

HICAAP PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 14, 2004

Notes

In attendance:

Lt. Mico Robles, LASD, Chair Larry Bryant, LASD George Cardona, U.S. Attny. Tyrone Colgrove, Superior Crt.	Andrew Goldman, Alt. PD Laura Hickman, Rand Anna Pembedjian, 5 th District Peggy Shuttleworth, CCJCC	Mark Tajima, CAO LaCarla Williams, Probation Craig Marin, Staff, CCJCC
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I. CONVENE/INTRODUCTIONS

Lieutenant Mico Robles convened the meeting. Self-introductions were made.

II. DACS ACCESS

To be given access to the DACS system under the MOU, Sheriff's Department employees will need to pass a security background clearance check and receive two to four weeks of training on DACS. Applications for the background checks will be submitted; however, as noted at the last meeting, training has been put on hold pending authorization of the MOU by the Board of Supervisors.

The computers needed for accessing DACS have been ordered and meetings have been held with the Information Technology representatives from ICE and the DACS System Bureau. It has been determined that the telephone lines and electronic lines at the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) are compatible.

A question was raised concerning whether access to DACS can be made available if the MOU is not approved. Specifically, if all that is needed is information from the system, and interviews are not conducted by the Sheriff's deputies, would two to four weeks of training still be necessary just to look up information?

It was agreed that an inquiry should be made as to whether this is an option and, if so, whether the amount of training needed would be less than the two to four weeks training that is required for conducting the interviews. Installation of the computers and security background checks would still be necessary.

The advantage of having access to DACS strictly for the purpose of accessing records is that this would make it easier to obtain the remaining information needed for the Jail Study.

III. FEDERAL PROSECUTION UPDATE

At the last meeting, a handout was distributed that shows the number of Federal prosecutions under HICAAP on a month-to-month basis from October 2000 to July 2004. The numbers revealed that Federal prosecutions have been increasing each year, but the increase has been dramatic in 2004. Updated statistics will be available at a later meeting.

It was noted that the overall total may come down slightly next year as an adjustment to the caseload and justice system, but the number of prosecutions will continue to be much higher than in previous years.

An estimate of cases referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office between July and September of this year indicates that out of 94 cases referred by ICE, 85 were accepted for prosecution, and 9 were declined.

IV. STATISTICAL REPORTS

At a previous meeting, Sheriff's Department statistics on interviews, holds, and transfers from 1998 to the end of June 2004 were distributed. The statistics were presented on a quarterly basis. The statistics for the third quarter of 2004 are now available, and they reveal an increase in all areas.

In response to an inquiry as to whether ICE can provide statistics on cases referred for Federal prosecution from Los Angeles County, ICE has indicated that they do not distinguish the cases that originated from the Los Angeles County Jail. However, they have also indicated that they will determine whether this information can be provided.

V. PROCESS EVALUATION

A hard copy of the HICAAP Process Evaluation was distributed to those in attendance. The title of the report is, "Identifying Deportable Aliens in the Los Angeles County Jail: Implementing the HI-CAAP Federal-Local Partnership." It is hoped that this will be available on RAND's website within the next few weeks. In the meantime, a PDF version of the report will be e-mailed to members of this Committee.

Several points in the report were discussed. For example, it was found that 52% of the inmates released to ICE from the IRC during a six month period from October 2003 through March 2004 were processed by ICE using the LiveScan machines.

VI. JAIL STUDY

Of the three issues in which data is required by RAND in order to complete the Jail Study, two appear to have been satisfied. At this time, RAND can determine the deportability status for about 84% of those individuals released from IRC during the Jail Study. Of that 84%, about 66% appear to be deportable.

Information is still being sought on the individuals who were released from Court during the Jail Study. Data had not been obtained on them because they were never interviewed. This is the only remaining issue that must be resolved with respect to data for the Jail Study.

VII. POLICE PROCEDURES

At the last meeting, it was agreed that a questionnaire would be sent to County law enforcement agencies in order to seek information on the HICAAP procedures that are currently in place. A handout was distributed that summarizes the nineteen responses that have been received thus far.

The following five questions were asked:

- Are you receiving electronic detainers from the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC)?
- Are you receiving Immigration Violator File (IVF) responses from NCIC?
- If you are receiving IVF responses, are you calling the LESC to secure a detainer?
- Are you receiving phone calls from the Sheriff's Warrant & Detainer Unit regarding placing immigration detainers in AJIS?
- Are you notifying the prosecutor when a suspect is identified as a previously deported criminal alien?

Among the responses, several inconsistencies have been noted that will require follow-up calls for clarification. For instance, some departments have indicated that they are not receiving electronic detainers from LESC, but they are receiving IVF responses from NCIC. Another response stated that they are receiving electronic detainers, but are not receiving hits.

VIII. SHERIFF/ICE MOU

The MOU with ICE is due to come before the Board of Supervisors in November.

There were two concerns that had been raised about the MOU. The first was that there should be an assurance that the Sheriff's Department wouldn't hold the individuals longer than 72 hours. The Sheriff's Department agreed to this.

The second issue was that the County be granted indemnity. However, ICE has not agreed to grant indemnity. It is unclear what impact this will have on the approval of the MOU.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

Two LiveScan machines will be installed in the Mira Loma facility. The staff there have agreed to begin using them.

X. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2004, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 739 of the Hall of Administration.