About the GSSWG

In January 2013, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Global Advisory Committee (GAC) sanctioned the establishment of the Global Strategic Solutions Working Group (GSSWG), whose mission is to identify high-priority information sharing business problems that affect justice practitioners and develop effective solutions that increase public safety and advance the administration of justice.

Historically, Global working groups have utilized face-to-face meetings to accomplish their work. Given the current economic landscape, the GSSWG accomplishes its work using nontraditional means via flexible and temporary ad hoc task teams made up of subject-matter experts (SMEs) who meet virtually (e.g., through conference calls, Webinars, collaboration sites). Removing the demand for travel ensures that high-level experts—whose busy careers may not have permitted involvement if travel were required—are now able to actively participate and lend their expertise by incorporating short bursts of task team activity into their routine schedules. Less demand on individuals' time means an increase in available proficiency and expertise, thus expanding the GSSWG's knowledge base and increasing the quality of targeted solutions.

The GSSWG meets only once per year during an annual priority scoping meeting to determine the business needs that will be addressed for the coming year. In addition, the group meets virtually through standing monthly conference calls, held on the first Tuesday of every month, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., EST.
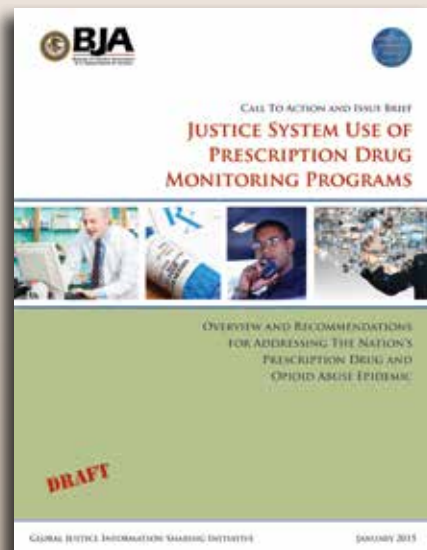
For GAC Approval

Call to Action and Issue Brief—Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs: Addressing the Nation's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Epidemic

Every day in the United States, more than 100 people die as a result of drug overdose. National, regional, and state-level data clearly illustrate that prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion are exacting a significant toll on our public health and public safety systems. In response to this critical issue, states across America have established prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), an extremely useful but often underutilized tool. With support and guidance from BJA, *Call to Action and Issue Brief—Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs: Addressing the Nation's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Epidemic* was drafted by members of the Global Strategic Solutions Working Group's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Task Team to serve as an educational resource and call to action, underscoring the value of justice enterprise participation in PDMPs from both the public safety and the public health perspective.

The primary audience for this resource is justice practitioners and policymakers.

Purpose and Value: This resource explores PDMP-related topics and the timely issue of prescription drug abuse (and nexus to the justice community) in an easy-to-read format and style, with content and resources that:

- Outline PDMPs and their purpose.
- Highlight the value of PDMP data to law enforcement, probation and parole practitioners, and court personnel.

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- Underscore the importance of public health and public safety community partnerships.

- Outline practices for effectively using PDMP data for justice purposes.

- Provide resources, promising practices, and implementation examples to promote transportability of solutions into other communities.

- Present recommendations, call-to-action issues, and next steps to address the nation's opioid epidemic.

The case is also made for strongly pursuing a capability of nationally interoperable PDMPs via the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Information Exchange (PMIX), supported through funding from BJA's Harold Rogers Prescription Monitoring Program, facilitating information sharing about prescriptions of controlled substances sent across jurisdictional boundaries for the benefit of all practitioners, organizations, and communities involved in and affected by this epidemic. The goal of PMIX is to help states implement a cost-effective technology solution to facilitate interstate data sharing among PDMPs.

The ultimate format of this resource allows for a "living document." Once GAC-approved, this content will be used to develop an online version of the deliverable, which is intended to grow with additional resources and best practices.

Review, Vetting, and Request for GAC Action: Prior to presentation to the GAC membership, this resource underwent substantial review by and received approval from numerous SMEs in this specific field, as well as Global and BJA leadership. GAC members' consideration and voting on the following motion are the final, important steps in this recommendation process:

- **Motion:** Members of the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) Advisory Committee (GAC) recommend *Call to Action and Issue Brief—Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs: Addressing the Nation's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Epidemic* as a Global-supported resource, to be delivered to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (and designees, as appropriate) for consideration and further action.

Associated Actions and Next Steps: The recommendations advocated by this Call to Action fundamentally depend on strengthening partnerships across communities of interest: the best hope of addressing this national priority through enhanced information sharing is a collaborative, coordinated approach involving all affected stakeholders and communities including (and particularly, for the scope of this Call to Action) the public health and public safety/justice domains.

Partnerships and interoperable technical and policy solutions will need to be initiated, maintained, and advanced at all levels of government and will benefit significantly from a unified message and strong advocacy at the highest levels of agency and department leadership.

Current GSSWG Task Team Activity
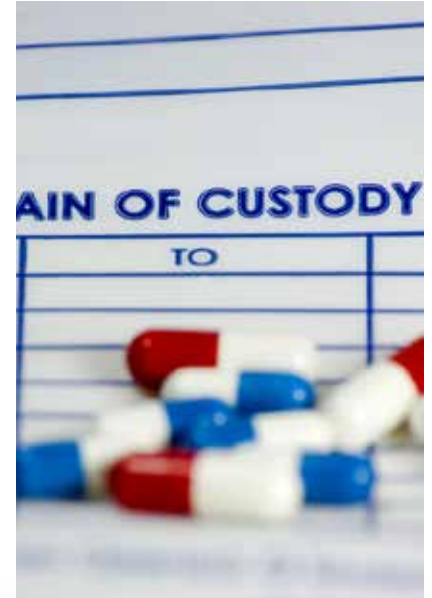
New GSSWG Priorities for 2014–2015 Year

At the most recent priority scoping meeting, held on September 3–4, 2014, in Washington, DC, the GSSWG, along with participation and guidance from BJA leadership, determined to address several new priorities for 2014–2015 through the establishment of the following four ad hoc GSSWG task teams.

Opioid Abuse Task Team

Phil Stevenson, Ph.D., Director, Statistical Analysis Center, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, and Vice-Chair, GSSWG, will lead the Opioid Abuse Task Team (OATT). Through guidance by Mr. Chris Traver, Senior Policy Advisor, BJA, and Ms. Tara Kunkel, Principal Court Consultant, Technology Division, National Center for State Courts, and from discussions during the September 3–4, 2014, GSSWG meeting, the following topic areas were recommended for exploration. The team plans to scope and refine this list and determine which path(s) to explore that meet Global's information sharing mission.

- Define state-level data sets (to include PDMP data) for better understanding of drug misuse and abuse.

- What five questions can be answered by PDMP data? A variety of data sets inform this problem.

- Using PDMP data for performance metrics. For example, how well is your state doing in addressing this problem? Have you increased or decreased dispensing in certain regions or certain drugs?

- How can the PDMP address Medicaid fraud?

- Tactical uses of PDMP data.

- List the top five questions a state should answer to determine how it is doing in addressing this issue, using case studies, emphasizing why this is important, and illustrating what research has shown. For key players, convincingly answer the question, "What is in it for us?" and have it endorsed by a leadership body.

- Explore the heroin tracking topic. Include Mr. Mike Sena, Director, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, and connect with the Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council regarding its strategy and efforts regarding communication on this issue, and with the Drug Enforcement Agency/fusion center effort with the national drug threat assessment.

Status: As of December 31, 2014, members of the former PDMP TT were asked to continue as part of this new task team, and a call for SMEs was distributed to ensure that membership included SMEs experienced with the opioid abuse topic. Membership appointments are currently under way.

Juvenile Assessment Task Team

Mr. Kevin Bowling, Court Administrator, 20th Circuit Court, Michigan, will lead the Juvenile Assessment Task Team (JATT). The priority that this team will address is the sharing of vital information across the juvenile justice domain and domains outside juvenile justice, particularly the key data elements needed to autopopulate juvenile risk and need assessments. The juvenile justice community has struggled with the numerous risk/need assessment instruments in use, many of which are done manually. Also, there have been criticisms regarding the validity of many of these existing tools. By identifying the most common elements across multiple risk/need assessment instruments, we can clearly demonstrate that fewer elements are needed to assess risk/need factors than are present in the volumes of questions in numerous instruments used today. Automation of core juvenile risk/need data assessments would solve problems faced by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and enable it to obtain statistics electronically. Further, automation of this type of exchange would blend across health and human services, probation, drug court arenas, and others.

In 2013–2014, the GSSWG identified the data elements of adult risk/need assessment instruments for service specification development. The JATT will endeavor to follow the same process for juvenile risk/need assessments. The process will comprise several sequential tasks:

- Collect the juvenile risk/need assessment instruments used most frequently across the domain.
- Identify the critical risk factors most commonly addressed by questions contained in the risk/need instruments.
- Analyze each instrument individually to identify the data elements used to address each risk factor. For example: What assessment questions (data elements) address history of antisocial behavior?
- Compile a data element list grouped by risk factor.
- Prioritize risk factor data elements according to those that occur most frequently across the majority of instruments—core elements.
- Draft recommendations to the Global Standards Council (GSC) to explore service specification development for the most frequently occurring (i.e., most needed) data elements to enable autopopulation of assessment tools.

Status: As of December 31, 2014, the membership of this task team was complete. Two conference calls already have been held. Currently, the team is gathering juvenile risk and need assessment instruments and researching standard baseline risk and need factors to use for measurement.

Video Task Team

GSSWG Chairman Mike Milstead, Sheriff, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, South Dakota, will continue to lead the Video Task Team (VTT), which will proceed with the development of the following two deliverables, previously approved by the GSSWG:

- A prosecutor road map to video evidence resources. Following the publication of the VTT's first resource—*Video Evidence: A Law Enforcement Guide to Resources and Best Practices*—Ms. Kristen Mahoney, Deputy Director of Policy, BJA, recommended that the team develop a similar product but designed specifically to assist prosecutors regarding video collection, storage, analysis, and courtroom admissibility. This resource would serve as a road map to nonproprietary resources available in the field. Additionally, the team will explore issues prosecutors face when processing, redacting, or playing video in court, as well as video storage and cataloging issues.

- An educational resource for law enforcement and public safety communities regarding video and the cloud environment. With the quantity of video evidence coming in, storage is a huge issue for record management systems and also bandwidth capability. Getting video from a major event is an issue for law enforcement. Most law enforcement agencies do not have the capability to request that the public send in video. A cloud environment is one mechanism agencies are beginning to turn to as a solution for emergencies and major incidents, since it provides storage, cataloging, video conversion, real-time analysis, and more. Law enforcement agencies need to be educated on this technology and what to consider. With more vendors getting into this field, we need to take a look at it and educate the community.

Status: As of December 31, 2014, prosecutor and cloud-technology SME appointments were complete. The task team further divided the membership into two subgroups in order to better focus and scope the two topics. Both the prosecutor and the cloud-technology subgroups held their first conference calls in December 2014 and are working on product outlines.

Trustmark Task Team

This team will be chaired by Thomas Clarke, Ph.D., Vice President, Research and Technology Services, National Center for State Courts, and Chair, GSC. The trustmark strategy (refer to https://trustmark.gtri.gatech.edu/) is sufficiently mature now that a new Global Trustmark Task Team was chartered in December 2014 to review and assess future Global trustmarks.

Overview: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is sponsoring a new "trustmark" approach for solving a perennial barrier to interstate justice information sharing: negotiation of agreements on policies for exchanges. Under this approach, Global could conceivably act as a source of trustmarks for policies and technical standards. This task team will identify and prioritize candidates for Global trustmarks. For additional information and expected Trustmark benefits to Global, refer to the GSC GAC briefing sheet.

Background: State and local justice information sharing is historically a costly and difficult endeavor. It is hard enough to harmonize technical strategies and supporting policies within local trusted networks. When information needs to be shared outside local jurisdictions or across state lines, currently successful strategies such as interstate compacts take a long time and great expense to put in place. More broadly, the many justice jurisdictions and organizations have formulated a very large number of specific security, access, and privacy policies for their data. Typically, no two policies are exactly alike, making harmonization via legal negotiation a slow and expensive process. Many current policies overlap for specific types of data sharing, exhibiting a mix of commonalities and differences. These legacy frameworks for sharing data can be characterized mostly as monolithic and opaque. Although Global has done a good job of creating national technical standards and guidelines for privacy policies, there has been little progress toward the simplification and harmonization of actual security, access, and privacy policies.

Solution: NIST and the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) are now developing a trustmark strategy to mitigate these classic barriers. A trustmark is a reusable trust component, either a technical standard or a policy. Thus, it is transparent, modular, and reusable. When a trustmark is properly designed, organizations and jurisdictions can compose information sharing requirements using an array of trustmark components. Requirements for verifying compliance with trustmarks are clearly specified and enforced. In a real sense, these trustmarks are market-based. Successful ones will be widely adopted and implemented, and others will be ignored. As organizations gravitate toward the more successful trustmarks, it will become easier and easier to share information.

Team Scope: This task team will identify and prioritize candidates for Global trustmarks. At a minimum, Global will probably want to create trustmarks for its key existing technical standards, since that will ensure adequate conformance to those standards by practitioners and industry providers. More important, the task team will identify key information sharing policies that are good candidates for trustmarks. In both areas, the task team will identify trustmarks that already have been developed by other organizations so that work is not duplicated. When the list of desired trustmarks has been identified and prioritized, this task team will disband. Global may then create specific task teams to develop the prioritized trustmarks.

Status: Team members are currently being recruited. In turn, the team is expected to convene in February 2015 to review and address potential Global trustmarks.

GSSWG Membership

Sheriff Michael W. Milstead, Chair
South Dakota Fusion Center
Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office
GAC Representative: National Sheriffs' Association

Mr. Phillip Stevenson, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Research Manager
Public Safety Performance Project
Pew Charitable Trusts

Mr. Steven Ambrosini
Executive Director
IJIS Institute

Kevin J. Bowling, J.D.
Court Administrator
20th Circuit Court, Ottawa, Michigan
GAC Representative: National Association for Court Management

Mr. Steven E. Correll
Executive Director
Nlets—The International Justice and Public Safety Network
GAC Representative: Nlets

Mr. Bob Greeves
Policy Advisor
National Criminal Justice Association

Cynthia Lum, Ph.D.
Director and Associate Professor
Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
George Mason University

Mr. J. Patrick McCreary
Associate Deputy Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice

Mr. Mark Perbix
Director, Information Sharing Program
SEARCH, The National Consortium of Justice Information and Statistics

Mr. Mike Sena
Director, Northern Carilfornia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
Northern California Regional Intelligence Center

Sheriff Rich Stanek
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
GAC Representative: President, Major County Sheriffs Association

Mr. Chris Traver
(Proxy for J. Patrick McCreary)
Senior Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice

For More Information

For more information about the GSSWG, refer to **it.ojp.gov/gsswg**, or contact Christina Abernathy of DOJ's Global at (850) 385-0600, extension 318, or e-mail **cabernathy@iir.com**.

For more information about other DOJ information sharing initiatives, go to:

it.ojp.gov

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