



Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

VIRTUAL **ABM 2021**

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

To: Commissioners of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

From: ICAOS Executive Committee

Justice Reinvestment Initiative – Warrant Notification Service

Motivated by continuing warrant-centric discussions, the National Office partnered with the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics (SEARCH) and the Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ) on a grant from the Department of Justice. The awarded project sought to develop a subscription service for warrant notifications to help compact offices, supervisors, and field officers meet obligations and enhance public as well as officer safety.

Efforts in fiscal year 2020 centered on establishing functional requirements and identifying core project elements. In fiscal year 2021, significant work involved securing a pilot state through which queries of national and state databases would occur and establishing the state requirements to connect to the messaging service.

Kansas, the pilot state, will utilize its Originating Agency Identifier (ORI) to automatically search and find matches between offenders in ICOTS offenders and those with warrant statuses in NCIC and state warrant systems. Additionally, interstate offenders will be automatically entered into the FBI's supervised release file with an option to enter all state offenders.

States who subscribe to the service will automatically receive a notification when 1) a warrant is issued and forwarded to the NCIC Wanted Persons File, and a warrant is issued by 16 states that maintain state warrant systems; and 2) the transferred offender has a serious encounter with law enforcement that prompts a wants and warrants check of the offender by a law enforcement official.

Following successful development of an agreement and operating document, rapid progress is underway in establishing the SNS resource. SEARCH is partnering with NLETS to host the service; and, developers are working to stand up the service by the second quarter of fiscal year 2022. Moreover, the ICAOS National Office continues to work on next phase implementation with other interested states.

Compact Study

Since the Compact passed in 2002, no formal study has been conducted to determine whether the interstate compact is meeting its mission and purpose. The Commission has stated objectives that include tracking the location of offenders, transferring supervision in an orderly and efficient manner, and returning offenders when necessary. Each of those objectives have a broader aim of promoting public safety, protecting victims, and supporting offender accountability through tracking, supervision, and rehabilitation. The Executive Committee wanted to analyze the Commission's success at meeting these stated objectives and chose to engage the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute to conduct a Commission-wide study.

Work on the study began in July 2021 and includes the following components:

1. A review and summary of any existing research on the Compact.
2. An analysis of ICOTS data that includes a description of the individuals who are supervised and indicators of their successes or failures during supervision (e.g., new arrests, new convictions, absconsions, revocations, successful completions). To the extent possible, bivariate analyses will be conducted to examine potential relationships between variables such as whether men or women are more likely to successfully complete supervision.
3. A standardized electronic survey that will be sent to all supervision officers identified in ICOTS. The survey will capture additional information about the transfer process and supervision of individuals who are transferred that is not captured in ICOTS to glean insights about the benefits and challenges encountered in practice.
4. Interviews with a subgroup of supervision officers to acquire additional details about the transfer and supervision of individuals, and the experiences of officers who are working in the field. These interviews will be semi-structured and designed based on the findings of the initial survey results.
5. Interviews with a subgroup of individuals who receive supervision services through an interstate transfer. The interviews will capture the perspective of the individuals under supervision including elements of the transfer and supervision that presented challenges and the ways the transfer provided benefits or contributed to their success.

The research team will complete the five tasks described above and integrate their findings into a final report that will be submitted to ICAOS. The research team will also present the results of the study to the Commission at its 20th Anniversary celebration planned for September 2022 in New York City, NY.