

Title of Nomination: Pre-Inmate Management System

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CATEGORY: Digital_Government_G_to_G

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past 18 months, through Federal funding received from the State's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Policy Committee, the Department of Corrections (DOC), Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), NJ State Police (NJSP) and the NJ Office of Information Technology (NJOIT) have been developing the Pre-Inmate Management System (PRIM). This new application provides the capability to share information between several computer systems in the NJ Criminal Justice System with the Department's Inmate Management System.

The PRIM integrated software project is an interagency program, which crosses two branches of government (Executive and Judicial) and two levels of government (State Courts/Corrections and County Jails). As offenders are sentenced by the courts (Judicial Branch) to the custody of the Department of Corrections (Executive Branch) critical information is electronically transferred to the DOC. Similarly, as State inmates are returned to the local county jails (county government) key identification, status, and location information is electronically transferred to the DOC (state level) through this integrated, interagency sharing software. The entire statewide identification, intake and classification process is greatly facilitated through this interagency software application, thereby reducing costs to both the DOC on the state level and the county jail on the local level.

The specific New Jersey State Law Enforcement computer system which support the PRIM Project include:

- > Sentencing and offender identification information from the AOC's Promis Gavel System (P/G),
- > Jail, offender identification, and status information from the AOC's County Correctional Information System (CCIS),
- > Offender identification information from the NJ State Police Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system, and
- > Offender identification and status information from the Department's OBCIS system.

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The PRIM system provides an integrated software capability that transfers critical offender information from several State Criminal Justice Systems to the NJ DOC Inmate Management System including:

All of the software development and linkage between these systems is based upon the offender's ten-fingerprint State Bureau of Identification number (SBI#) in order to ensure the uniqueness and positive identification of the offender. Once there is a positive match on the SBI#, critical sentencing data (offense, term, etc.), location and status information is automatically transferred to the Department's Inmate Management System, on a daily basis, in order to facilitate the identification, intake and classification processing. The PRIM project is divided into three distinct phases including:

- Phase I: Transfer of P/G sentencing information including new, additional and amended sentences. This phase became operational in September 2001.
- Phase II: Transfer of CCIS jail data including admissions, departures and parole violators. This phase became operational in March 2002.
- Phase III: Transfer of CCIS objective classification data, including scores, overrides and disciplinary data. This phase is currently being designed and is expected to become operational January 2003.

Phase I: P/G Sentencing Data Transfer (Operational)

In September 2001, the PRIM Phase I software was tested and implemented for all offenders sentenced in any of New Jersey's twenty-one Superior Courts on August 1, 2001 or thereafter. Since that date, the Central Reception and Assignment Facility (CRAF) has been utilizing electronically transmitted sentencing data to initiate the intake, identification and selection process for offenders sentenced to the NJ Department of Corrections (offenders sentenced to 1 year or more). Sentencing summary reports by County are extracted from the PRIM system and are utilized to screen for the hard copy of the JOC and PSI, which are critical to DOC admissions.

Once these official court documents are located and entered into PRIM, the offender is scheduled for processing by the State ID Team utilizing the computer generated PRIM interview sheet. After the ID Team completes the interviews, corrected or edited data, and any non P/G admission data is then entered into the Inmate Management System and the offender is scheduled for intake and initial classification.

Phase II: CCIS Jail Admissions/Discharge Data Transfer (Operational)

In March 2002 the PRIM Phase II software was initiated in the Inmate Management System for all CCIS jail admissions and discharges of state offenders processed to the county jails. The implementation of this phase requires the coordination and cooperation of three agencies, the DOC, and State Parole Board (SPB) (State level) and the respective county jails (local level). A pilot project was initiated with one of the SPB District Offices (DO#7, Camden) whereby the initial software and reports were tested and

modified in order to make the process more efficient. The pilot was completed in early April and now has been expanded to three additional District Offices (DO#6 – Trenton, DO#10 – Vineland and DO#12 Paterson). The PRIM Phase II project will be expanded to all 13 District Offices within the next three to six months.

Phase III: CCIS Objective Classification Data Transfer (In design)

Presently 20 of 21 county jails utilize the County Correctional Information System (CCIS) – Objective Classification System for County and State offenders admitted to their facilities. Objective Classification is a standardized and uniform evaluation process utilizing a scoring instrument which was validated for use in New Jersey’s jails. The scores and coding structure of the CCIS Objective Classification module is virtually identical to the Department’s Objective Classification model including offense, term, history of violence/escape etc. The third phase of the PRIM project is to transfer the scored data elements, overrides and disciplinary record from the objective classification module of the CCIS system to the DOC’s Inmate Management System in order to have as much current and quantifiable information on State inmates housed in the county jails. The on-line transfer of standardized and uniform Objective Classification data from each county will facilitate the classification process of State inmates which will greatly reduce bed space costs for the DOC and enhance public safety and community protection.

B. SIGNIFICANCE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT

The PRIM integrated software project is an interagency program, which crosses two branches of government (Executive and Judicial) and two levels of government (State Courts/Corrections and County Jails). As offenders are sentenced by the courts (Judicial Branch) to the custody of the Department of Corrections (Executive Branch) critical information is electronically transferred to the DOC. Similarly, as State inmates are returned to the local county jails (county government) key identification status, and location information is electronically transferred to the DOC (state level) through this integrated, interagency sharing software. The entire statewide identification, intake and classification process is greatly facilitated through this interagency software application, thereby reducing costs to both the DOC on the state level and the county jail on the local level.

The development of this interagency software would not have been possible without the coordinated effort of three state data processing organizations including, the Administrative Office of the Courts Information Systems Division (ISDN), New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJOIT) and the Department of Corrections Office of Information Technology (DOCOIT). The core technologies used in this application include:

a. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Information Systems Division (ISDN)

1) Promis Gavel Sentence Notifications

This project utilizes CONNECT: Direct, formerly known as Network Data Mover (NDM), to facilitate the data transfer processes between the AOC mainframe and the NJOIT mainframe. CONNECT: Direct is a computer software product of Sterling Software Corporation in Reston, Virginia. CONNECT: Direct is a Virtual Telecommunications Access Method (VTAM) application that operates in an IBM Systems Network Architecture (SNA) environment with front-end processors supported

by VTAM. VTAM application id, VTAM network id, and CONNECT: Direct node id are required in order to establish a connection between the two mainframes.

2) County Correctional Information Systems (CCIS) Jail Notifications

This project utilizes LU6.2 and Cooperative Processing Commands to facilitate communication between applications that execute cooperatively on two systems. DOC Notification exchanges information between a CA-ADS application from the AOC (CCIS) to an application program running under Customer Information Control System (CICS) at NJOIT. The Cooperative Process Commands follow the standards set for Advanced Program to Program Communication (APPC). APPC is an IBM standard that provides enhanced Systems Network Architecture (SNA) support for distributed processing.

b. New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJOIT) and New Jersey State Police (NJSP)

The CCH State Police application receives the data from AOC matches records via the SBI# and transfers data to OBCIS via CICS program link. OBCIS matches the SBI# with the one provided by state police - creates a notice containing the CCIS, CCH, and OBCIS information. This process is executed real time as the transaction is entered into the CCIS application.

c. New Jersey Department of Corrections Office of Information Technology (DOCOIT)

The DOCOIT receives the data from the NJOIT Mainframe and uses the following Protocols and Software to develop the PRIM files and reports including:

1. File Transfer Protocol (FTP) - Transfers file between mainframe server and Unix/database server over TCP/IP network.
2. Unix Shell Scripting – Sets up execution of scheduled CRON job using PL/SQL to do front end validation of incoming data.
3. PL/SQL Programming Structures - Oracle language to create logic to retrieve, process and validate data.
4. SQL Loader – Oracle utility used to load incoming data into Oracle tables.
5. Oracle 8i Database – Relational database used to store data.
6. Oracle Developer 2000 – Software to create customized screens and reports using Oracle data.
7. Email Oracle Reports using MAPI Server (Email server) and GroupWise

C. BENEFITS REALIZED BY SERVICE RECIPIENTS

The following briefly highlights the major benefits of this interagency software application:

- Decrease in redundant data entry of critical sentencing and jail information resulting in the reallocation of existing resources to other intake and classification operations.
- Reduction in data entry errors into DOC inmate information application resulting in more accurate and complete information for decision making, intake processing and classification.
- Increased accountability and control of new offenders sentenced to the DOC and/or returned as parole violators; no offenders resulting in “slipping through the cracks” and possibly

violating an offender's constitutional rights of due process and parole eligibility hearing requirements.

- Enhanced identification and classification process resulting in decreased housing costs and overall departmental budget costs by reducing the time between initial reception, parole consideration and eventual release to the community.
- Excellent example of information sharing and data exchange between two branches of government within the State of New Jersey.

D. RETURN OF INVESTMENT

The cost for development of the PRIM integration software approximated \$500,000 and was secured through various Federal grants approved by New Jersey's Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Policy Committee. CJIS is a statewide MIS planning group established in 1990 to foster and encourage system integration and data sharing amongst all law enforcement agencies in the State's Criminal Justice System. The short-term payback to the State of New Jersey may have already been surpassed because of the expedited processing of State sentenced inmates in the County Jails and the corresponding decrease in per diem payments the State would have paid to the counties for housing State inmates. On average the New Jersey Department of Corrections pays approximately \$60.00 per day per inmate to the county for housing a State sentenced inmate. During the past year the number of State inmates backed up in the county jails has decreased from 2000 in June 2001 to 1800 in June 1, 2002 resulting in an annual reduction of per diem payments of 4.7 million dollars. Although there are many factors which affect the rate of admissions into the DOC, the implementation of the PRIM program in September 2001 facilitated the identification of State inmates and parole violators resulting in an expedited intake and classification process which, in all probability, surpassed the initial half million dollar investment of Federal funds.

On the long-term basis, the automatic, transparent and seamless exchange of information between the various components of the New Jersey Criminal Justice System will greatly reduce the redundant data collection, verification and editing processes in each component of the system (Police, Prosecutors, Courts, Corrections and Parole) saving countless dollars and staff resources during each step on the criminal justice process. Numerous examples of data entry errors, inaccurate reports and failure to receive hard copy documents have already been identified through the electronic transactions received from the PRIM software. This interagency software serves as a crosscheck to the manual hard copy system which most criminal justice systems are dependent on today. Besides the estimated millions of dollars of cost savings previously estimated, the enhanced tracking and inherent accountability of this software will greatly increase public safety and community protection by ensuring each offender will be fairly and equitably processed in accordance with the criminal justice statutes of this State.