

Advisory Board Meeting

December 6, 2021

Discussions, Decision Points, and Outcomes

In Attendance:

Clarence Adams (NIC), Panda Adkins (NIC), Stephen Amos (NIC), Ken Andrews (NIC), John Baldwin (IL), Rex Barkdoll (PAE), TeNeane Bradford (OJJDP), Lorie Brisbin (NIC), Barbara Broderick (AZ), Jarrod Bruder (NSA), Rachel Brushett (OJP), Holly Busby (NIC), Evelyn Bush (NIC), Blanche Carney (PA), Michael Carvajal (BOP), Sandora Cathcart (NIC), Sharon Clausen (PAE), Cameron Coblentz (NIC), Kevin Connelly (VA), Greg Crawford (NIC), Vanessa Crawford (SREELA), Chris Daniels (AJA), Allison Dohr (PAE), Harry Fenstermaker (NIC), Heather Fiorita (PAE), Kathleen Grilli (USSC), Jeff Hadnot (NIC), Kathy Hawk-Sawyer (VA), Benjamin Hunter (PAE), Mike Jackson (NIC), Donna Ledbetter (NIC), Leslie LeMaster (NIC), Billy Mathews (PAE), Brett Mattson (NACO), Teresa May (TX), Laurie Moeglein (PAE), Gabe Morgan (Vice Chair-VA), Phil Nunes (ICJA), Colette S. Peters (Chair-OR), Elizabeth Pyke (NCJA), Ruby Qazilbash (OJP), Scott Richards (NIC), Tashima Ricks (NIC), Jim Sawyer (NAPSA), Mark Sherman (FJC), Walter Sipple (NIC), Chris Smith (NIC), Belinda Stewart (NIC), P. Elizabeth Taylor (NIC), Scott Weygandt (NIC), Reginald Wilkinson (OH), Dena Williams (NIC), Vernon Woods (NIC), and Elizabeth Zoby (PAE).

Monday, December 6, 2021

Shaina Vanek, Acting Director (AD) of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) to the NIC Advisory Board called the virtual session to order at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Opening, Introductions, and Instructions

Acting Director Vanek (NIC) and Chairperson Colette S. Peters (OR) welcomed the board to the virtual meeting and thanked the fifty-nine (59) participants for attending and continuing to successfully navigate technology amid the COVID pandemic. AD Vanek reviewed the

requirements of the *Federal Advisory Committee Act.*¹ AD Vanek and Chairperson Peters conducted introductions of board members and designees via roll call. The Chairperson remarked on the agenda of the meeting, including an Institute status update and presentations on NIC's Learning Management System (LMS).

AD Vanek recognized BOP Director Michael Carvajal. Highlights from Director Carvajal's remarks include 1) an update on the federal prison system, which as of December 6, 2021, confines approximately 157,000 inmates across 122 facilities; 2) the impact of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (*CARES*) of March 2020, resulting in approximately 34,500 inmates transferred to home confinement; 3) detailed transition assessment processes for both home and facility confinement; 4) delineated relevant programs and statutes on home and community confinement; 5) overviewed declining BOP COVID-19 positivity rates amongst staff (55% decrease) and inmates (85% decrease), noting infection rates lag four to six weeks behind community rates; 6) all BOP staff and inmates afforded vaccination and booster opportunities; 7) implementation process for the *First Step Act*, including earned time credits for inmates; and 8) efforts within the BOP to maintain staffing levels and decrease position vacancy rates to historic lows. https://www.bop.gov/

Vice-Chair Gabe Morgan (VA) thanked Director Carvajal for his report and commented on the importance of low turnover rates among BOP positions. The Vice-Chair requested that the Director share insights and strategies for retaining staff members that may assist corrections industry partners as they are available.

Approval of the May 2021 Outcomes Document

The May 2021 draft Meeting Outcomes document was reviewed and unanimously accepted by the Advisory Board, without objection or correction.

Acting Director's Report

Acting Director Shaina Vanek provided a report, which addressed 1) Advisory Board Status; 2) Agency Staffing; 3) FY2022 and Projected FY2023 Budget Status, and 4) Strategic Planning (*please refer to attached PowerPoint® Presentation for further detail*).

• Advisory Board Status - Rechartering, Pending Reappointments, and Term Realignment

AD Vanek detailed: 1) Advisory Board was rechartered as of September 5, 2021; 2) pending reappointments of Ms. Broderick, Mr. Morgan, and Ms. Hawk-Sawyer prevent them from voting, but not participating in meetings; 3) required term realignment process, to bring Advisory Board member appointments into compliance with FACA

¹ <u>https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/federal-advisory-committee-act-faca-management-overview</u>

provisions and original board charter; and 4) realignment results in Mr. Baldwin's ability to vote in the meeting, but Ms. Carney will not.

• Agency Staffing - Agency Staffing Updates, Awards, and Achievements

AD Vanek highlighted staffing as critical to NIC's success. She noted: 1) transfer of Instructional Technologist Case Dent to the Department of Homeland Security, retirement of Correctional Program Specialist Maureen Buell, and resignation of Correctional Program Specialist Hilary Cuthrell; 2) current staff complement of 35 fulltime employees (FTE), represents 79% of staffing capacity; 3) five (5) imminent vacancy announcements, including a) two correctional program specialists; b) one instructional systems specialist; and c) registrar; 4) outlined position description updates for a) grants management specialist and b) management and program analyst, to c) clarify roles and re-distribute responsibility across the positions; 5) efforts to recruit and fill strategic vacancies including Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) subject-matter experts (SMEs) and one-year Executive Assistant positions; 6) NIC staff members detailed to partner agencies to perform COVID-19 projects; 7) plans to increase vaccinations and testing for COVID-19, which will facilitate return to office strategies; and 8) various health, professional, and personal issues at play. Chairperson Peter's inquired as to guidance from the current administration impacting staffing and return to office planning. AD Vanek shared the Office of Personnel Management and Department of Justices' guidance on return-to-office protocols.

Acting Director Vanek announced recent awards and achievements including 1) NIC's 2021 NIC Directors Award to Correctional Program Specialist Leslie LeMaster, Academy Division; 2) 2021 NIC Deputy Director's Award to Correctional Program Specialist Archie Weatherspoon, IV, Academy Division; 3) 2021 BOP Director's Award – Mark S. Inch to Correctional Program Specialist Greg Crawford in recognition of his service in furthering the agency's mission and his support of veterans in the performance of their duties; 4) Acknowledgment of completion of 2021 Rocky Mountain Executive Leadership Academy (RMELA) by Chief Jeff Hadnot, and 5) impending publication of former Correctional Program Specialist Hilary Cuthrell's book When Are You Coming Home?: How Young Children Cope When Parents Go To Jail. AD Vanek lauded the awards and achievements as examples of NIC staff members' exemplary skills.

• FY2022 Budget and Planning for FY2023

AD Vanek reported: 1) NIC's FY2022 budget was partially funded between October 1 and December 3, 2021, via continuing resolution (CR); 2) a second continuing resolution will partially fund the agency through February 18, 2022; 3) agency will function based upon percentage allocation of FY2021 budget of \$8.2 million; 4) NIC has strategically leveraged its ability to meet and exceed its core mission in spite of budget constraints, by increased use of digital / virtual service delivery and utilizing

cooperative agreements for sixty-nine (69) projects; 5) using critical budget reallocations to sustain multi-year projects despite the continuing resolution's budget limitations; 6) a recent leadership development training initiative with the Mississippi Department of Corrections, highlighting NIC's unique stance as the only federal agency providing direct service to state and local corrections technical assistance to stakeholders; 7) complications in advance fiscal year planning due to continuing resolution impacts; and 8) the agency's intention to develop contingency plans in early 2022 for most effective placement while preparing FY2023 budget forecasts.

• Innovative Project Briefs – Jails, Academy, and Community Services Divisions

Jails Division: National Sheriff's Institute (NSI) Jail Administration Course

Chief Stephen Amos, Jails Division highlighted: 1) National Sheriff's Institute (NSI) unique function to expand and clarify a sheriff's role, focusing on training and educating first-term sheriffs; 2) sheriffs are the primary operators of jails in forty-three (43) states; 3) origins, focus and design of jail administrator pilot course to train new sheriff's on their responsibilities as corrections administrators; 4) conceptualized training program outlined by a diverse group of jail and law enforcement representatives, in attempts to coalesce decades of experience into meaningful insights on how to operate and improve the jail administration function; 5) two-year delivery gap due to budgetary constraints; 6) planned NSI and Jail Administration deliveries projected for sequential weeks in April 2022 at FBI Academy; and 7) importance of leveraged networking of local sheriffs, and between local sheriffs and federal partners to foster enhanced idea sharing, coordination, and collaboration. https://nicic.gov/projects-division

Academy Division: Management Development for the Future (MDF) and Correctional Leadership Development (CLD) Multi-Session Virtual Instructor-Led (VILT) Series

Chief Jeff Hadnot, Academy Division described the recent conversion of two intensive leadership training programs, Correctional Leadership Development and Management Development for the Future, from in-person to virtual delivery. Both programs feature multiple assessments and team and individual activities, reconceptualized for the WebEx virtual platform. The Academy is currently delivering the virtual programs in partnership with four agencies. <u>https://nicic.gov/projects/leadership-development-in-corrections</u>

Community Services Division: Community Supervision Leadership Symposium

Chief Holly Busby, Community Services Division, delineated 1) the multi-faceted strategies utilized to plan, design, and facilitate the Community Supervision Leadership Virtual Symposium; 2) the unique nature of the Symposium bringing together NIC's three

community executive networks for a collaborative learning experience, eliciting the value of whole-system responses to local issues; 3) the multi-session virtual learning event over time; 4) live online and offline activities, including opportunities for sharing lessons-learned, exploring implementation science, collaborative leadership, and diversity, equity, and inclusion as facets of effective leadership; 5) origins of the Symposium and its conceptualization and design by representatives from pre-trial, corrections, and parole operations; 6) formulation of the leadership training grounded in the principle of consistency by providing a holistic view of system leadership; 7) the development of a professionally produced online resource portal; and 8) future use of this portal by additional partners and stakeholders. <u>Guidelines for Developing a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (nicic.gov)</u>

<u>Strategic Planning</u>

AD Vanek overviewed 1) NIC's primary strategic goals, including safe, healthy, and highperforming corrections; 2) effectively managed corrections systems, including pre-trial, jail, prison, community corrections, and community service agencies; 3) utilizing relevant, research-informed policies, goals, and standards to inform NIC work; 4) maintaining NIC as a learning organization to best serve its field to ensure just processes, systems, and communities through public safety that is focused on the individual; 5) how NIC has worked to renew interagency cooperation and coordination, as well as intra-agency communications and learning; 6) notable engagement with the Department of Justice's Re-Entry Coordinating Council; 7) identified funding sources to re-launch the Technical Assistance System (TAS) and plan, design and develop an overarching Information Management System (IMS); 8) strategies to conceptualize innovative dissemination modalities for products and insights, such as podcasting and interactive, multi-session learning events; 9) importance of consistent operational support, peer engagement, strong agency infrastructure, and thoughtful planning as essential to the NIC as it works to fulfill its mission; and 10) NIC's transition to utilizing people-first language that enables meaningful and impactful outcomes by being supportive, inclusive, and thoughtful in how it shapes and influences the correctional system.

NIC's Learning Center: The Learning Management System (LMS) and Constituent Access

Sharon Clausen, NIC LMS Administrator, and Scott Weygandt, NIC Management and Program Analyst provided an overview of the background, origins, and purpose of NIC's Learning Management System (LMS), known as the NIC Learning Center. NIC's Learning Center 1) is a learning management system that houses learning resources for federal, state, and local

government correction agency employees; 2) offers compliance and professional development training through diverse virtual course offerings; 3) experienced a spike in course completions in FY2020, totaling 227,624 due to the pandemic; 4) experienced an FY2021 completion decrease of 47,000 fewer course completions; 5) experienced significantly increased usage and course completions in FY2020 and FY2021, in comparison to FY2019; 6) top ten courses include all PREA related courses, inmate suicide prevention, and interpersonal communication skills with correctional offenders (*please refer to attached PowerPoint® Presentation for further detail*).

MPA Weygandt brought forward the question of revisiting constituent user access to the Learn Center, referencing a 2013 NIC Advisory Board decision that private correctional organizations could not access the Learn Center without a corresponding request for access by a government corrections agency. Learn Center staff have noted 1) certain courses are required as part of a state or local audit process, such as the suite of PREA courses; 2) access approval has manifested as an issue; 3) many potential learners and state and local contracting partners have been blocked from access to NIC's e-courses due to this requirement; 4) the lost learning opportunities for state and local contracting partners impacted by the 2013 policy decision; 5) a four-month pilot program to provide access to private corrections organizations, non-corrections organizations, contractors, students, and volunteers recorded 326 learners who completed 772 courses; 6) general similarities to the pre-pilot population of predominantly less experienced members of the correctional field, and 7) the broader access question on revisiting this 2013 policy decision in light of current circumstances and constituent/customer needs.

AD Vanek highlighted 1) NIC's posture as the primary federal entity for providing PREA training; 2) the recent shift in e-learning utilization and pilot results, and 3) how the shift may benefit agencies and organizations not currently permitted outright access to the Learn Center. Chairperson Peters remarked on the Board's concerns about private corrections agencies' access to NIC's Learning Center. AD Vanek clarified the current policy decision bars any nongovernmental partners, without an explicit government agency request, spotlighting the particular impact on community and non-profit organizations, presenting conflicts with NIC's mission to provide education on corrections. Vice-Chair Morgan echoed the Chair's concern, particularly in the form of mission creep, and that any change would enable fiscal support of organizations beyond the statutory authority of NIC.

** Vice-Chair Morgan recommended a longer study on the impact of the proposed policy change and/or the exploration of an alternative portal for those currently excluded groups.

Discussion ensued as the Board discussed 1) potential solutions to this conflict; 2) carving out specific courses, such as the PREA courses into a separate portal; 3) the mutually interdependent

nature of the conflicts between a) NIC's statutory authority; b) its limited resources; and c) its mission to support corrections at all levels of government.

Director Carvajal (BOP) remarked on the potential benefits of broader public access to NIC resources as a way to improve public understanding and stakeholder relations by eliminating the burden of submitting individual requests for vital partners to obtain and complete mandatory training requirements.

AD Vanek remarked on the pending transition from NIC's current LMS vendor Oracle to a DOJsupported SuccessFactors LMS platform. She highlighted the BOP's Bureau Learning University (BLU) is a SuccessFactors LMS platform. MPA Weygandt provided details on 1) the transition process, and 2) data migration and testing from the current to the new LMS platform. AD Vanek extolled the virtues of the pending transition, including centralizing and standardizing NIC's LMS to improve the accessibility and stability of the platform.

Agency and Association Updates

DFO Vanek introduced attending association representatives and federal partners, inviting representatives to provide brief updates to the NIC Advisory Board.

- American Correctional Association (ACA) Jeff Washington presented on behalf of ACA. ACA highlighted the upcoming January 2022 winter conference in Phoenix, Arizona. <u>https://www.aca.org</u>
- American Jails Association (AJA) Jarrod Bruder presented on behalf of AJA. AJA highlighted: 1) initiatives and activities to distribute and utilize funds related to COVID-19 mitigation in detention centers, and 2) discussed the organization's upcoming May 2022 conference and expo. <u>https://www.americanjail.org/</u>
- Federal Judicial Center (FJC) Mark Sherman presented on behalf of FJC. FJC highlighted

 continued full-time telework posture; 2) hopes to resume in-person education for
 freshman District Court judges in February 2022; 3) virtual education services being
 developed to offer judicial officers training on topics such as dealing with extremists in
 both pre-and post-judgment contexts, workload management, and resiliency.
 <u>https://www.fjc.gov/</u>
- International Community Justice Association (ICJA) Phil Nunes presented on behalf of ICJA. ICJA highlighted 1) ICJA's reorganization to better serve the expanded services of organizations beyond corrections and into the mental health and community safety spheres, and 2) ICJA's upcoming participation in D.C. Day. <u>https://www.icjaonline.org/</u>

- National Association of Pre-Trial Services Agencies (NAPSA) Jim Sawyer presented on behalf of NAPSA. NAPSA highlighted recent training and conferences. <u>https://napsa.org</u>
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) TeNeane Bradford presented on behalf of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).
 OJJDP highlighted 1) the agency's desire to increase communication and collaboration around juvenile justice issues, and 2) the provision of increased access for compliance monitoring and technical assistance. https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/
- United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) Kathleen Grilli presented on behalf of USSC. USSC highlighted: 1) steps underway to fill vacant positions on the Commission; 2) recent publications, and 3) updates on staff vaccination rates. <u>https://www.ussc.gov/</u>

Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment

Vice-Chair Morgan thanked NIC staff and all those in attendance for their continued work and contributions to the continued development of NIC as a learning organization. Chairperson Peters thanked Board Members, partner associations, federal partners, and organizational representatives for their attendance and participation. She thanked NIC Chiefs Amos, Busby, and Hadnot for their informative presentations. Chairperson Peters applauded AD Vanek's creative and innovative leadership during this unprecedented period. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.









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NIC Advisory Board Status Charter Signed by Deputy Attorney General Monaco September 5, 2021 Reoccurring process every two years • Pending Reappointments B. Broderick, G. Morgan, K. Hawk Sawyer (September 7, 2021) • None can vote, though all can participate in discussions • Term Realignments • J. Baldwin (2022 to 2021), B. Carney (2021 to 2022) • As of today: J. Baldwin can vote, B. Carney can not vote 6



















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	JUST P	Dur Vision - The ROCESSES, EFFECTIVE SYST is to advance public safety by sha as and practices through leadershi	EMS, SAFE COMMUNITIES	
	St	rategic Goals		
	A safe, healthy, and high-performing corrections.			
1	Objective 1.1 Strengthen a culture of learning among all corrections professionals.	Objective 1.2 Mitigate and reduce harms to corrections professionals related to physical hazards, mental and emotional stress, and safety threats in the corrections work environment.	Objective 1.3 Increase leadership competencies at all levels of corrections professionals	
5		naged corrections system ity corrections, and comm		
	Objective 2.1 Improve management and opera corrections continuum within co		c partnerships among ies and key stakeholders.	
	Relevant, researc	h-informed policies, goal	s and standards across	
	the corrections co	ontinuum.		
5	Objective 3.1 Establish and foster shared values across the corrections continuum.	Objective 3.2. Increase system approaches and consistency in corrections policies, procedures and processes.	Objective 3.3 Increase adoption of research-informed policies on emerging issues and trends to improve the corrections.	
	NIC: A healthy, in	novative, learning organiz	zation	
	Objective 4.1 Enrich and sustain NIC Staff well-being, development, and performance.	Objective 4.3 Strengthen planning and innovation.	Objective 4.5 Secure a robust and efficient 21st-century technological work environment.	
	Objective 4.2 Create a Model Work Environment.	Objective 4.4 Strengthen stewardship of NIC financial resources.	Objective 4.6 Plan and deploy a comprehensive NIC public information dissemination system.	













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Roadmap	of a TA Application
1. The Applicant creates an	2. Application is added to system,
account and fills out an	TA Administrator reviews application and rejects or forwards it
 4. CPS and Finance staff updat information; Applicant is notified 	d that their 5. Application manages status changes, applicant and
application was accepte	ed. CPS works with applicant to gp Travel Betticipant
	design TA Process Authorization TMRF Registration
6. The event/assistance occurs	7. After Action reports and cleanup
	CPS, Finance, Chief Reviews Surveys sent out and Application is
***	returned archived
	on has a plethora of sub-tasks that need to be assigned to/completed by NIC systems should be able to handle the requirements of these tasks.

























Resu	lts of the Four-	-Month Pilot		
Learners	Completions	Completion Ratio		
326	772	2.37		
Primary Area of Respon	sibility	Years of Expe	erience	
Corrections	46.01%	1	59.29%	
Service Provider	29.45%	2	8.85%	
Reentry	11.35%	3	3.54%	
Student	6.13%	4	5.01%	
College or University Faculty	2.45%	5	3.54%	
Workforce Development	1.23%	6	0.29%	
Probation	1.84%	7	0.59%	
Pretrial	0.92%	8	0.59%	
Law Enforcement	0.31%	9	0.88%	
Law	0.31%	10	4.42%	
PREA: Your Role in Respo PREA 201 for Medical and	Completions from nding to Sexual Abuse Mental Health Practitioners e for Sexual Assault Victims in		85 70 62	
	Communicating Effectively and Professionally with LGBTI Offenders			
	Undue Familiarity: Establishing and Maintaining Professional Boundaries			
	Interpersonal Communication Skills with Correctional Offenders - Course 1			
	Inmate Suicide Prevention			
	Interpersonal Communication Skills with Correctional Offenders - Course 3			
	Interpersonal Communication Skills with Correctional Offenders - Course 2			
	PREA: Investigating Sexual Abuse in a Confinement Setting			





















