



the SOURCE

INFORMATION SHARING, A NATIONWIDE IMPERATIVE *BY LINDA DEARMAN/INFORMATION SERVICES DIV.*

In a Post-9/11 world, information-sharing among law enforcement agencies at all governmental levels is no longer optional if we are to successfully fight foreign and domestic terrorism while effectively performing the more traditional role of policing – crime prevention, investigation, offender apprehension and prosecution.

As a result, the OSBI is involved in a number of information-sharing initiatives. The Oklahoma Incident-Based Reporting System or SIBRS was the first of these initiatives to be developed. SIBRS was designed for information sharing at the state and national levels of law enforcement in as close to “real time” as is possible. To achieve that goal, participating agencies are being asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding in which they agree to share all non-sensitive data with other law enforcement agencies. However, the agency head retains the right, at his or her discretion, to withhold case narratives until such time as the information contained in them is no longer deemed sensitive.

At the present time, SIBRS contains arrest and crime occurrence data from 132 county sheriffs’ offices and municipal police departments throughout the state. The system collects basic incident information such as date, time of occurrence, location, type of victim; up to ten offenses per incident, vehicle, weapon and property information; case narratives, full descriptive and demographic data on victims, suspects and arrestees, reporting parties, witnesses, parents (in the case of incidents involving minor children), and reporting officers. SIBRS users have the ability to search data submitted by their own departments, as well as incident information entered into the system by other jurisdictions. Its value as a crime-fighting tool increases with each new agency added as a contributor.

The 132 current users enter their incidents directly into the SIBRS database via a web portal. However, a department with an existing records management system (RMS) can upload incident information directly into the database via an interface between SIBRS and the RMS; the agency is responsible for creation of the interface.

The Norman Police Department is testing such an interface at the present time and the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center is working on one for its Offender Data Information System or ODIS

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State's Fusion Center to Bring Law Enforcement Together

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is teaming up with the Oklahoma Homeland Security Department to build a fusion center. This center, to be housed at OSBI headquarters, will enable about a dozen criminal intelligence analysts and agents to work together compiling information helpful in working cases involving crimi-

nal and terrorist activities. Information used in the fusion center will come from law enforcement on the local, county, and state level, the public sector as well as the private sector.

The center is months away from initiation. Right now, OSBI is researching such centers in other parts of the nation gaining information on what works best.

Grant money from the Department of Homeland Security will pay for the expense of creating the center plus four of the criminal intelligence analysts' positions. Most of the other positions come from current OSBI personnel.

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product. Our Uniform Crime Reporting Program goal is an eventual statewide transition to the SIBRS format and elimination of the UCR Summary data collection process.

To further expand Oklahoma's ability to share mission-critical information, the OSBI has agreed to be a prototype agency for the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEX) Program being developed by the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) Division. According to a February 16, 2007, FBI press release, "N-DEX will allow for sharing of complete, timely and useful criminal justice information across jurisdictional boundaries and will provide new investigative tools that enhance the nation's ability to fight crime and terrorism. "

N-DEX primarily will benefit local law enforcement

in their role as the first line of defense against crime and terrorism, allowing agencies to collaborate with one another by "connecting the dots" between seemingly unrelated criminal incidents and providing contact information and collaboration tools for law enforcement agencies working on cases of mutual interest that span across the nation. Oklahoma was chosen as an N-DEX test site because the web portal design used for SIBRS is similar to that envisioned for N-DEX. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, the San Francisco and San Diego, California Police Departments, and the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations are just some of the other agencies involved in initial testing. Ultimately, N-DEX will include information from existing CJIS Division systems, information

from local, state and tribal agencies; and, at a minimum, information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Prisons, the FBI and the United States Marshals' Service. N-DEX is not a statistical reporting system even though it will use the standardization provided by the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data elements to describe portions of the incident data. It also is not an intelligence system. Participating law enforcement agencies will retain ownership and management control of their own data just as they do with SIBRS.

SIBRS is a first step toward more cooperation among law enforcement agencies at all jurisdictional levels. We look forward to the program's expansion and the benefits it will bring to Oklahoma's law enforcement community.

OSBI Changes Policy on Syringe Evidence, More Stringent Rules In Place

The OSBI has recently changed its acceptance policy regarding syringes due to storage and handling incidents in the workplace and a desire to maintain a safe working environment.

Conditions for syringe evidence acceptance.

The OSBI asks that you submit only syringes and needles that must be analyzed to make the case. Discuss the case with your prosecutor before submitting syringes. Include a notation on your submittal about the need for analysis.

A syringe (or syringe needle) will be accepted for analysis only if there is a clear and definite requirement to analyze it, such as being the only item in the case. When there are other items submitted in a drug case that will create a felony charge, syringes and needles should not be submitted for analysis.

Retain sharps, needles, and syringes in your possession or properly dispose of them.

The practice of submitting syringes and needles to “keep them with the rest of the evidence” will no longer be acceptable.

When submitted to the OSBI for analysis, syringes must be placed in a commercially manufactured syringe tube. No exceptions.



Call the OSBI Safety Coordinator Tom Reynolds for further information or assistance with blood borne pathogen issues at 405-425-3823.

OSBI Educates Public at State Fair

The OSBI set up shop at the State Fair in Oklahoma City this year hoping to educate the public about the real work of investigators at crime scenes and behind microscopes. Agents, Criminalists and support personnel worked at an OSBI booth inside the Expo Hall for the duration of the fair. Several exhibits taught the public about criminal investigations including comparing bullet casings from firearms, building a face from an unidentified skull (forensic art), and the different methods of latent fingerprint examinations. A Livescan device was also present to show the public the method of taking digital fingerprint images.

Agents with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force were on site to hand out materials on how parents can monitor their child's Internet usage and information for children on how to spot a predator on line.

Fairgoers also received information on criminal history background checks and concealed handgun licenses.

Thousands of Oklahomans visited the booth and walked away with the knowledge that what is shown in television crime shows is not the reality of crime scene investigations.



Agent Chris Dill talks with fairgoers about forensic art.

Livescan Availability, How You Could Have Your Own

Over the last few years Oklahoma law enforcement agencies have taken advantage of technology in many ways. Electronic fingerprint devices known as Livescan are one of those. The OSBI has had Livescan devices in the field for 8 years, but in 2003 deployed an additional 32 devices statewide, creating the "Oklahoma Livescan Network" (OLN). All of these devices submit criminal fingerprint transactions including palm prints and mugshots electronically to the OSBI. After processing at the OSBI, transactions are then submitted electronically to the FBI. Identifications are made at the state level in approximately 20 minutes and at the federal level in approximately 2 hours.

Since the creation of the OLN many agencies have inquired as to how they may receive their own Livescan. Devices were placed in agencies with high submission rates by OSBI using grant funding. Agencies who did not receive a device should consider purchasing their own device either

through agency funding or grant funding. Federal grant funding information can be found at www.grants.gov.

An agency considering purchasing a Livescan device should contact the OSBI at www.osbi.state.ok.us to ensure their vendor has been "OSBI Approved". Approval consists of vendors meeting all standards with regard to obtaining and electronic submitting of fingerprints, palm prints and mugshots pursuant to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the FBI.

Additional issues that should be considered prior to the purchase are:

Electronic submission: Is the device you are purchasing able to submit electronically?

Palm Prints (although the OSBI will allow an agency to submit fingerprints electronically, within 2 years, that agency must have the capability to submit palm prints with their criminal fingerprint transactions).

Mug Shots (although the OSBI will allow an agency to

submit fingerprints electronically, within 2 years, that agency must have the capability to submit mug shots with their criminal fingerprint transactions).

Additional recurring costs such as maintenance, training, communication costs and device replacement.

Full size ruggedized device vs. a portable device. This choice will be dependant on use of device. Will the device be used for criminal fingerprints only or will the agency want to use the device to print applicants (devices do not submit applicant fingerprints electronically).

Livescan devices are a fast and accurate means of positive identification, however, can also be a very useful investigative tool particularly when the device is capable of obtaining and submitting palm prints and mug shots.