

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Public Act 245 of 2008
Section 303
Database Systems Data Usage and Communications - 1st Quarter

Section 303 of 2008 P.A. 245 requires the Department of Corrections report quarterly, on its plan to implement secure, encrypted internet-based database systems that can electronically communicate with each other and with other law enforcement related databases by September 30, 2009.

Summary

As reported in the *Report to the Legislature Pursuant to P.A. 124 of 2007 Section 303*, the Department already shares data electronically with law enforcement agencies and other local, state and federal agencies in a secure and encrypted environment and has been doing so for years.

Data Sharing Efforts

In addition to the data sharing efforts reported in the *Report to the Legislature Pursuant to P.A. 124 of 2007 Section 303*, the Department has put into action data sharing efforts with the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO). Demographic and legal data is extracted from OMNI and sent to the Michigan Judicial Statewide Data Warehouse for use by the Courts.

The Department and Macomb County are embarking on a collaborative effort to develop an application programming interface which will allow counties utilizing the CourtView system by CourtView Justice Solutions to interface with the OMNI application. This collaboration will allow data to be shared between the systems and reduce duplicate data entry. Further, it may pave the way for the Department to interface with additional criminal justice applications.

Planned Internet-Based Database System

In August 2006, the Department finalized a plan to web-enable the OMNI application to allow controlled access to portions of OMNI from the Internet. The internet-based application will serve the following needs within the context of the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry initiative (MPRI):

- Provide background information on the offender
- Provide transitional case planning information including risk assessment, criminogenic needs, "protection factors" or strengths (e.g., job skills, family support) and records relating to the offender's position of essential documents, proposed housing, child support obligations, income support, and criminal detainers

- Provide a mechanism by which authorized community providers can access case information during parole supervision

In August 2007, the Department of Management and Budget approved the Department's intent to move forward with this plan. In June 2008, the Department of Information Technology augmented their staff through the State's Re-Start program and employed four contractors for the OMNI 2008 project.

Detailed functional design specifications are written and contractors have begun prototype design and programming efforts. To achieve the MPRI goals, certain data elements must first exist in the OMNI desktop version prior to being deployed as a web application. Therefore, programmers are making changes simultaneously to the OMNI desktop version while developing a web OMNI prototype.

The OMNI web application will not replace the OMNI client/server desktop application. Instead, OMNI Web is designed to provide a means to access specific data elements through a web interface. Access is limited to those individuals who are expressly given access rights to view offender information.

At least 609 law enforcement agencies continue to have access to the Department's offender data electronically through the LEIN system, either directly or indirectly. The LEIN system provides an integrated manner in which law enforcement can obtain information from multiple information sources. This continues to be an efficient manner in which to provide Corrections information on offenders to the law enforcement community as it is secure, accessible independent of the type of software system utilized by each law enforcement agency and accessible from a desktop or patrol vehicle.