As we wish Kevin Kane well on his retirement from public service at the end of this month, it’s important to note that as the head of the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney he is one of the founding members of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board. We expect the wisdom, experience, and expertise that he brought to the CJIS Board to continue to inform our process as we move forward with the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS).

We are in the process of completing the first phase of CISS, which would not have been possible without Kevin, the support of the CJIS Governing Board, and the support and efforts of our many stakeholders and partners.

The completion of Phase I of CISS has been a long time in coming. Since the passage of legislation that gave CJIS the mandate to create CISS, many key milestones have taken place. Determining the project scope, the design requirements, creating the code, and bringing the various components of CISS into production has been a tremendous undertaking.

While the stakeholder agencies and police departments have become enthusiastic partners in this project, it wasn’t always so. Over the past 12 years, the CISS project experienced its share of skeptics. Some said the project was too broad and complex. They thought that bringing 14 information source systems into a single portal with workflows and a Google-like search capacity was too big of a challenge.

However, as various components of CISS have come online, skeptics turned into believers. For some agencies, CISS has become a part of their daily operations. Agencies and commissions outside of our immediate criminal justice community have heard about CISS and are asking to gain access or receive data. Legislation has even been written that will require CISS to collect information that will be analyzed and potentially used to formulate future criminal justice policy.

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CJIS Governing Board
Revolutionary Technology Linking Connecticut’s Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement Community
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www.ct.gov/cjis

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Comments, corrections, and inquiries about CJIS Roadmap and CISS should be directed to:
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Meetings
CJIS Quarterly Governing Board Meeting
January 23, 2020 at 1:30 pm
Superior Court Operations Unit
225 Spring Street in Wethersfield

For More information about CISS and CJIS publications, got to www.ct.gov/cjis
A Word from Our Director

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It has taken us a long time to get here. There have been stumbling blocks along the way, changes in various agencies leadership and operations, and advances in technological capabilities. Everything that has happened along the way has lead us to this point: the completion of Phase I of CISS.

The CJIS Governing Board and staff are so grateful for all of you who have put in countless hours to make this project a reality. We know this has been an exhausting project and understand that some of you have trepidations about its future funding and overall completion. We hear you and are working to resolve these issues.

CISS is an enormous and complex project. Experience has taught us that proposed processes sometimes need to change and we have worked closely with stakeholders to ensure the end product is one that meets their real world needs. This has at times caused aspects of the project to take longer to complete than originally thought. It also means we have taken extra care to ensure that everything is done right. Nothing undermines confidence like delivering a product that does not meet the high standards we have set for ourselves and that, under the leadership of Governing Board member like Kevin Kane, you have come to expect.

Kevin’s influence is keenly felt as we work to integrate CISS into the Judicial Branch, Division of Criminal Justice, and State and local police processes. Success will be determined by our ability to help our stakeholders work more efficiently and lay the groundwork for future electronic processes.

We look forward to entering Phase II of CISS and acknowledge that we have a lot of work ahead. Connecting each police department to CISS, as well as training and providing access to about 13,000 users is an enormous task. CISS also must work with individual agencies to integrate CISS and the workflows users need. During this time, CJIS must maintain 99.99% CISS availability and connectivity.

This work will result in our stakeholders realizing the full potential and benefits CISS can provide. We expect Kevin will keep a watchful eye on our progress and will be rooting for our success.

CISS Trainers Bring a Law Enforcement Perspective

When the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) set about building an integrated information-sharing system and what needed to be included, it went to the experts: the diverse members of the criminal justice community. CJIS knew that getting the potential users together and asking the right questions would help it create a Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) that would be most beneficial for everyone.

When it came time to train people to use CISS, particularly in the law enforcement community, CJIS again went to the experts.

The first trainer is CJIS Public Safety Liaison Henry “Hank” Lindgren. Hank is a retired sergeant from the Guilford Police Department with nearly 40 years of experience in law enforcement and public safety.

The second trainer is CJIS Public Safety Liaison Patrick Farrell. Patrick has more than 30 years of law enforcement and public safety experience, most recently with the Hartford Police Department.

Both trainers have experience as instructors within and outside of the police departments where they worked.

As former police officers and trainers, Hank and Patrick understand how CISS can be a valuable tool for law enforcement by proving information.

Hank says information has always been the most important law enforcement tool.

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“Having been a cop since 1975, information and the ability to get the full picture for any case or call was always the key,” Hank said. “As an accident reconstructionist, I would always ‘walk the scene’ first to get the ‘big picture’ before I asked for or received bits and pieces from those on the scene.”

The process of gathering the necessary information for a case was time consuming, he said.

“In the days before CISS an officer had to either make multiple phone calls, individually access the systems that they (were granted) access to, or ask another person with access to do a search for them. Law enforcement gathered information that was available (not everything was) and then tried to decide what information was related to what and if that information was relevant to their case,” Hank said.

Patrick said another problem police officers face when getting information is each officer’s knowledge and experience with the various information sources available to law enforcement. For many officers, it is important to develop relationships with co-workers who could help the officers access information they needed.

“First as officers and investigators, we are very dependent on others to gather information for us. As an example, an investigator may have access to things such as the in-house information system and/or Collect (depending on their location), but even with granted access to a system, the ability to get all the information an officer needs is limited to their accessible data and the knowledge they have of the various ways to extract this data,” Patrick said. “This often means relying on others to gather the information you need and, at times, this means you have to know the right questions to ask.”

Because information from in-house systems, and even Collect can be limited, Patrick said law enforcement often needs information from state agencies like the Department of Correction (DOC), Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP), and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This makes having contacts at those agencies important.

“Getting information for a case from places like DOC, BOPP and specific information from DMV often required either an existing working relationship with someone within the source agency, or you had to make an official off-line request. Either way you were limited to the employee’s availability and schedule, and this often meant waiting days or weeks to get information you need,” Patrick said.

Hank said he was introduced to CISS when he was an adjunct instructor at the police academy and met his predecessor. He said he could see what an important tool CISS could be for both officer safety and solving cases. CISS provides a single location where law enforcement can search for information from 14 source systems.

“CISS is able to give users that ‘big picture’ I was talking about,” Hank said. “Now in the matter of a few clicks, an officer working a case can see all the related information available from all the systems that they are entitled to have access to. And that information is presented so that it shows the associations between the information searched and the other sources of information. This is a game changer in regards to information gathering and access.”

Patrick agreed that the way the information is presented in CISS helps users make connections that previously might not have been possible, or would have taken much more time to connect.

“Coming from my Crime Analysis background, how CISS presents the information it returns is a big plus. Why I say that is because when you look at search results in CISS everything is broken down into one of four categories: a Person, a Location, a Property, or an Event. More importantly when you are looking at a person, for example, you see all of that person’s information, but you also see every Location, Property and Event associated to that Person,” Patrick said. “So,
CISS Project Update: GA 9 Integration

The final components of the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) search functions are being moved into production.

At the same time, work continues to bring the elements and agencies of the Judicial Geographic Area (GA) 9 into the CISS search and workflow process. Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) personnel are working with stakeholders at the Judicial Branch, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), local police departments and the State Police as part of the effort.

CJIS Project Manager Christopher Lovell said that the CISS foundation has been built. The focus now is on getting arrest information into CISS, and through that, to Judicial, DCJ, and other downstream agencies. Bringing this first court system online will help provide a blueprint for the rollout of CISS to the other judicial districts throughout the state.

Lovell said the Judicial Branch is in the process of completing its electronic case management system and helping CJIS build its interface with CISS.

The Division of Criminal Justice is still in the process of building its case management system, he said. The goal is for that system to be completed and the interface built so both Judicial and DCJ can be connected by the end of December.

Part of the process, Lovell said, is determining how the addition of CISS will impact existing

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CISS Trainers Bring a Law Enforcement Perspective

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as a crime analyst or an investigator, you are essentially looking at a roadmap of what we call Link Associations related whatever you are searching. This link association has amazing potential now as a tool that helps solve crimes.

“Putting my Crime Analysis hat back on when CISS includes incident reports from the RMS\CAD system the ability to look at crime patterns and trends or even do predictive analysis and include information or data outside the current limitations of your geographic jurisdiction to me has potential that is almost indescribable.”

Hank said that as more agencies and police department connect to CISS, more information will be available to users. The continual updating of information will further increase police safety and the ability to solve cases.

“I am glad that I can be a part of bringing this to the criminal justice community that I have served for so long,” Hank said.

Hank and Patrick conduct two classes each month in Hartford and East Hartford. The four-hour, comprehensive training classes allow participants to walk out with their credentials and CISS access enabled. The training also satisfies Police Officer Standards Training requirements. Contact the CJIS. HelpDest@ct.gov to sign up.

Hank and Patrick also conduct on-site training for police department personnel. This training embeds trainers with officers, detectives, and dispatchers to demonstrate in real time how to access and use CISS in the course of a workday. Contact CJIS.HelpDesk@ct.gov for more information.

More information about Hank and Patrick can be found on the CJIS website.
processes. CISS will provide electronic process flows that will replace many of the paper processes currently in use. Some of these paper steps are inefficient and redundant. The addition of CISS is expected to eliminate or reduce these inefficiencies.

Lovell said some of the work is straightforward. The majority of processes, about 90 percent, will follow an expected path. Information is submitted by the police departments and sent to Judicial and DCJ, then it moves through to the rest of the criminal justice process.

It is the ten percent of processes that don’t follow the expected path that the agencies and CJIS need to plan for.

“This could be that some of the necessary files are missing, or that data is missing or incorrect,” Lovell said. “We develop mechanisms to send the files back and ask for information to be resubmitted.”

One of the features of CISS that is expected to increase accuracy and efficiency, Lovell said, is that information in only input into the system once.

“With paper, the information would be entered multiple times by multiple people, which introduces the opportunity for someone to fat-finger or enter the wrong information,” he said. “With CISS, the information is entered once by the officer and transmitted to users electronically, which increases data integrity.”

A new feature being offered to police departments, through their record management systems Lovell said, is the statute service from the Judicial Branch. The service is updated every night and provides police departments with the most up to date information on Connecticut laws.

Prior to CISS, Lovell said it was up to each police department to update the statute information it was using. With the potential for new laws to be implemented or old ones repealed every calendar quarter, maintaining accurate information was difficult.

“You had some police departments charging people under statutes that had been repealed or under the wrong statute,” he said. “The paperwork would get passed to Judicial and the clerks would put in the correct statute, but this is the type of mistake that could get a case thrown out.”

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CJIS Governing Board Meeting October 24, 2019

The October 24, 2019, meeting of the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board was a special occasion for two reasons.

First, the meeting took place as CJIS transitions from Phase I to Phase II of the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) project.

Second, this was the last meeting for Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane. Kane enters retirement on November 1, 2019.

Governing Board Co-Chair Judge Patrick L. Carroll called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting is Kane's last one as a board member.

"Today marks the last time that Kevin Kane attends the CJIS Governing Board meeting as a member," Judge Carroll said. "Now you may still come years and years after you retire."

To the laughter of attendees, Kane responded, "I think I have other plans."

Judge Carroll said that Kane has been on the CJIS Governing Board since its inception and has made important contributions to the CISS project. Kane's commitment to the project has been one of the forces driving its success.

In addition to the CJIS Governing Board, Judge Carroll said he enjoyed working with Kevin as the two served on numerous boards, task forces, and commissions.

"I believe Kevin's been an exemplary Chief State's Attorney," he said. "He's respected by the prosecutors in the field who work for him. He's respected by the defense attorneys that work with him, and he's definitely respected by my colleagues on the bench. I think we've been lucky to have you employed by the State of Connecticut for 47 years."

Judge Carroll expressed to Kane the gratitude of the Governing Board and wished him a happy and healthy retirement.

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CISS Project Update: GA 9 Integration

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With the statute service, Lovell said, only active statutes can be selected.

One of the reasons this is important, Lovell said, is because the system is only as good as the information entered into it.

As part of the process of bringing each of the information systems into CISS, Lovell said a data integrity analysis was done on information in the source system. Agencies were notified about bad data, such as the same unique identifiers applied to multiple people, so the information could be corrected. The cleanup of data and process that have been put into place will ensure that CISS users have the most accurate, up-to-date information possible.

Once the rollout of Search Releases 9 & 5 is complete, users will be able to Access information from all search source systems as determined by their security credentials. MultiVue, which will be completed after Release 9 & 5 deployment, will unite information searches into a single record screen.

As part of the GA 9 rollout, Lovell said Clinton Police Department will be the first law enforcement agency connected to send all arrest documents through CISS to Judicial and DCJ. For a time, Clinton PD will submit information through CISS, but also continue its paper process. Once it is determined that the electronic process is working to the satisfaction of the Chief Court Administrator and the Chief State's Attorney, the paper process will stop.

Lovell said he expects the validation process to take between one and two months. Once that is completed, CJIS will begin connecting the remaining police departments in GA 9. The majority of these police departments use the record management vendor NexGen, which should help when connecting the remaining law enforcement agencies in GA 9.

CJIS primary focus going forward will be connecting all of the state's law enforcement agencies and Judicial GAs to CISS, making Connecticut's Criminal Justice System the first integrated information system in the country.
Kane said he has enjoyed working with the various board members and staff at CJIS. While he looks forward to retirement, he said leaving state service and the CJIS Governing Board at this time is difficult because he would like to see the CISS project reach full deployment.

“Since 2007 when this idea germinated, I’ve always believed that this is one of the most important steps if we are ever going to get to improving criminal justice in Connecticut, and protecting the safety and the well-being of the public who may be endangered by crime to the first responders who may be endangered, right through the entire system,” Kane said. “If we don’t do that; that’s the kind of thing that makes me want to come back again and again if there’s anything I can do to help it move, because we have to get it done for the State of Connecticut.”

Kane said the CISS project has taken longer than anyone realized it would because he thinks board members and stakeholders didn’t fully comprehend the enormity and complexity of the project. The CISS project is finally ready to deploy, he said, because enough good people stood by the project to make it happen.

“I know all of you here are committed to this, really committed in your hearts and I thank you so much for your dedication because I know none of us knew how hard this was going to be,” Kane said.

CJIS Executive Director Humayun Beg said that Phase I of the CISS project is nearly complete. He said the core infrastructure is built and the databases are in the process of being updated with new source system information. Once those remaining systems complete loading, CISS users will be able to search all of the systems for information.

CJIS now will direct a concerted effort toward Phase II, he said. This includes installing hardware to connect more than 90 law enforcement agencies to CISS. It includes training users both for search and the introduction of workflows into daily processes. Also, CISS must be maintained to be available to users 99.99% of the time.

In the immediate future, Director Beg said, CISS still is under warranty by Conduent. Additionally, Analysts International Corporation (AIC) started its contract with CJIS on July 1 for the maintenance of CISS through November of 2020.

On the deployment front, Director Beg said CJIS is in the process of coordinating with the Judicial Branch, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), and State Police to bring their systems online and connect to CISS. CJIS staff also continue the process of bringing individuals law enforcement agencies online with CISS and training new users.

While CISS usage has become an integral part of daily operations at some state agencies, Director Beg said other agencies had noticed its potential and are asking for access. Legislation also passed during the last General Assembly session that specifically directs groups to obtain information from CISS.
Director Beg thanked the CJIS Governing Board for its support that helped bring the CISS project to this important milestone.

CJIS Project Manager Christopher Lovell started his portion of the presentation by thanking the CJIS Governing Board for its support throughout the years. He said that after four long and hard years on the project, he is happy to see the CISS system built. One way this project has been unique to him is that the code is being released without any known defects. Normally, some defects would be allowed to migrate with the code knowing they would be fixed in the future.

That is not the case with CISS. Lovell said some defects may be found following the rollout, but extensive testing was done to make certain the system would work on day one.

Work is not completed, however. Lovell said he is working with Judicial, DCJ, and now State Police as they strive to bring their systems online. For Judicial, its system is created and CJIS is working on the interface to CISS. DCJ and State Police are in the process of creating or updating technology and their connection to CISS is dependent on the completion of that work.

Lovell said he knows users want a hard and fast date when CISS will be connected to Judicial Geographic Area (GA) 9. Unfortunately, because this is contingent on projects outside CJIS purview, he cannot specify a date.

As the first GA to be brought online with CISS, Lovell said the first police department of be connected will be Clinton. He expects CJIS to monitor the Clinton GA 9 connection for at least a month to ensure all processes are working the way they are supposed to before connecting other police departments.

Lovell said now that the CISS foundation has been built, it is time to expand on that foundation. The workflows will enable agencies to convert some of their paper processes to electronic processes. As more police department come online and transmit early arrests and, eventually, the full arrest package, Judicial, DCJ, and other agencies will have access to information, receive notifications, and be able to keep up to date as cases progress through the justice system. Some of the workflows have been created so that when agencies develop their systems, connecting to CISS will enable the workflows. Other are being developed as processes are mapped and scenarios are explored.

CJIS Project Manager Sean Bucher told the CJIS Governing Board that the last few months have seen the CJIS Deployment Team visiting a number of police stations throughout the state. The team lays the groundwork before going through the multiple steps it takes to fully connect law enforcement agencies to CISS. This includes software configuration for the police departments, hardware installation of routers, departments identifying who will be a CISS user, determining and granting the security access for each user, training users, and getting them successfully logged into CISS.

Bucher said that CJIS currently only has two training officers to bring police departments online. Funding for more trainers would enable CJIS to speed up the connection process.

Currently, 15 police departments are fully connected to CISS, Bucher said. Users that have security credentials, can conduct searches, and departments are sending early arrest notifications. In response to a question about the number of law enforcement agencies in Connecticut, Bucher said that when colleges and tribal
law enforcement groups are added to the mix, the state has approximately 161 law enforcement entities.

Judge Carroll asked what would happen if DCJ’s e-prosecutor system is not ready to go online with CISS at the end of the year when Judicial and some police departments are. He voiced concern that police departments would still need to have officers drive paperwork to prosecutors when those officers time would be better spent in the field.

CJIS Program Manager Mark Tezaris said a work around exists that would have the arrest paperwork sent to prosecutors electronically on a viewer. The paperwork would then be printed for prosecutors to use in court.

Kane expressed concern that DCJ receive the support it needs to make the process work.

Judge Carroll suggested the sooner CJIS can make CISS mandatory, the sooner people will adopt the new technology. Then they will wonder how they got by without it.

Tezaris began his presentation by thanking Kane and the rest of the CJIS Governing Board for its support of the project. He said CJIS is in the process of closing out Phase I of the project with the vendor Conduent. In addition to a creating traceability matrix ensuring all requirements have been met, a full regression system analysis will be done to ensure CISS is robust and highly secure.

By the end of December 2019, Tezaris said a closeout report will be completed that will explain what decisions were made during the project and why.

Tezaris told the CJIS Governing Board that a major factor facing CJIS and the remaining implementation of CISS is funding. In addition to completing and implementing the workflows, bringing the police departments and the GAs online, and maintaining the system for availability 99.99% of the time, he said CJIS receives about one request a month from other agencies for access to the system or the creation of report interfaces.

Not receiving the $8.9 million in state bond funds has put CISS and CJIS in a difficult position, he said. CJIS has been able to move some funding between different buckets, but the capital needs to be able to continue the project will exceed CJIS current funding.

Tezaris said that in addition to not receiving the bond funding, CJIS did not receive the requested appropriation from the General Fund.

Fill-in CJIS Governing Board Co-Chair, Office of Police and Management (OPM) Under Secretary Jeffrey Beckham asked about CJIS receiving funding from the Inmate Phone Revenue. He said legislators are determined to eliminate the fund, so it can no longer be counted on as a source of revenue.

Executive Director Beg said he has discussed the matter with State Representative Josh Elliott, who submitted the previous legislation to eliminate the fund.

Several board members agreed that the funding is in jeopardy and that another way to fund CJIS should be found.

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Comagine Project Health Check Shows Users’ Enthusiasm

Comagine Health recently released its latest health check update of the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) and its development project. The report and its findings were summarized at the October 24 Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board meeting.

On a scale of one to four, with four being the highest achievement, CISS users and anticipated users rated the CISS project at a 2.95, an increase from last quarter’s 2.89.

In general, agencies are eager for the rollout of CISS to the Geographic Area (GA) 9 judicial district. They understand that changing to an electronic workflow process will create a learning curve and that work efficiencies won’t be immediate. Comagine encouraged project managers to have “all hands on deck” to resolve workflow issues quickly.

At some agencies, CISS already has become a part of day to day functions. Those agencies value the CISS benefits they experience, but many are concerned with the project being funded now and in the future.

In fact, long-term funding for the project is the top concern among users. Comagine suggests that CJIS staff and the CJIS Governing Board develop a cost benefit analysis. This analysis should include the financial benefit CISS will provide the state, as well as the tremendous cost the state will incur if agencies have to create new technology to replicate the functions CISS currently provides. This could become more expensive than finishing the roll-out and maintaining the system.

Another problem facing CJIS is project fatigue, the report states. Defects have meant that implementing the final source systems has been delayed. Agencies not involved in testing don’t understand the nature of the defects, why they are happening, and why they are causing delays.

Comagine suggests establishing a realistic timeline for the remainder of the project. It also suggests

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Comagine Project Health Check Shows Users’ Enthusiasm

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improving communication about defects to help users and potential users better understand the reason for delays. This will help prevent a loss of enthusiasm for the project.

Some of CJIS staff’s most important work will be assisting agencies to align their process to CISS workflows, Comagine reports. Users want a better understanding of how other agencies will use CISS and how it may impact their home agencies. Users need to be reassured that the functionality they want from CISS will be included.

Overall, stakeholders are happy with the way CISS has been managed. Clearly communicating about timelines and adhering to those will keep stakeholders positive and engaged. Agencies are looking forward to the full implementation of CISS and the benefits it will provide.