



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative

# Global Strategic Solutions Working Group (GSSWG)

## Status Update to the Global Advisory Committee

### GSSWG Mission

The mission of GSSWG is to identify high-priority information sharing business problems that have an impact on justice practitioners and to develop effective solutions that increase public safety and advance the administration of justice. Through input from the field, GSSWG identifies priority business problems and uses a systematic process to fully consider evolving technology and the dynamic demands on the justice and public safety enterprise. Determination of solutions includes a focus on evidence-based practices, as well as rigorous attention to privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections.

### The Work of the GSSWG

Historically, Global working groups have utilized face-to-face meetings to accomplish their work. Given today's economic landscape, 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., conference calls, Webinars, collaboration sites).

Removing the demand for travel ensures that high-level experts—whose busy careers may not permit involvement if travel is 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 in each task team's knowledge base. Expanding this GSSWG knowledge base has been beneficial to the quality of targeted solutions proposed and the steps outlined to ensure its accomplishment. As a result of this increased level of expertise, the learning curve for each team's mutual understanding of identified priorities has been shorter in duration. The tasks identified to accomplish these goals have been more sophisticated and comprehensive, ensuring a higher level of success for the solutions developed.

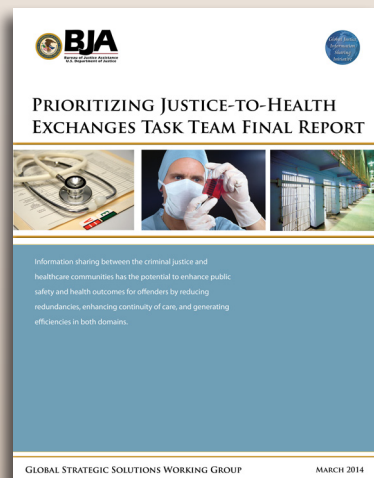
For guidance purposes and to stay abreast of its task team activities and progress, the GSSWG holds standing monthly conference calls on the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. EDT.

### GSSWG Deliverables

Using a virtual task team approach, GSSWG has been successful at efficiently addressing multiple key business problems in a cost-effective manner. The GSSWG was created in spring 2013. Within its first year of activity, the 12-member working group, through its task teams, completed the following priority deliverables:

#### *Prioritizing Justice-to-Health Exchanges Task Team Final Report*

This inter-Global report from the GSSWG to the Global Standards Council (GSC) was the result of a request by the GSC for assistance in identifying priority interdomain justice-to-health (J2H) information exchanges that would yield the biggest outcomes for the justice community. GSSWG, through its Justice-to-Health Task Team, reviewed and ranked 34 J2H exchanges, identified by the IJIS Institute's Criminal Justice and Health Collaboration Project, and presented its top-ten list in this report to the GSC in March 2014. This report features those J2H exchanges which would be most beneficial from the justice perspective. The health community developed a similar list representing exchanges that would most benefit the health domain. The GSC



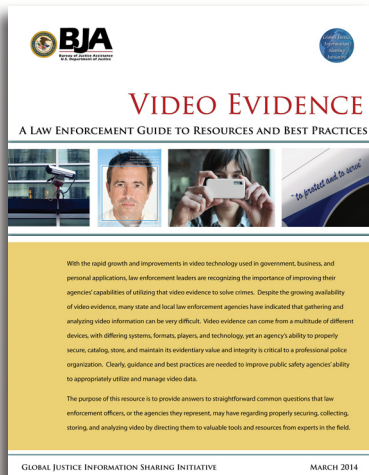
completed a cross-alignment analysis between the two justice and health prioritized exchange lists to determine which use cases made the most business sense. The GSC is currently working to identify the top J2H exchanges that will mutually benefit both the justice and health domains and plans to explore service specification development for those priority exchanges. Upon completion of this report, the team was removed from active status.

### ***Video Evidence: A Law Enforcement Guide to Resources and Best Practices***

Law enforcement leaders are recognizing the importance of improving their agencies' capabilities to utilize video evidence to solve crimes. Despite the growing availability of video evidence, many state and local law enforcement agencies have indicated that gathering and analyzing video information can be very difficult. Video evidence can come from a multitude of devices, with differing systems, formats, players, and technology, yet an agency's ability to properly secure, catalog, store, and maintain its evidentiary value and integrity is critical to the success of a professional police organization.

This deliverable, published in March 2014, was created to provide answers to common questions law enforcement officers may have regarding properly securing, collecting, storing, and analyzing video by directing them to valuable tools and resources developed by experts in the field. Through input from top video evidence SMEs and comprehensive research of existing nonproprietary resources, GSSWG's Video Task Team determined that there were many quality products currently available to assist law enforcement. This resource's FAQ format makes it an easy read and efficiently guides readers to the guidance and tools they need to improve their video evidence processes. It includes an introduction to the issue and background but is primarily composed of FAQs on the following broad topics, with resources recommended to address each question:

- What tools would help me with video retrieval in the field?
- What guidance is available for storing video files?
- Are there tools to help me with the analysis of video?
- What tools would help me assist community businesses to share video?
- What training programs or resources are available?



Clearly, this product will be of great assistance to justice officials as a road map—or pointer system—to refer them to top resources for utilizing and managing video data. All law enforcement agencies, regardless of size, can utilize the best practices and resources featured in this document to improve their ability and capability when it comes to video evidence—not just in a major incident, but also in their daily efforts to solve crime and protect the citizens they serve.

**Outreach**—On the anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing, GSSWG promoted this product to the law enforcement community, using more than 22 outreach venues. These included individualized and group e-mail distributions, Twitter feeds, social media posts, article submissions to trade magazines and newsletters, justice agency blog and Web site postings, and personal interviews.

Following the publication of this resource, the Video Task Team turned its attention to newly identified priorities. Refer to “Current GSSWG Task Team Activity” for more information.

### ***Risk/Need Assessment Data Element Recommendations for Service Specification Development***

Sharing vital information across corrections, justice domains, and domains outside of justice is a primary issue associated with defendant, probationer, or parolee management and reentry of individuals into the corrections system. A particular area of concern is the ability to obtain key information needed to populate individual risk/need assessments, especially those that evaluate potential antisocial behavior, substance problems, antisocial personality, and mental health histories. Corrections personnel often face challenges in accessing data to populate such assessment instruments. A lack of electronic availability of this information can result in incomplete or inaccurate assessments, or can prompt the occurrence of multiple assessments performed repeatedly throughout an individual's correctional process.

The GSSWG Corrections Management and Reentry Task Team worked to address this need by identifying data elements that are most common across multiple risk/need assessment and screening instruments. The goal of this effort is to provide recommendations to the GSC to explore service specification development for these core elements for the purpose of auto-populating electronic risk/need instruments. The CMR TT completed this work in two phases, represented by two reports.

In the **Phase 1 report**, the CMR TT recommended that the GSC explore service specification development for the data elements **incarceration records, conviction records, and arrest records** for the risk factor “history of antisocial behavior.” These recommendations were formally submitted to the GSC on March 14, 2014.

In the **Phase 2 report**, the CMR TT refined the definitions of “risk factors” and “need factors,” reviewed the 34 collected assessment instruments to ensure that “need” factors were adequately represented, and analyzed and recommended data elements for the following risk and need factors:

- Substance use problems
  - » drug abuse or misuse
  - » drug use or involvement
  - » alcohol abuse or misuse
  - » drug dependence or addiction
- Antisocial personality
  - » anger and violence
  - » interpersonal and socialization
  - » impulsiveness
  - » remorse
- Mental health
  - » behavioral and emotional
  - » diagnosis and history
  - » anger and violence
  - » impulsiveness

**Status:** The Phase 2 report has been provided to the GSC as a formal recommendation.

## Current GSSWG Task Team Activity

### Video Task Team

The Video Task Team is finalizing SME appointments to explore the following two topics and is working to schedule its first conference call to begin discussions.

- **Video Evidence Resource for Prosecutors**

Following the publication of its 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, designed specifically to assist prosecutors regarding video collection, storage, analysis, and courtroom admissibility. This resource will serve as a road map to nonproprietary resources available in the field.

To date, the team has appointed the following SMEs and is also working with the National Association of Attorneys General for recommendations.

- » **Mr. Patrick Muscat**, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Director, Conviction Integrity Unit, Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, representing the National District Attorneys Association
- » **Mr. Raj Prasad**, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Homicide Division, Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, representing the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
- » **Mr. Sean Smith**, Deputy Executive Director, New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), representing the National District Attorneys Association
- » **Mr. John Wolfstaetter**, Chief, Vehicular Crimes Units, Supervisor of the Visual Evidence Unit, New York County District Attorney



### Video Task Team (continued)

- **Cloud-Based Public Video Submission**

Following the Boston Marathon bombing, it was evident that law enforcement agencies needed a mechanism for receiving video footage from the public for crimes and major events. Cloud-based portals are growing in popularity as solutions for this issue, providing agencies with the ability to accept large amounts of digital information from diverse sources and even to instantly access the data to analyze and distribute critical information to emergency response teams. News outlets readily use such mechanisms to receive public video submissions for reporting purposes. Major companies such as Citizens Global, Sendus, Amazon, and Verizon are also developing or already offering public safety-focused services, many of which feature rapid deployment triage and decision-making tools.

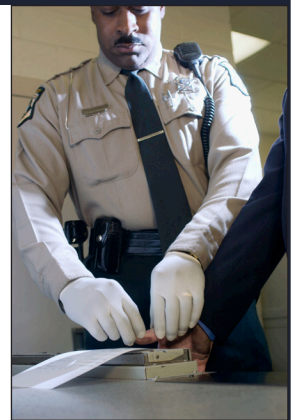
With law enforcement agencies becoming increasingly interested in using these cloud-based crime solving tools, concerns also arise about privacy, security, trust, and encryption. This team plans to explore these issues and to develop a deliverable that explains the technology and speaks to the issues.

To assist in these discussions, the following SME has been appointed to the team:

- » **Mr. John Powell**, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, LASD Cyber Investigations Center (CIC), working with the Large Emergency Event Digital Information Repository (LEEDIR)

### Corrections Management and Reentry Task Team

The CMR TT has submitted its final report—***Risk/Need Assessment Data Element Recommendations for Service Specification Development, Phase 2***—to the GSC as a formal recommendation.

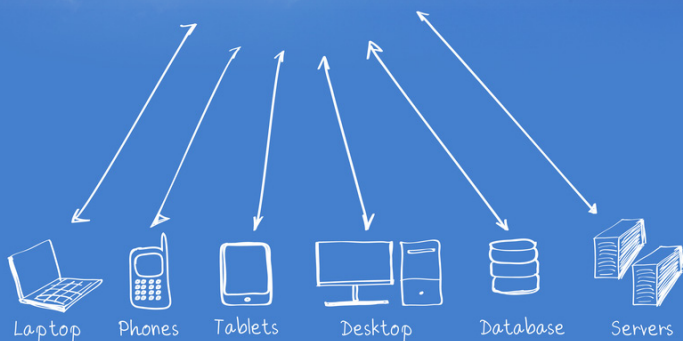


### Identity Federations Task Team

The Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM) technical solution was not built to “interfederate” with other GFIPM-based federations. This team was originally established to explore and address intra/interfederation issues. However, since the team’s debut in fall 2013, a new Trustmark Framework is being developed that facilitates cost-effective scaling of interoperable trust of access across multiple communities of interest within the identity ecosystem and enhances privacy through transparency and third-party validation. Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) was awarded a grant to pursue this trustmark strategy. Through this framework, the necessary mechanisms may well be in place to address policy differences across other GFIPM federations, providing a solution to the issues originally at the forefront of this team.

Local information sharing projects are being set up every day, and new partners are joining existing information sharing projects. Global does not want to get in the way of local efforts to better share data to address local or regional business issues or concerns—this is the priority for local/regional information sharing projects. At the same time, Global needs and wants to encourage local/regional information sharing projects to think and operate within the bigger picture.

Based on these factors and the potential that the emerging trustmark concept may be the preferred identity (security layer) and privilege management solution for intra/interfederation interoperability, the team decided to pause its activity to allow the GFIPM-Delivery Team (GFIPM DT) to clarify the trustmark strategy. Once the GFIPM DT has clarified this strategy, it is likely that the Identity Federations Task Team will be activated to address any emerging policy issues associated with the trustmark strategy.



### Prescription Drug Monitoring Task Team

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states plainly: “The United States is experiencing an unprecedented epidemic of prescription drug overdose deaths.”\* Our nation is facing what the CDC calls an “epidemic” of prescription pain reliever abuse, impacting communities in every state. In 2010, an average of 60 people died every day from overdoses of pharmaceuticals.\* That same year, deaths from drug overdoses exceeded deaths due to motor vehicle crashes.\* In 2011, there were 1.4 million visits to emergency rooms that involved the nonmedical use of pharmaceuticals, with nearly two-thirds due to prescription anti-anxiety medications, sleep aids, and pain relievers.\*



Although the prescription drug misuse and abuse problem has a significant impact on behavioral health systems, hospitals, and emergency rooms, it also has a significant public safety nexus that must be addressed by our law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system. While the brunt of the estimated \$55.7 billion costs due to prescription opioid abuse is felt by employers and the health care industry, approximately **\$5 billion represents the cost to the criminal justice system alone.**\* Many jurisdictions are seeing increases in users’ diversion of opioids for nonmedical use; increases in robberies and burglaries of pharmacies; and unscrupulous doctors, clinics, or pharmacies serving as pill mills by prescribing or dispensing prescription medications for nonmedical purposes.\* And, as documented across disciplines—by mainstream media, medical practitioners, and justice professionals alike—with increasing frequency and devastating results, opiate addicts are increasingly seeking out heroin as a lower-cost alternative to prescription drugs.

States’ Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) are valuable tools in the fight against prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion. To explore the benefits of sharing PDMP information, and with criminal justice practitioners and policymakers in mind, the GSSWG PDMP Task Team drafted *Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs: Recommended Practices for Addressing Prescription Drug Misuse, Abuse, and Diversion*. This educational resource provides an overview of PDMPs and their purpose; the value of PDMP data to the work of law enforcement, probation, and the courts; recommended practices for effectively using PDMP data for criminal justice purposes; and a robust resource section.

**Action:** *Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs: Recommended Practices for Addressing Prescription Drug Misuse, Abuse, and Diversion* is planned for delivery to the GAC for review and formal voting by mid-July.

**Next Steps:** After delivering the issue brief, PDMP Task Team members stand ready to support BJA in the Bureau’s excellent and ongoing efforts and commitment to PDMPs and the programs’ critical role in this national epidemic. (See [https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program\\_ID=72](https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=72) for more information.)

\* Supporting references are available upon request from [dlindquist@iir.com](mailto:dlindquist@iir.com).

### GSSWG NEXT STEPS

The GSSWG is currently reviewing a list of recommended priorities in preparation for its annual face-to-face meeting on **September 3–4, 2014**, in Washington, DC. At the September meeting, the group will collaborate with Global and BJA leaders to finalize its next set of priorities for the coming year. Task teams will be established, as needed, to address these priorities.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**September 2014**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## 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**

*Director*

*Statistical Analysis Center*

*Arizona Criminal Justice Commission*

### **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*

### **The Honorable Anthony Capizzi**

*Judge*

*Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division*

*Montgomery County Juvenile Court, Ohio*

*GAC Representative: National Council of  
Juvenile and Family Court Judges*

### **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 California 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 P. 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 [www.it.ojp.gov/gsswg](http://www.it.ojp.gov/gsswg), or contact Christina Abernathy of DOJ's Global at (850) 385-0600, extension 318, or e-mail [cabernathy@iir.com](mailto:cabernathy@iir.com).

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