

Maria M. Cardiellos serves as the Executive Director of the IJIS Institute. In this capacity, she oversees the operations of the nonprofit organization and is responsible for financial management of the Institute's programs. Ms. Cardiellos has nearly forth (40) years' experience in public safety and justice program development, implementation and evaluation, both nationally and internationally. Prior to this role, she served as the IJIS Director of Operations and Project Director supporting several key initiatives including the NJ-Information Sharing Environment (NJ-ISE); the Newark NJ Police Division (NPD) Consent Decree (CD) providing technical assistance in the assessment, audit and compliance of NPD progress toward DOJ Consent Decree requirements; the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) enabling the implementation of NIBRS nationwide; and the Collaboration Reform Initiative (CRI) (a DOJ COPS initiative seeking to improve trust between police agencies and the communities they serve by providing a means to organizational transformation).

Prior to her engagement in IJIS, she served as the Chief of Staff and Executive Advisor of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) Program Management Office (PMO). In this role she provided guidance on all programmatic and operational aspects of the initiative as well as was responsible for all the administrative functions of the program. This included all the financial, personnel, contracting, reporting and performance/evaluation aspects of the effort. She previously served as Deputy Executive Director of the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Program for the joint Department of Justice (DOJ)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiative. The program focused on identifying the real-world needs to share information in support of public safety, criminal justice and homeland defense communities. The NSI best exemplifies a real-world need to share critical information.

On the State level, she served as Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS) within the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Her office supported the Information Technology (IT) needs of more than a dozen divisions/in-but-not-off offices, ranging in scope from the Division of State Police to the Division of Consumer Affairs. In addition to supporting these efforts, she was responsible for coordinating and/or supporting information technology related aspects of the State's homeland defense solution Emergency Preparedness Information Network (EPINet) for the Attorney General, LPS Administrator, Colonel of State Police, and Director of Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. This reflects all efforts involving the Office of the Attorney General, NJ State Police, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, other State Departments, as well as coordinating all efforts deployed to and involving state, county and local emergency service providers throughout the State.

Formally, Ms. Cardiellos led cutting edge integration jobs for the public sector community including an Integrated Justice Project for the Province of Ontario, Canada, as well as the first privatized/functionally outsourced emergency communication operation in North America for Northampton County, Pennsylvania. She started her career with the Newark, New Jersey Police Department as Staff Assistant to the Police Director of the State's largest sworn force. She continued her work with public safety and justice for the Police Foundation in Washington D.C. where she developed its Training and Technical Assistance Division serving as its Deputy Director. This Division supported public safety and justice communities nationally, providing consulting services on the federal, state and local levels.