

# HJ 31 STUDY: PRIOR STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORTS RELATED TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM DATA

## BACKGROUND

The 2021-2022 Law and Justice Interim Committee (LJIC) is conducting a study of Montana criminal justice data as requested by House Joint Resolution 31 (HJ 31).

During an [October 2021 panel discussion](#) between LJIC members and representatives of Montana criminal justice system data stakeholders, the Department of Corrections speaker mentioned a prior strategic planning effort to coordinate and prioritize the various agencies' data collection and sharing projects.

This summary draws from two documents produced during that effort, which occurred a decade ago. The first is a technical assistance report from a contractor hired to assess the state's criminal justice data landscape. The second is a draft strategic plan developed by those stakeholders shortly after receiving the technical assistance report. The draft plan was not finalized nor was a draft charter to establish an advisory committee appear to be signed. Because of the similarity between some of the recommendations in the technical assistance report and those given to the LJIC during its October 2021 panel discussions between state and national data experts, both the report and the strategic plan might contain insights for the LJIC as it continues the HJ 31 study. Both documents are attached at the end of this summary.

## 2011 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

Spurred by a request from the Montana Board of Crime Control, criminal justice stakeholders worked in 2011 with a technical assistance provider to:

- "[c]onduct a strategic evaluation of the current justice information sharing landscape among key state agencies, emphasizing criminal history records and related business processes";
- "[i]dentify and provide the [[Integrated Justice Information System \(IJIS\) executive committee](#)] with a comprehensive assessment of the current information sharing capabilities and gaps based on enterprise architecture concepts"; and

- "[p]rovide observations and recommendations for utilizing standards-based approaches and industry best practices to drive subsequent strategic planning efforts among Montana stakeholders.

Overall, the resulting June 2011 report highlighted several points that the LJIC heard during its October 2021 data discussion including that Montana justice system stakeholders possess "a tremendous amount of business process and operational knowledge," have successfully created and maintained data sharing efforts using national data standards, and have "technical infrastructure that acts as a message broker among numerous stakeholders [the Integrated Justice Information Sharing (IJIS) Broker]". However, the report noted that much of the information collected by stakeholders "is 'stove-piped' among justice agency systems" and that the state lacks an "enterprise view" of justice administration. The report made several recommendations to address next steps, including one mentioned by panelists in the October 2021 data meetings: the state could gain traction by formalizing the "governance, strategy, and responsibilities of future integration efforts", including creating a governance charter and a strategic plan.

## DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOVERNANCE CHARTER

An advisory group of justice system stakeholders convened in October 2012 to create a draft strategic plan related to justice information sharing initiatives. The same organization that wrote the strategic report provided assistance with the planning effort. According to the draft plan that resulted, a strategic plan "is a document that clarifies where a business enterprise [the criminal justice system data sharing initiatives] is headed and how it will get there." The draft plan outlined the strategic context in which the data sharing initiative existed, the strategic intent, a capability gap analysis and capability improvement plans. It included goals, action items, and the context for each of the goals.

According to stakeholders, the strategic plan has not been implemented or updated. However, the LJIC members will find much of the plan's analysis and context similar to points made during the October 2021 data discussions.

## SOURCES

- "Montana Criminal Justice Information Sharing Strategic Assessment", *SEARCH: The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics*, June 24, 2011, available at <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2021-2022/Law-and-Justice/Studies/HJ-31/hj31-montana-cj-information-sharing-strategic-assessment.pdf>.
- "Information Sharing Strategic Plan," DRAFT, *Montana Integrated Justice Information Sharing (MIJIS Executive Advisory Group*, October 2012, available at <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2021-2022/Law-and-Justice/Studies/HJ-31/hj31-montana-cj-information-sharing-strategic-plan.pdf>