**Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)**

**Global Advisory Committee (GAC) Meeting**

**Winter Quarterly 2021 Virtual Meeting**

**January 28, 2021**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., ET**

**Meeting Summary**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative’s (Global) Advisory Committee (GAC) held its quarterly winter meeting, utilizing a virtual platform, on January 28, 2021. The Honorable Kevin J. Bowling, J.D. MSJA, Court Administrator, 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts, representing the National Association for Court Management and the GAC Chairman, led the meeting in furtherance of and alignment with Global’s charter and mission.[[1]](#footnote-2)

This synopsis includes highlights from the meeting, as well as the meeting agenda.

**CONVENE AND WELCOMING REMARKS**

Chairman Bowling opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to the first GAC meeting of 2021. He encouraged everyone to continue to build on the momentum that was created over the last year. Chairman Bowling thanked members for continuing to focus on the GAC mission and specifically thanked Vice Chair Sheriff Mike Milstead, Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) Chairman Mike Sena, and the designated federal official (DFO), Mr. David Lewis.

Chairman Bowling introduced Mr. David Lewis.

**BJA FEDERAL OFFICIALS’ REMARKS**

Mr. David Lewis, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and Global DFO welcomed the Committee and thanked members for their dedication to Global’s mission. He noted that the members should keep an eye on the BJA website and BJA solicitations, which are currently active for 2021. He also discussed the new system, JustGrants, and encouraged members to reach out with any questions. Mr. Lewis discussed the newly refreshed 28 CFR Part 23 Online Training program (<https://28cfr.ncirc.gov>). He announced that more than 2,000 people have completed the refreshed training. He recommended that GAC members share this training opportunity within their own organizations.

Mr. Lewis also announced that the [it.ojp.gov](https://it.ojp.gov/) site, which includes all the information related to Global, will be receiving a “facelift” in the near future, ensuring that all the links are updated and available for those within the information sharing world.

Mr. Lewis then gave a brief background and introduction of Acting Director, Kristin Mahoney, BJA.

Acting Director Mahoney opened her comments by thanking GAC Chairman Bowling and Vice Chairman Sheriff Milstead for their efforts in leading this “group of groups” and Global’s continued work to improve justice information sharing and development of frameworks to connect people and systems.

Acting Director Mahoney noted that Global’s 330+ products represent an impressive accomplishment. It also suggests that many of the ideas, priorities, and potential changes that President Biden and the incoming Attorney General will pursue have been addressed by Global to some extent. She noted that Global, with its broad membership and reputation for tackling complex topics, has the potential to play a unique role in developing products to assist President Biden’s administration develop and implement new policies and reforms.

Director Mahoney mentioned the following three resources as exemplars:

* + **Promising Practices in Forensic Intelligence**
  + **The Analyst Professional Development Road Map**
  + **The Analysis Toolkit**

Director Mahoney stated that these types of innovative products that inform, educate, and further professionalize law enforcement are what the President and incoming U.S. Attorney General will look to replicate and expand upon. **Global’s leadership should make it a priority to highlight these and similar products to the incoming U.S. Attorney General and the Biden administration.**

Director Mahoney noted:

“President Biden has made it clear that he is putting equity at the center of his agenda. This will be a whole-government approach to addressing racial justice across federal agencies, policies, and programs. President Biden has promised to take bold action to advance a comprehensive equity agenda and deliver criminal justice reform.”

Director Mahoney listed several BJA priorities that will complement the President’s agenda, including:

* + **Dealing with the trust deficit:** Director Mahoney noted the importance of improvingcommunity trust in law enforcement. Law enforcement legitimacy has been questioned in many communities across the country. Law enforcement cannot be effective, protect their communities, and serve their populations if a trust deficit exists. Director Mahoney said BJA will seek to develop programs to improve community trust by increasing transparency and improving information sharing among all stakeholders.
  + **Decreasing/reducing recidivism rates:**  Director Mahoney noted that the administration is looking for new, innovative, evidence-based approaches to address this problem. This will include developing new programs and improving the quality of existing programs, “pre- and post-incarceration.” One way to reduce incarceration times and recidivism is to make it easier to transition from jail/prison back to society. We must equip people to transition before they are released, and we must ensure that there is support available post-incarceration to help people succeed. This should be everyone’s goal.
    - Director Mahoney linked this issue with the challenge of establishing a blueprint for increased data exchange by states and local jurisdictions to connect disparate data systems.
    - Why are systems and information, owned by local, state, and federal agencies, not linked? Why does a recently released individual have to navigate systemic barriers to successfully transition back to society?
  + **Addressing behavioral and mental health issues:** Director Mahoney stated that this a prime opportunity for Global to develop evidence-based programs to ensure that people with behavioral and mental health issues receive treatment instead of languishing in local jails or state prison systems. Those with behavioral and mental health issues are not served by repeated and lengthy periods of incarceration. As a society, we must move away from jailing people with mental illness and move toward programs that can help address mental and behavioral health issues. This will not be easy, and it will not be a one-size-fits-all approach.
  + **Decreasing systemic bias:** Director Mahoney noted that bias within the system, whether implicit or explicit, is hard to deny. In many ways, addressing systemic bias is the one priority that touches on all other priorities.

While some of these priorities may be new, BJA is committed to creating and supporting innovative, evidence-based initiatives and programs that build equitable outcomes and safer communities, supporting state, local, tribal, and territorial communities.

Chairman Bowling thanked Director Mahoney for her remarks and noted that Global members will work together to carry out the priorities. In addition to Global and CICC, the Global Executive Steering Committee (GESC) will help set Global priorities over the next year, and this work should be carried out going forward.

**CRIMINAL INELLTIGENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL (CICC) UPDATE**

Mr. Sena thanked Chairman Bowling and acknowledged the priorities laid out by Director Mahoney. Despite COVID-19, the CICC has been engaged in several projects, including:

* Tips, Leads, and Threats to Life (TTL)—Mr. Sena provided a brief overview of this project. The major objective of the TTL project is to develop comprehensive guidance, policy templates, and/or checklists for law enforcement, community and school officials, and private sector social media companies to ensure that emergent information is properly triaged, quickly shared, and efficiently routed to the most appropriate authority while protecting privacy and civil liberties. The next steps in the TTL project will consolidate feedback received from group members on a series of documents, recommendations, and potential solutions. There will be another round of subgroup meetings in mid-February 2021.
* National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP) Refresh—Mr. Sena gave an overview of NCISP and explained how it highlights intelligence sharing among SLTTT and federal partners in the prevention of terrorism and other criminal activity. New and emerging threats require an update to the NCISP because of the changing threat environment. The CICC is working on reviewing and assessing the NCISP to determine which recommendations have been successfully implemented and which have not but are still priorities; and identify areas of needed improvement, particularly related to the virtual world. The task team has been approved, and Mr. Sena said it is currently in the process of identifying the chair, co-chair, and team members.
* Operationalizing Select CICC Documents and Policy Templates—Mr. Sena noted that Global has created a lot of working projects and that part of the goal is to review some of these products and make them operational. The CICC is in the early stages of reviewing the existing documents with the goal of operationalizing those documents to make them easier to use by law enforcement and public officials. An example is the role that fusion centers play in mass-casualty incidents and how such incidents are handled from fusion centers and FBI field offices. The goal is to create a checklist for fusion centers to reduce response variability.
* Criminal Intelligence/Information Technology (CI/IT) Working Group Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) and Federated Identity Projects—Mr. Sena noted that when you approach Regional Information Sharing Systems and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal, or LEEP, platform, your profile may not match in all the systems and you may not get access. Mr. Sena highlighted the importance of identity management and a single sign-on. Mr. Sena referenced Director Mahoney’s statement regarding the need for information sharing across agencies. The goal of this project is to link many of the systems and databases that are paramount to effective law enforcement.

Mr. Sena noted that the CICC is planning a meeting in February and a spring meeting with its partners, as well as the upcoming nominations for the Kurt Schmid Award. Mr. Sena gave a background of the Kurt Schmid Award and reminded members to submit nominations. Mr. Sena also referenced an executive order that was drafted on deconfliction but never passed and said he hopes that more items pertaining to deconfliction will continue under the new administration.

**INFORMATION SHARING UPDATES FROM THE FIELD**

Chairman Bowling thanked Mr. Sena for the CICC updates and introduced Dr. Donnell Harvin, who serves as the Chief of Homeland Security and Intelligence for the District of Columbia. Dr. Harvin’s primary focus is to integrate emergency preparedness and intelligence information collection, analysis, and dissemination throughout the National Capitol region. He also is a faculty member in Georgetown University’s Emergency and Disaster Management and Implied Intelligence master’s program.

Dr. Harvin’s PowerPoint presentation focused on the events of January 6 and the attack on the Capitol building. He began the presentation by giving a brief background of himself and of fusion centers and their emergence following the September 11, 2001 (9/11), attack. The 9/11 events highlighted how intelligence was vertically but not horizontally integrated. More collaborative information sharing was needed across multiple agencies.

Fusion centers can bridge multiple stakeholders and gaps in intelligence. They are involved in information sharing, intelligence analysis and contextualization, and threat awareness monitoring and forecasting.

Dr. Harvin stated that at any given time, there are more than a dozen First Amendment-protected activities in the DC area. He detailed the pre-operational intelligence activity and planning for an event and the exercises the intelligence team undergoes to prepare for possible scenarios. It can be helpful to have analysts in the field, to provide context for the types of information gathered.

Dr. Harvin discussed the importance of open source intelligence (OSINT) as the “tree of knowledge.” However, a lot of malign actors are beginning to use encrypted areas of the internet or use encryption technologies to communicate.

Dr. Harvin’s fusion center is conducting a “hot-wash” or after-action report of the January 6 events. The intelligence was strong, it was not an intelligence failure, and the fusion centers were prepared. Dr. Harvin concluded his presentation.

Mr. Sena stressed the importance of helping executives understand how to use intelligence information. Mr. Sena said there should be more intelligence training for chief executives, who should have a point of contact in their agencies who can translate intelligence for analysts. This can help executives absorb the intelligence information more effectively and respond appropriately.

Chairman Bowling thanked Dr. Harvin for the presentation and provided an opportunity for members to ask questions. Mr. Sena noted the importance of what Dr. Harvin discussed and said that all fusion centers need to have the appropriate tools and data necessary to do their jobs. Mr. Sena recommended that Global be involved in providing these tools and data for fusion centers. Acting Director Mahoney noted that BJA has a good training called “*Crime Analysis for Chief Executives Building Analytical Capacity Workshop*” ([www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/resource/41](http://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/resource/41)) and encouraged members to explore it.

Chairman Bowling mentioned that there will be follow-up discussion to inform new GAC members about the Global resources and materials currently available.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Chairman Bowling transitioned into the roundtable and encouraged members to participate to provide their organizations’ priorities and expectations for Global in the upcoming year.

Vice Chair Milstead, representing the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA), thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said his priorities reference information sharing between jails and health officials (because of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act laws), as well as information sharing between the Army National Guard and state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement.

**NSA Priority One:** *Vice Chair Milstead stated that there is a need to establish a protocol to ensure that local jail staff members and health care providers within the community have open communication lines. Continuity of care is critically important.*

Sheriff Milstead provided examples of how the lack of information sharing for health-related problems have been a major issue. This is a nontraditional avenue of information exchange that Global could address.

**NSA Priority Two:** *There needs to be a process and protocol to ensure “friction-free” information sharing between SLTT law enforcement and the National Guard when the National Guardsmen are activated during periods of social unrest and natural disasters. Currently, there is a lack of consistent and direct communication, which slows down response times and exposes law enforcement to preventable risks.*

Sheriff Milstead noted that this issue has come to light because of the social unrest of 2020. Normally, local and state law enforcement do not routinely work with the Army National Guard. Developing best practices and recommendations could be helpful in addressing these communication and information sharing issues before they emerge during an emergency situation.

Mr. Jim Bethke, representing the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), provided his priorities related to public defenders.

**NLADA Priority One**: *NLADA’s priorities are to use research, data, and technical assistance to inform improvements in defender systems. NLADA provides training and technical assistance to jurisdictions to help them uphold obligations under the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as part of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Sixth Amendment Initiative.*

**NLADA Priority Two:** *Train defenders in promoting racial equity in the justice system. NLADA provides leadership training to the defender members of the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge.*

**NLADA Priority Three:** *Advocate for federal resources to support state and local public defender systems.* *NLADA provides information and counsel to administration and congressional members on the proposed Equal Defense Act.*

Jim Bethke’s expectations for Global are listed below.

(1) Incorporate racial equity strategies in the collection and exchange of information that informs and equips agencies with critical data to identify and dismantle racist structures.

(2) Develop a white paper or evaluation study that illuminates the lack of access to existing or emerging technologies for public defender agencies.

Judge Barbara Mack, representing the National Council Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), provided her priorities for Global for 2021. Judge Mack thanked Dr. Harvin for his presentation and questioned whether there is a plan to address the issues at the Capitol. She noted that the attack on the Capitol was not an intelligence issue, which is positive, but questioned whether it was an information sharing issue. If so, what went wrong? Since Global’s role is information sharing, do we have a plan to identify the gaps? Does the GAC have a role in making recommendations in how to close these gaps?

**NCJFCJ Priority One:** *“Events of the last two weeks have magnified the gaps in the quality, availability, and sharing of information. The Tips and Leads T[ask T[eam] is an important part of this, but the issue is broader. Global's Bylaws task us with ‘identifying and recommending solutions to impediments to information sharing’ and ‘making recommendations based on increasing public safety.’ We should identify the gaps, identify why they happened, and make recommendations as to how to close the gaps. This should include improving mechanisms for sharing, training on the need for sharing and the need for some justice-related internal soul-searching. Does ‘if you see something, say something’ apply only to citizens, or should it apply equally to those in law enforcement? Per our Charter and Bylaws, this needs to be done with public safety as a goal, and with respect for First Amendment rights.”*

**NCJFCJ Priority Two:** *The need for accurate data and data sharing crosses all sectors: courts, schools, law enforcement, child welfare, human trafficking, public health, and more. The quantity and reliability of data varies within and among jurisdictions and agencies. COVID-19 has taught us that there is a digital divide among and within levels of government and agencies. It may be resource driven, rural versus urban, or due to a lack of technology-savvy managers and employees. The lack of data knowledge and sharing has real consequences. Example: A young woman was abused and trafficked by a parent, has a record in one state, and moves to another state to start fresh. She has a substance abuse problem, bears a child, and child welfare removes and unknowingly places the baby with the grandparent who trafficked the mother. How do we get databases (1) that speak the same language and/or are able to share information, and (2) make sure the sharing happens?*

Judge Mack also mentioned the importance of accurate collection and sharing of data and databases that can communicate with each other. Judge Mack mentioned that there are databases among federal agencies, between state and federal agencies, and among local agencies that do not communicate. The Protect Our Children Act mandated a federal deconfliction database so targets cannot move from one platform to another. However, this still does not exist. Do we have a role in figuring this out? System interoperability goes along with deconfliction. How do we take the missing pieces and put them together so we can get databases talking to each other?

**NCJFCJ Priority Three:** *Institutional bias is undeniably a conscious or unconscious force in American society: police, courts, schools, health care systems, etc. For example, COVID-related data has shown the stark disparity in access to health care and in health care systems. Over the last year, the nation has seen widespread social justice protests over police shootings, accompanied in some places by violence. Communities of color and many others believe the police shootings were motivated by implicit or explicit racial bias. The summer of unrest was followed by the events at the Capitol on January 6. Images of the differences in police response to summer BLM protests and the invasion of the Capitol have raised this question: Was information known leading up to the events at the Capitol and not acted on because the perpetrators were white? We have had presentations about and discussion of facial recognition software. There have been wildly disparate reports about its efficacy and biased outcomes. Do we have a role in making recommendations about the ethical use of facial recognition software to prevent misidentification of suspects? This is not about ascribing blame; it is about finding analytical solutions to protect the public in all sectors. Does GAC have any role in making sure that data is both accurate and reliable, that it does not unconsciously incorporate bias, and that it is appropriately acted upon?*

The fourth and final priority listed by Judge Mack is how the GAC, through its connection to fusion centers, can play a role in preventing the spread of disinformation.

**NCJFCJ Priority Four:** *Our mission is information sharing. What happens when widespread deliberate misinformation is perpetrated by people who want to disrupt law enforcement, courts, and civil society. Deliberately spread misinformation has serious consequences. For example, the Pizzagate child trafficking conspiracy theory resulted in a young man going to “investigate” while carrying a Colt AR-15 rifle (which he fired), a Colt .38 handgun, a shotgun, and a folding knife. This fictitious conspiracy theory cost a lot of police time and resources and nearly cost a life. False information about pedophile and child trafficking rings takes resources away from the very real ones traumatizing children today. What is law enforcement's role in correcting misinformation, and should GAC make recommendations?*

Judge Mack’s expectations for Global are listed below.

(1) Encourage all GAC members actively participating in the work of Global

(2) Hold a robust discussion about our role in the aftermath of the COVID, social unrest, and violence at the Capitol. Judge Mack asks how Global breaks the issues down into manageable segments and produces recommendations that are useful and can help accomplish the mission.

Mr. Dave Roberts, representing the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics (SEARCH), gave his priorities next. These five priorities come directly from the Board of Director’s meeting at SEARCH.

**SEARCH Priority One:** *The COVID-19 global health pandemic—with stay-at-home orders and social distancing restrictions, closures of government offices and businesses, and the resulting economic fallout—has profoundly affected all aspects of state criminal history repository operations in 2020. Key challenges facing repositories and contributing agencies include the following:*

* *An escalating demand for criminal history background checks, particularly for firearms purchases*
* *Lengthy disruptions to existing fingerprint submission processes for both civil and criminal purposes*
* *Temporary suspension of normal fingerprinting requirements for licensing and employment to meet the demand for checks of health care workers and other essential groups*
* *The need to make abrupt and rapid changes to business practices at a time when traditional workflows are upended, many staff members are shifted to remote work, budgets are strained, and workforce reductions loom.*

*There is also a need to document how COVID-19 has affected fingerprinting practices nationwide, including how it challenges efforts to enhance record data quality. Many states have noted significant drops in the number of fingerprints that are being captured in both criminal justice and civil venues, given concerns over social distancing during the pandemic. Suspending the capture and sharing of fingerprints for justice and nonjustice purposes has significant consequences for repository budgets; the completeness and accuracy of criminal history records; and the ability to provide complete, accurate, and timely response to noncriminal justice civil, firearms, employment, and other suitability determinations. Of particular concern is how repositories will catch up on capturing fingerprints of those individuals whose records were subject to name-only checks as an interim measure.*

* *Research how agencies can adapt long-term to these challenges through substantive changes in repository operations, staffing, technological support, and automation.*

The second priority laid out by Mr. Roberts is the need to find practical solutions for law enforcement to capture fingerprints for individuals who receive a citation in lieu of arrest or “cite and release.”

**SEARCH Priority Two:** *Some jurisdictions are seeing that up to one-half of arrests are not fingerprint-supported because of expanding cite and release practices. In addition, police in several jurisdictions are not physically booking and fingerprinting individuals, given concerns regarding COVID-19. These practices will significantly impact the data quality of state and federal criminal history records. Consider exploring the installation of live-scan fingerprint devices in courtrooms. Installing live-scan fingerprint devices in courtrooms enables officers to capture fingerprints from individuals who were not previously fingerprinted. In some jurisdictions, jails are frequently crowded, so law enforcement often elects to cite and release arrestees. Deploying live-scan devices in courtrooms enables the judiciary to order fingerprinting of defendants when they make appearances. Since law enforcement agencies often provide court security, they can capture fingerprints for more complete and accurate criminal history record reporting.*

For his third priority, Mr. Roberts stated that within law enforcement, we should continue to expand research on   
new and emerging technological solutions and innovative operational practices to support timely, accurate, and   
complete disposition reporting to support the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) ([www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/nics)](http://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/nics)) and for other criminal history record needs.

**SEARCH Priority Three:** *Massive increases in the volume of firearms background checks, throughout 2020 and particularly since the emergence of COVID-19, have impacted the NICS. Moreover, these increases have placed additional burdens on state criminal history records repositories and highlighted the fundamental importance of accurate, timely, and complete criminal history records.*

*Though disposition reporting remains a persistent challenge for many repositories, states are continuing to develop innovative technical and operational solutions to improve data quality. Oklahoma, for example, has built a portal between* computerized criminal history (CCH) *and courts to expedite and improve disposition reporting. Court officials can log in, research their cases, and link them back to the arrests. A comparable program is also in place in Hawaii, engaging both courts and prosecutors. Virginia has successfully deployed similar technology to reduce a significant backlog of dispositions that were not linked to an underlying arrest.*

Mr. Robert’s fourth priority highlights courts and the need to clarify the implications of criminal justice reform efforts, specifically as it relates to criminal history records, and explore the growing demands for sealing and expunging criminal history records within the context of criminal justice reform.

**SEARCH Priority Four**:

* *Assess the operational, technical, legal, and research impact of contemporary legislative proposals and actions to vastly expand the sealing and expungement of criminal history records. Legislative provisions that require automatic sealing or expungement of records may present special challenges for repositories based on the specific requirements. Legislation that mandates automatic sealing/expungement of certain quantities or classes of marijuana convictions, for example, may present a challenge for the repository if state statutes do not sufficiently define the nature or quantity of drugs involved. Statutes that refer only to broad categories or schedules of prohibited substances may not differentiate marijuana in a fashion that will easily enable eligibility for sealing and/or expungement and may require labor-intensive, manual research and review of original arrest reports or court records.*
* *Differentiate the nature, structure, scope, and operations of records that are implicated in contemporary sealing and expungement proposals, e.g., arrest records, prosecutor records, court records, correctional records, criminal history records (CHR), commercial background screening records, etc. Some Clean Slate initiatives focus primarily on court records, with implications for state CHRs. Some records are more open or public than others—court records are largely publicly available, while CHRs are largely restricted.*
* *Address challenges in dealing with old and missing records. Old records may cite statutes that obscure eligibility. Legislators and reform advocates often call for automatic sealing provisions, but repositories may be operating with antiquated legacy systems that are not easily configurable to implement automatic triggers to seal or expunge records or eligible transactions within a record.*
* *Clarify the difference between sealing and expungement. Reform advocates and even legislators often confuse the terms “sealing” and “expungement.” Measures calling for the complete deletion, destruction, or other obliteration of criminal history records can jeopardize the value of such records for research on such critical topics as risk, recidivism, and redemption.*
* *Communicate the operational, technical, and policy implications of contemporary reform initiatives (e.g., Clean Slate Initiative, Second Chance Act, Ban-the-Box, etc.) on state criminal history records repositories.*

The fifth priority for Global brought up by Mr. Roberts discussed exploring contactless fingerprinting and other portable technologies that can help law enforcement and repositories adapt to continuing public health threats, solving cite and release concerns, and improving civil fingerprinting.

**SEARCH Priority Five:** *In light of concerns regarding physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement and justice agencies are exploring new and emerging technologies to capture fingerprints in a variety of venues. Deploying contactless and mobile fingerprint technologies is also a potential solution for gaps created in traditional cite and release operations, where fingerprints are often not collected. This technology would enable officers to capture fingerprints quickly and safely in the field. Contactless fingerprinting can also improve the capacity to safely obtain civil prints. I also suggest exploring different strategies for helping states and repositories implement this technology in courtrooms (e.g., working with the state sentencing commission helped one state to do so).*

Mr. Roberts’ expectations for Global are listed below.

1. The continuing and chronic challenges of effective, operational information sharing were once again evident in the extraordinary 2021 storming of the United States Capitol. While much of the technology to share critical operational and intelligence information is readily available and broadly implemented at local, state, and federal levels, institutional failures and politically motivated decisions may emerge as the primary culprits. Examining this specific incident and exploring the evolving nature and vastly expanding threat associated with domestic terrorism should be efforts that Global addresses in 2021.
2. Global should also address the information sharing and research implications of justice reform proposals and efforts to recognize, understand, and remediate systemic bias. Building technology solutions and operational programs that will significantly enhance greater transparency of enterprise-wide justice operations is an objective that Global should adopt. In addition, Global should address leveraging operational information systems to support research assessing systemic bias and helping to develop of effective approaches to recognize, understand, and remediate systemic bias.

Ms. Veronica Cunningham, representing the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), gave her priorities.

Ms. Cunningham’s first priority deals with community corrections reform.

**APPA Priority One:** *The focus of justice reform usually centers around policing. Every cog of the justice system wheel needs to be examined. While community corrections/supervision is the aspect of the system where system-involved individuals spend the most time, it is also the area that gets the least attention and fewest resources.*

Ms. Cunningham stated that every aspect of the justice system needs to be examined. APPA has provided short- and long-term recommendations for reform. The technology piece is more important than ever before for community corrections. Systems such as probation and parole systems are not communicating, and this needs to be addressed.

Ms. Cunningham’s second priority references racial justice.

**APPA Priority Two:** *The George Floyd matter brought this subject to the forefront like never before. It is imperative that it stay top of mind and become an action item, not just for proponents of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement but for all mankind.*

Ms. Cunningham’s final priority references health and wellness.

**APPA Priority Three*:*** *COVID-19 has clearly affected the masses, both physically and psychologically. Probation and parole officers as well as individuals under supervision have been overwhelmed by this deadly virus. The long-term effects are concerning.*

Ms. Cunningham’s expectations for Global are listed below.

1. Global must hone in on how technology can and will be used to enhance public safety by offering support to justice system employees, separate and apart from "catching criminals."

Sheriff John McMahon, representing the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA), discussed his priorities next. His priorities deal with mental illness/treatment as well as police reform.

**MCSA Priority One:** *Mental illness is at the forefront of many law enforcement-related issues. Most important, law enforcement officers continue to be among the primary governmental resources to contact individuals with mental illness. The number of law enforcement contacts with citizens experiencing [a mental health] crisis continues to increase at alarming rates. This results in increased calls for service and bookings at county jail facilities. Many with untreated mental illnesses tend to commit crimes and often present with unpredictable behavior which, at times, can be unsafe for the involved officer and those citizens they serve. It is believed by many law enforcement leaders that appropriate identification and treatment for those experiencing a mental health crisis could help to mitigate the impact on our criminal justice system. To achieve a successful outcome, which lessens the impact on law enforcement agencies, collaborative programs between law enforcement agencies and behavioral health professionals are key. Processes to channel education to the citizens we serve, as to the impacts of mental illness and available solutions, should also be examined.*

Sheriff McMahon highlighted the importance of mental health within corrections.

**MCSA Priority Two:** *Police reform has become a trend that continues to grow among community leaders, community groups, and legislators at both the state and federal level. Unfortunate events tend to stimulate discussions and what is often referred to as needed action with regards to law enforcement management, training, policy, and overall response; typically presented as a uniform approach to policing. There are often difficulties with “one-size-fits-all” police reform, as many agencies are tasked with serving communities that have needs that are specific to their communities. Many sources utilized to examine and present reform theories result from academic writings and studies, rather than from direct law enforcement involvement. In situations where law enforcement input is solicited, it often involves information brought forward from larger metropolitan agencies that do not typically have constraints, such as resource limitations. Discussions should also take place with regards to media involvement and the impact it has on often one-sided views portrayed to community members.*

**MCSA Priority Three:** *Criminal justice reform is often portrayed as a method to mitigate what many believe are unjust sentencing guidelines, statutes negating reformation/rehabilitation, and jail overcrowding. Unfortunately, legislation passed within the last decade has decriminalized and reclassified many crimes, which has proven to have a negative impact on communities. Every year, state legislators continue to present new legislation with trends pointing towards additional decriminalization and reclassification of crimes, as well as sentencing and bail guidelines that will likely continue to negatively impact law enforcement.*

Sheriff McMahon’s expectations for Global are listed below.

1. The GAC needs to continue to work closely with DOJ and the new administration to ensure that their expectations of the GAC are being met.

Because of time constraints, Mr. Frank Minice, representing the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (Nlets), was the last member to provide priorities to Global. Mr. Minice’s priorities center on technology, law enforcement, and cybersecurity.

**Nlets Priority One:**

Identity Credential and Access Management Using Trustmarks

*Law enforcement and public safety will need to transition to support access from outside of our closed networks. Identity, credential, and access management (ICAM) and the Trustmark framework concept have been endorsed by SAFECOM, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (https://www.theiacp.org), and others and will be utilized and supported by Nlets to allow access to resources at a user level. Adoption will be slow (mirroring what was done in the early days of Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) and Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM)), but now is the time to promote this, as many resource owners are starting to restrict access due to changes in policy.*

**Nlets Priority Two:**

Vulnerability and Threat Mitigation Across the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Enterprise

*As cyberthreats continue to grow and systems and networks become more complex, intel sharing of threats and vulnerabilities becomes ever so important. Nlets is working to build a threat-sharing capability with connected members to share threats in real time, providing mitigation assistance and a forensic sandbox to open and explore these threats. We are working closely with the Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) (www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac) on this.*

Mr. Minice discussed Nlets work with MS-ISAC to get data to the people who need it to update firewalls. Global could develop best practices and recommendations for implementation of these practices.

Mr. Minice’s expectations for Global are listed below.

1. While my organization has been involved with Global from the beginning and I have been involved in many Global sponsored projects, I am new to this committee. As I gauge the level of our involvement and commitment, my biggest expectation is to have a clear understanding of the purpose and scope of the committee.

Chairman Bowling thanked the members for their participation and stated that these conversations will continue at the next GAC meeting in the spring. Chairman Bowling thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m., ET.

**Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)   
Advisory Committee (GAC)**

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**Quarterly Meeting**

[**Join ZoomGov Meeting**](https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615412073?pwd=S1IxaWNJeCsvOEpZN3hSZ1VJQzN1dz09)

**Dial-In Information: 1 (669) 254-5252**

**Meeting ID: 1615412073#**

**Passcode/Pin: 537678#**

**Thursday, January 28, 2021**

**Agenda**

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| **2:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.** | **Welcoming Remarks**  *Mr. Kevin Bowling, GAC Chairman, Court Administrator, 20th Circuit*  *and Ottawa County Probate Courts* |
| **2:05 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.** | **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Federal Officials’ Remarks**  *Ms. Kristen Mahoney, Acting Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA),*  *U.S. Department of Justice*  *Mr. David Lewis, Senior Policy Advisor, BJA, Global,* U.S. Department of  Justice, and Global Designated Federal Official (DFO) |
| **2:15 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.** | **Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) Update**  *Mr. Mike Sena, Executive Director, Northern California High Intensity*  *Drug Trafficking Area and Northern California Regional Intelligence*  *Center;* *Chair of the Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council* |
| **2:25 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.** | **Information Sharing Updates from the Field**  *Dr. Donell Harvin, Executive Director, National Capitol Region Threat*  *Intelligence Consortium* |
| **2:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** | **Roundtable Discussion**  *Facilitated by GAC Chairman Kevin Bowling*  This roundtable will focus on the GAC member priorities and expectations for 2021. All member responses are available in the member briefing packet distributed prior to the meeting. |
|  | **Adjourn** |

1. Additional information regarding Global can be found at [www.it.ojp.gov/global](http://www.it.ojp.gov/global). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)