

Collaborative Approaches to Justice Information Sharing among Tribal, State, and Local Justice Agencies

Webinar Q & A

Moderator: Cabell Cropper (NCJA)

Presenters:

Jeff Pierce (Rocky Mountain Information Network)

James Hendrickson (Citizen Potawatomi Nation Police Department)

Matthew Dunn (Salt River Police Department Pima-Maricopa Indian Community)

1) Do you have any examples of tribal law enforcement sharing data with non-law enforcement partners?

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *That's a long term goal for all of us. Yes, I could give an example. Today, just in the last 24 hours, we got a call about an activity on one of the reservations of a seizure of almost a ton of marijuana and, of course, it was in conjunction with us and homeland security and, of course, the tribal folks out there. When they got a ton of product in they were taking it to Arizona to move it throughout the country. The request came, "Can you send the rest of law enforcement out in the nation to see if they have this type of packaging?" the way it was packaged to other law enforcement entities. So yeah, our Intel Supervisor said, "Yeah, we can send that out – do you want it on the border, or nationally?" And so, we sent it to the other 5 risk centers, and they sent it out to their agencies, and within 2 hours there was a hit from Little Rock, Arkansas from another part of the nation with that same packaging. So, they came back to us and said "How did you do that in 2 hours?!" We're just connected. So yes, there are examples of that. I would say we have a long way to go to fully trust. It's a constant challenge to break down traditional paradigms, and increase the trust, but yes, it is moving forward.*

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *Yes, one of them was the coordinated community response team, not all members are law enforcement but they do play a part in, especially when it comes to sex crimes and child abuse, we feel that there is some information that they need that we share with them, like I said information sharing is pretty new here, and this is the first step we've taken to share information with non-law enforcement personnel.*

Detective Matthew Dunn: *Yes, one thing we do is we share with prosecutors, as well as the case protective board with the families as well as the families, as far as the children, as well as probation. So we collaborate with all of them as far as law enforcement, which fit underneath the umbrella of law enforcement and information sharing, whether that is looking at the background of that child, or looking into the parents. And like the example given before, with the Scottsdale case, sometimes we make sure all information is shared.*

- 2) For several years the global justice information sharing advisory committee has developed standards to support information sharing. Are any of you familiar with, or are using, for example the global reference architecture to help build your systems?

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *Yes sir, the base line for that some of our risk technical folks helps them build the baseline for the global... and one of our risk directors, our chairman, sits on the CICC so we are actively involved with the global initiative and the folks working in DC, and the technology we helped build that to start that that has taken on a life of its own, and we are certainly compatible. Our system is compatible with that system.*

- 3) And, do you use global federated identity and privilege management?

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *Yes, Sir*

- 4) Lieutenant Hendrickson, are you familiar with the global standards? And is that being used at all in your system?

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *There's nothing that I am aware of just yet. That, I believe would be a good question for one of my detectives, but nothing that I am aware of.*

And Detective Dunn?

Detective Matthew Dunn: *At this time I am not aware of any as well.*

- 5) Going back to Director Pierce, how are you managing compliance with CJIS in that you are creating regional criminal information sharing justice database?

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *I think I can answer that in 2 ways. First of all, 28 CFR is kind of our bible baseline we have to comply with. Any criminal intelligence is federal funded and it has a multi-agency information contained within that database has to abide by 28 CFR, so all our staff that work with criminal Intel has to be trained with 28 CFR and our databases have to be 28 CFR compliant and we are audited by that annually. Now, you talked about CJIS. We work with many states that have criminal Intel in their state databases and so our intelligence is in a state of contact with CJIS and a state or a local PD. They do not have to operate by 28 CFR, but if they want to plug into a multi-jurisdictional system, then they have to agree by their policies to follow 28 CFR standards. In the state of Arizona, we have an annual audit because we are plugged in to Arizona in the system here. We have an annual audit for years and we've passed every audit we've had. We are in compliance with the state of CJIS requirement, too. Our intel staff that has access must abide by the CJIS requirements and that information belongs to those controlling agencies, and they grant us information and we abide by their polices. So, we are totally compatible with state and federal CJIS requirements.*

- 6) There's no charge to participate if you are a member of RISK. Is there a charge, or can only certain disciplines join RISK?

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *Well let me answer that two ways: There is a charge; Congress requires law enforcement to be a participating member agency. You saw a slide that said dues. Those dues are determined from region to region. There is an annual due that they must pay. But with that, it's a good buy. We aren't trying to make money on the dues. Congress mandates that you have to be participative; they have to invest in the membership. So each center has mandatory dues.*

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *We are kind of limited. We are dedicated to support law enforcement, the law enforcement community. We work with criminal justice agencies, the membership criteria is limited to law enforcement or criminal justice entities. We have expanded since 9/11 to also include intelligence and counterintelligence agencies that don't have a direct law enforcement line, but are trying to protect the country. So, through DHS we have expanded to include intelligence agencies to break down those paradigms that existed before 9/11. But other than that if you aren't helping to protect the nation, it's kind of a closed system.*

- 7) Detective Dunn: We believe we heard that Salt River participates in Fusion center that includes probation officers. If that's so, is there any formalized agreement, and do they have the same access to information that the participating law enforcement agencies do?

Detective Matthew Dunn: *As far as when they are a non-full time partnering agencies they do not have access to everything. Essentially they bring their own database and then that's how we collaborate. So they are not in the network as the East Valley fusion center, only the 6 partnering agencies are.*

- 8) Is there any kind of formalized agreement for their participation sitting in?

Detective Matthew Dunn: *Lisa, who is the supervisor here, has established those kinds of parameters with those part-time agencies as well. We are growing, and they are going to add more agencies to the department, if possible.*

- 9) Have any of your jurisdictions had cross-deputization agreements in place with law enforcement agencies?

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *Yes, we do. We have them with sheriff's offices and police departments, as well as the district attorney's office. We have a few with some of the local tribes as well.*

Detective Matthew Dunn: *As far as I know there's none at this time. The only one I know of – we did sign an IGA with DPS, and that's the only thing I know of. But, if it comes to a tribal member in our jurisdiction, they hand crimes over to the police and we take it from there.*

- 10) Lieutenant Hendrickson: question about the Oklahoma information fusion center. Do you know if there are other tribes participating in that center?

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *I'm not sure if there are or not. I know I just recently applied, and one of our detectives is a subscriber, but as far as other tribes I haven't heard of others, but I have not heard of any. Any tribal agency within the state are more than willing to share information with the tribal agencies, especially given that a lot of the casinos are on trust land, and a lot of people see that as a free parking space to conduct illegal activity. They don't believe tribal officers have any jurisdiction over non natives, and that is one reason that we are really willing to share information.*

- 11) Will the agreement between EH5 Arizona tribes for information sharing be made available publically for use of a model for other interested agencies?

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *We were requested to show that information. It probably will for other tribes as well. They can contact me directly to get it as well.*

- 12) Detective Dunn: How is the East Valley Fusion Center funded?

Detective Matthew Dunn: *By all partnering agencies, as well as how they received the grant from the Attorneys office, we received funding. And yes all participating agencies contribute yearly. The exact dollar I do not know, as well as when they first started. They broke it up, not just by dollars but by equipment as well.*

- 13) In other parts of the country, if tribes are interested in what you are doing the Rocky Mountain region are the other RISK centers equipped to support something like that?

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *They are equipped, yes. We are in constant coordination and contact and collaboration with each other, and I just briefed the other 5 RISK directors in a meeting in Boston, and basically this will stay within the tribal bounds, and this will expand tribal interagency communication. Tribal law enforcement entities that want to establish their own consortium in a different region all they have to do is contact that RISK center and they'll work with you.*

- 14) What piece of advice would you give to people who are interested in improving information sharing between and among tribes in state and local law enforcement? What piece of advice would you give for them to get started and getting the information sharing established?

Detective Matthew Dunn: *I think it has been said earlier. Trust. I think communication is key. I know that was a key thing after 9/11 for the fusion center to try and grow more. I think communication is key to all of that and building trust and for the databases are key.*

Delmar: *I think here in Arizona, we are really blessed to have our Indian country intelligence meetings. We have all these people from the state the county and the federal government at the table and talking about issues in Indian country. I think if we had this collaboration in partnerships with the county folks and the city folks, as in Salt River, the people and also the other tribes to and other things, too, in Indian communities specifically to public safety, I think you are stronger when you have participation from a variety of agencies within that region or in the state.*

Lieutenant James Hendrickson: *Like I said many times before, being relatively new, was taking that first step and finding out what programs were already in place and getting your department involved. Another step that has been taken is our Chief has actually called other sheriffs to request a meeting with them and with that he was able to add a report and it wasn't long that they were sitting down and meeting regularly. That's kind of the first step is trying to overcome the obstacles. There are a lot of stigmas between the local police departments and the tribal agencies as far as one is not always sure what the other one is doing or the questions always come up, "You want to share information with me?" "What do we have to gain by it?" or "What do you have to gain for it?" It comes down to trust, and take that first step. Start meeting with people, and force your way into some of these programs and let some of these people know you're here.*

Deputy Director Jeff Pierce: *I just want to say you have to have commitment and be positive. Must stay the course. I mean there are lots of folks that say it can't be done, or they don't want to do it today. Just don't give up; it has being pushed for 20 years, and they never gave up. The commitment they have is exemplary, just never give up and keep the course.*



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