

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jail/Huber sub-committee
FR: Public Policy Forum
DT: June 15, 2009
RE: Investigation of jail inmate travel management systems

We found several different strategies for tracking inmate travel and courtroom outcomes. There do not seem to be any “best practices” types of analyses of these strategies by any of the jail management experts, nor could we find any guidance from sheriffs’ or jail administrators’ organizations.

Some of the systems we investigated operate in state correctional facilities and some in local facilities. We found three basic models:

- Software systems that unite corrections, court, and law enforcement record keeping
- Software systems that reduce the amount of needed travel by conducting many types of court appearances via secure webcam. This software can also capture any court orders that result from the “virtual” court appearance.
- Housing all pre-arraignment inmates in a separate facility that is adjacent to the courthouse.

We interviewed representatives of the local jurisdictions to determine which department’s personnel (jail, courts, or other) are responsible for maintaining the system and entering data.

- **Unifying software systems**

<http://www.doc.wa.gov/goals/offendermanagement.asp>

Washington’s new system (2007)

Washington state’s Department of Corrections Offender Management Network Information (OMNI) is expected to improve the Department’s ability to manage offenders as they progress through the correctional system by providing efficient, easy access to comprehensive information about an offender’s confinement status, rehabilitation programming, treatment, sentencing, movement, discipline and community supervision.

OMNI is expected to serve approximately 8,000 criminal justice practitioners including DOC staff, law enforcement and court personnel. The system is designed to support a coordinated approach to public safety and will improve the ability of Washington State law enforcement and justice

organizations to share information. OMNI will provide information to the Seattle Police Department, Washington State Patrol, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Social and Health Services, The Department of Licensing, Secretary of State, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2009_Press_Releases/April_22.html

California's new system (2009)

The California statewide project, called the Strategic Offender Management System (SOMS), will consolidate existing databases and records and replace manual paper processes over a four year contract period. SOMS will upgrade and standardize adult and juvenile data and population management practices to further enhance staff, offender and public safety.

SOMS will replace more than 40 aging electronic and paper database systems, which are becoming increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. The system will contain an "Electronic C-file" for inmates and provide the opportunity for electronic data exchange--with Jails, Courts and the Office of Prison Healthcare Services. Coordinating offender information, risk and needs assessments, case management plans, and other data into a streamlined system will allow custody and programs staff to better manage the offender population, which could lead to a reduced recidivism rate. The project is expected to kick off the first week of May 2009 and take approximately four years for full implementation.

http://www.icjia.state.il.us/IJIS/public/index.cfm?metasection=strategicplan&metapage=sjis_idoc

Illinois statewide system

Illinois' Offender Tracking System, Juvenile Tracking System, and Visitor Tracking Systems are mainframe computer applications, which run on an IBM R56 mainframe. A statewide network connects all Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) offices around the state to the centralized Springfield Illinois database. There are currently 26 adult institutions, nine juvenile institutions, 11 adult transition centers, and 35 parole offices connected to the system. Information is distributed daily by the IDOC to the Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) system of the Illinois State Police (ISP), the Illinois Automated Victim Notification (AVN) system, the Internet, and internally within the IDOC. The ISP file includes all IDOC admissions; status changes including parole, discharge, escape, and bond; sex offender registry information; parolee address changes and out of state parolees. There are currently over 6,000 terminals and PC workstations with access to the system. Users include IDOC employees, other government agencies, and limited public Internet access. Government agency access includes the State Police, the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois Prison Review Board, the Illinois Attorney General, and the Cook County Jail.

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<http://www.xwavesolutions.com/files/credentials/Maine%20Dept%20Corrections2008.pdf>

Maine adopts new system (2003)

CORIS (Corrections Information System) provides Maine's DOC with a global-query capability: the solution monitors all offenders and— because it is web-based—can easily make data available to all relevant users: corrections officers, community workers, courts, family services, and public-safety

agencies. CORIS is not a collection of independent modules. Nor is it a client-server or mainframe system that's been web-enabled. It has been built from the ground up as a complete integrated solution. CORIS allows corrections agencies to overcome constraints by improving operations. The fact, for example, that data is keyed into the system only once—and is then available immediately to all system users in real-time—significantly streamlines the DOC's administrative workload.

CORIS manages four key areas of administration. The first encompasses offender profile: this includes demographics; photos; security alerts; special medical needs; sentence calculation; and automatic release-notification for victims. The second area of administration is prison management: security classification; housing; offender movement; job assignments; daily schedules; and financial management. Third, CORIS handles community-based corrections: investigations; risk assessment; treatment plans; caseload management. Finally, CORIS supports all administrative functions related to tracking, reporting and security.

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http://www.locktrack.com/case_study.html

Marion County Oregon new system (2008)

In Marion County Oregon, Lockworks LLC developed an application satisfying the demands and challenges of corrections facility environments from the intake room through property management. Initial efforts focused on developing offender risk assessment instruments, with simple data entry, automatic scoring and classification, historical records tracking and basic reporting. The experiment was more successful than originally conceived: within two weeks, an elderly department volunteer with no previous computer experience was handling department data entry. Information previously written by hand on form after form became accessible across multiple corrections modules with auto-fill functionality. In-processing, violation tracking, health management and other applications emerged to streamline operational information requests onto one, accurate, up-to-date data set.

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<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS181993+14-Apr-2008+BW20080414>

Denver, Colorado new system (2008)

The Denver County Jail relies on the new Elite JMS for all mission-critical offender management needs. By replacing and unifying the Department's existing standalone and manual systems with the Elite JMS enterprise-wide data model, Denver County believes it will be able to improve efficiency within the jail, advance its information tracking efforts on offenders, and increase public safety. The Elite JMS, based on Syscon's 27 years of exclusive dedication to the corrections industry, will look after all aspects of offender management in the Denver County correctional system, including booking, sentence calculation and management, case management, inmate property, programs and services, inmate grievances and requests, incidents and offences in custody, electronic

health records, gangs and security threat management, visits management, and parole board management.

Denver's system will go live in July. The system will include a two-way interface so that court and jail personnel can both enter and view data in real time.

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- **Webcam or video appearances**

Hall County, Georgia HD Video for Initial Court Appearances

Since the implementation of the LifeSize HD systems, Hall County has experienced a significant increase in the speed of the initial court appearance cycle and improved communication among these groups. Not only does the use of video reduce the cost of transporting prisoners on a daily basis, but the technology actually speeds up the right to due process of law for the accused. Now, it's a two minute walk to one of the video rooms and back to the cell. Also, Hall County can now get 30 to 35 inmates in and out of their initial appearance sessions within one hour. Previously, it would take nearly a full day. LifeSize systems were placed at several key sites within the county's jail system. The jail, public defender and indigent defense offices, magistrate court, and jail lobby of the facility were each outfitted with the necessary equipment. Also, since LifeSize HD resolution is crisp and clear, county officials can see inmate's gestures, facial expressions and read non-verbal cues with ease.

- **Separate Pre-arraignment Facility**

Denver, Colorado Pre-arraignment Detention Facility

The Downtown Denver Division Pre-Arraignment Detention Facility (PADF) is the prisoner intake center. Prisoners are processed into the system, booked, finger printed, and temporarily housed until such a time that they are able to make bond, or have been given an advisement by the court. Depending on the outcome of their court appearance, prisoners are either released from the PADF or sent to the County Jail Facility to await trial or serve out their sentence. Division Chief Marie Kielar is in charge of the Downtown Division which also includes: Court Services and the Civil Unit in addition to the Pre-Arraignment Detention Facility. The facility opened in 1978 and was originally designed to process 12,000 prisoners per year. Currently, the PADF is processing in excess of 48,000 prisoners per year.