

# Cook County State's Attorney's Office

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN  
FY2025



## *Strategic Objectives – FY2025*

- Data Validity and Transparency
- Adult Case Management System
- Staff Hiring, Training, and Redeployment of Resources
- Laptop Refresh Project/Modernization
- Felony Review Unit Intake Solution
- Digital Evidence Management/Forensics
- Investigations Bureau – Equipment
- Search Warrant Automation/Solution

# *Data Validity and Transparency*

- After review, we were concerned about the validity of previously published data.
- Systems integration improvements/development for more accurate data.
- Embedded a Data Analyst into First Appearance Courts.
- Triangulating all sources to ensure the smallest variance.
- Partnership with the University of Chicago Crime Lab.
- In the process of developing updated dashboard for release.

# *Adult Case Management System*

- Pre-trial Fairness Act (PFA) guidelines are being accounted for within the new planning phase.
- Project requirements are being audited.
- Assessment of Justice/Nexis adult system within our stack.
- Assess the solution's ability to increase adoption of product-based:
  - Ease of use.
  - Ability to create, edit, and delete draft orders.
  - Resources management (Staffing levels, caseloads, etc.).
  - Ability to manage a client's file using Client Resource Management (CRM) vs. Court Case Management System (CMS) with the same information.
  - Integrate with other systems/databases by justice partners.



## *Staff Hiring, Training, and Redeployment of Resources*

- Provide training to all employees (e.g. ITIL4, A+, HDI).
- Assess the workload of the field technicians and redeploy staff to courthouses with high ticketing volume and end user-to-tech ratio.
- Work with SAO's BAS to identify positions for standardizing job descriptions.
- Expand the Trial Technology Unit to assist ASA's with the preparation and presentation during legal proceedings.

# *Laptop Refresh Project/Modernization*

- \$4.01 Million CapEx to Refresh SAO Equipment (1,200+ end users).
  - Last refresh during 2020 COVID-19 deployment.
- Implementation of a “One Device Policy” for the staff.
- Procure HP Laptops that meet or exceed the Cook County Bureau of Technology (BOT) policy for minimum system requirements and mitigate current storage limitations.
- All staff will receive one of two options for a computer setup (system profile based on individual job descriptions) for standardized support.

## *Felony Review Unit (FRU) Intake Solution*

- The Felony Review Unit is currently using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet(s) to manage all of the data collected during the approval process. 200-250 cases per day reviewed by FRU.
- Dispatcher will be able to log call information into a custom FRU form.
- Data fields will auto-populate when appropriate.
- Just-in-time digital dashboard will be available.
- Daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly reports will be auto-generated.
- Custom queries and reports will be available on demand.

# *Digital Evidence Management/Forensics*

- Reviewing current NICE solution contract and enhanced function release by Q2-25 to meet existing requirements.
- Exploring options for long-term (cold) storage to lower retention costs.
- Assess all available digital evidence discovery tools for our scope of operations.
- Review current business practices and working with other counties across the US to find and implement best practices.
  - Exploring opportunities to Digital Forensics Lab – Use Bronx DA architecture and best practices to plan new solutions.
- As part of a larger laptop refresh sourcing more powerful devices for digital evidence process including upgrading to 2/3 TB internal drives and enhanced video cards.



# *Investigations Bureau – Infrastructure Improvements*

- Source-fixed, air-gapped laptops for single-purpose use of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigations.
- Implement additional security controls specifically for ICAC investigators and evidence handling, including the acquisition of High-level encrypted drives for data transport, tracking, and management.
- Adding an isolated MPLS connection between Markham, 26<sup>th</sup> Street, and 69 West Washington to secure sensitive ICAC data while providing interoperability with investigations staff.
- Obtain powerful mobile or fixed workstations to reduce the time needed to access and review digital evidence obtained on search warrants.
- Work with the Chicago Police Department to coordinate investigation involving cell phone “dumps” and define media distribution policy.
- Establish an internal media collection policy for discovery distribution.

## *Search Warrant Process Automation/Solution*

- Since COVID-19, there has been a clear path to automating business processes, discarding paper requirements, and using digital solutions to improve accuracy and operational efficiencies.
- CCSAO has a “homegrown” application that is outdated and requires constant intervention.
- Currently, we are reviewing potential options and illicit Office of Chief Procurement Officer for assistance to procure a solution.
- We are collaborating with all criminal justice stakeholders on this initiative.