission on Data Practices in January adopted three recommendations for the Legislature to consider.
- Change statute language so that State Court Administration can provide information that allows the legislature to count the number of tracking warrants issued by the Minnesota Judicial Branch (HF2309)
- Make additions to audit report requirements for local agency use of License Plate Reader technology
- Classify audio and video of government employees as public data (HF 1316)

The commission discussed but did not adopt recommendations on several other topics including student online privacy and data on government employee accesses to databases; government email retention requirements, and data security.

Congratulations to Representative Johnson

Advisory Group member Representative Brian Johnson was named Chair of the Public Safety and Security Policy and Finance Committee.

Members asked that a legislative update become addition to upcoming Advisory Group meetings.

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.

Advisory Group Subcommittee Updates

Collaborative Relationships and Funding Subcommittee
Advisory Group members discussed asking legislators to consider a budget request during a non-budget year.

The Board of Public Defense and the Minnesota County Attorney’s Association asked the Advisory Group to support its request for $1.25 million to build an electronic path for case document distribution to their practitioners from the Minnesota Judicial Branch with new document notification capability. The path would potentially speed receipt of case documents and reduce courtroom delays.

The Advisory Group voted to support the request and asked the Collaborative Relationships and Funding Subcommittee to identify those who would champion the proposal on the Advisory Group’s behalf early during the upcoming legislative session. The group also discussed needing talking points and a plain language one-pager for organizations represented on the Advisory Group.

Data Practices Subcommittee
The BCA has entered into a contract with Management Analysis and Development to help the Data Practices Subcommittee package their data sharing survey responses in a meaningful way.

The Chair of the subcommittee met with the House Civil Law Committee administrator in December to offer to present to the Legislative Commission on Data Practices; however, that committee’s agenda was already full. The subcommittee is hoping to meet with the House Civil Law Committee, or possibly the public safety committees in the House and Senate early during the legislative session, to share the results of the survey.

In addition, the subcommittee is planning to reach out to communities of color to share the survey information and get their response.

Data Identification and Standards Subcommittee
The group has not met since the last Advisory Group meeting but has a meeting scheduled for Friday, February 16. Members will provide an update on their activities when the Advisory Group meets again in May.

New Advisory Group Leadership Elected
After seven years in a leadership role with the Advisory Group and the Task Force before that, Deb Kerschner is transitioning out of the Advisory Group Chair position. Kerschner was elected 1st Vice Chair of the Task Force in September 2010 and has held leadership positions in the Task Force and Advisory Group ever since. Thank you Deb for your leadership!

At its February meeting, Advisory Group members unanimously elected Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske as the group’s new 2nd Vice Chair. Beyer-Kropuenske will serve two years in this role before rotating into the 1st Vice Chair position for two years and then into the Chair position. She is Acting Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Administration where she manages several programs including the Data Practices office.

Beyer-Kropuenske joins Chair Amy Schmidt and 1st Vice Chair Steve Washburn. Congratulations to the new Advisory Group leadership team!

Advisory Group Materials Available Online
You can find materials related to Advisory Group activity on the Advisory Group webpage, including:
- Presentations
- Meeting minutes
- Path to Integration
- Advisory Group Extras
- Documents from the Policy Group and Task Force

Next Advisory Group Meeting  Fri., May 11, 2018 – 9 a.m.  Bureau of Criminal Apprehension