

CriMNet

Update to 2004 Evaluation Report

Problems Identified

- **Substandard Program Management.** The CriMNet Office should coordinate, manage, and oversee the CriMNet program. But the office failed to define CriMNet's objectives and scope; assess local jurisdictions' capacities to integrate their systems; and implement standard mechanisms for monitoring, tracking, and communicating about CriMNet.
- **Insufficient Staffing and Expertise.** Chronic understaffing and resulting gaps in expertise at the CriMNet Office contributed to management problems and delays.
- **Ineffective Governance.** CriMNet's governing "Policy Group" of eight judicial and executive branch leaders failed to ensure sufficient strategic direction and accountability.
- **Project Delays.** Individual CriMNet projects, including a central integration system, generally took longer and cost more than expected. Unresolved data classification issues, contracting deficiencies, security concerns, and unclear system requirements were underlying factors.

Changes Implemented

- **Strengthened Program Management.** CriMNet: (1) defined CriMNet Office responsibilities and near-term projects needed to support data integration; (2) implemented financial tracking, status reporting, and risk management procedures; and (3) identified long-term priorities through 2013.
- **Staff Expertise Acquired.** To support all aspects of its work, the CriMNet Office has filled its 2006-07 complement of 26 positions—20 with full-time staff and 6 with consultants.
- **Key Projects Underway.** CriMNet regained momentum and began essential projects to (1) define user requirements, (2) develop integration standards, (3) assess local criminal justice agencies' ability to share data, and (4) positively identify offenders and link their criminal records. Local government data sharing projects also made progress.
- **Local Representatives added to the Policy Group.** In 2005, the Legislature added two representatives of local criminal justice agencies to the CriMNet Policy Group.

Action Needed

- **Ensure Accountability.** The Legislature, Department of Public Safety, and State Courts should continue to ensure that the Policy Group is adequately monitoring CriMNet project costs, milestones, and outcomes.