

Highlights

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Justice Information Sharing: Important to BJA, Important to Global, Important to You

In any justice information sharing endeavor, two critical questions bookend a project's spectrum, from planning stages to postimplementation evaluation. Namely:

- Is there **executive support**? Because without leadership buy-in, rarely will an effort get off the ground, much less achieve any sort of meaningful longevity.
- If the initiative *does* yield implementations, **are the results worthwhile**? Is there a **business "value-add" to the community** it is purported to serve?

Luckily, two recently released resources (available on the Global Web site) answer "yes" to both of these questions when it comes to the Global Initiative.

BJA's Justice Information Sharing: A 2010–2012 Strategic Action Plan

BJA's Strategic Action Plan enumerates 15 priority justice issues that require **information sharing** as an essential part of the solution. Responding to these identified needs from the field and significant input from Global membership and the Global Executive Committee, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) developed national initiatives and "action plans" around these issues. Each requires a multidisciplinary response, stakeholder ownership, collaborative program implementation, and strategic budgeting to address operational, technical, and policy needs. The primary goal of these initiatives is to demonstrate measureable success, show a strong return on investment, and enable justice officials to replicate long-term results using limited resources. As such, the action plans within this strategy address resources needed for a horizon of three years (2010–2012) to achieve the desired results.

BJA's leadership highlights its support for Global in the Introduction of the Strategic Action plan:

"BJA has been working with partners to support implementation of national policy, practices, and technology solutions to improve information sharing capacity....A key dynamic in these efforts is the long-standing partnership between BJA and Global....Global operates under the guidance and leadership of BJA and, as such, all parties benefit: BJA receives invaluable local, state, and tribal recommendations on priority information sharing issues and the Global practitioners are provided with information about promising practices and solutions."

The specific issues being addressed in the Plan include combating gang violence, suspicious activity reporting (SARs), cross-boundary information exchange; and improving warrant and disposition management. Further details, including contact information, are included for each initiative

Global "White Paper"

Global's new "white paper" is an excellent primer, and practitioners are urged to use this handy resource in educating colleagues. But perhaps the most compelling section documents **Global's business value-add to the justice community**: "The Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) has greatly improved the ability of justice and public safety agencies to share information....[P]olice in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, were able to capture a bank robbery suspect in less than two hours by matching his bank surveillance photo with an image on the Pennsylvania Justice Network, or JNET, Pennsylvania's XML-enabled justice information sharing network. On another occasion, an officer assigned to the case of two slain New York City detectives contacted the Philadelphia/Camden High Intensity Drug Traffic Area authorities to request information on two suspects. Again, by using JNET [and GJXDM], it took officials just a few hours, rather than days or weeks, to gather and forward information on the suspects, including date of birth, social security number, fingerprints, photo, and vehicle information. As a result, the two suspects were located and brought into custody."

Hours versus weeks. Suspected police killers in custody versus on the street. Saving time, money, and maybe lives...**worthwhile results**, indeed.

Send Us Your Success Stories!

Everyone loves a success story. In *Highlights*, we feature good news blurbs about justice practitioners using Global products (such as JNET) to do their jobs better. We want to hear from you! Send a sentence or two to dindquist@iir.com about the activity/project, Global resource used (e.g., GJXDM), and how you can be reached. We'll follow up and do the rest!