

Good Afternoon. It is my privilege to present the Best of NIEM 2021 awards.

This year, we are recognizing those NIEM implementation projects demonstrating significant accomplishments – with noteworthy contributions to the use, growth, and adoption of NIEM.

Beginning in June and lasting through the first week August, we actively promoted the Best of NIEM 2021. These awards have been a tradition since 2009. It is particularly noteworthy what this years' winners were able to accomplish, with consideration to the challenging dynamics of working in remotely.

So, without further ado, I present to you in alphabetical order, the Best of NIEM 2021 awards.



Our first award is presented to the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) and the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). (--pause--)

With support from the Tetrus Company, these organizations developed, implemented and expanded the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) from the original 2013 pilot with 6 states to improve the processing of data and documents for interstate placements of children across state lines. Originally launched in 2013 with funding from the O M B, NEICE launched its successful pilot in 2014, the NIEM Management office recognized the NIECE **pilot** as Best of NIEM winner.

What started out as a pilot involving 6 states in 2014, has now grown into a national data exchange. The pilot was such a success that Congress implemented the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 requiring that all states have an electronic interstate case processing system by 2027. The NEICE is the only system meeting that description. To date there are 38 fully functional states, and additional 5 states are sending documents through an attached secure portal, and a total of 45 states have signed a Memo of Understanding to adopt the system.

### The benefits include:

- Faster Decision and reducing the time children and families wait for placement determinations.
- Helps child welfare workers better track case progress and provides a mechanism for more timely updates to courts, relevant private service providers, and families.
- Reduces paperwork and the potential for lost documentation through postal mail or file mismanagement
- Saves costs in administrative, mailing and copying costs, and staff time.
- Improves accountability and transparency

What makes this **implementation** particularly noteworthy was not just that they were able to convert a 50 year-old paper, mail, and fax process into an electronic data interchange, but they also provided **flexibility for states to adopt the project**. Some states elected to use Clearinghouse (API), some used a NIECE Modular Case Management System, and a handful are using a portal. The organizations recently updated the NIECE **IEPD to NIEM 4.0 and their implementation meets all security safeguards and meets HIPAA standards and follows the NIST best practices for security.** 

This Best of NIEM award recognizes the value that the AAICPC and APHSA's Implementation of NIECE using NIEM has had for children, families, courts, and city, state, and local human services agencies.

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If you had the opportunity to attend the NBAC meetings, you may have heard Ms. Roy state that if NIEM is not continually adding new content, then it's game over. We couldn't agree more. Not only did this organization **add new content**, but their content also comes at a critical time in our country. Cyber threats are on the rise and stakeholders need a common way to describe and share information.

Enter CISA. CISA established the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) cybersecurity domain by engaging with the NIEM leadership in DoD and DHS. CISA evolved the domain so that stakeholders can exchange cyber threat and other information in standardized ways.

Several use cases were considered for the development of NIEM exchanges, documenting them and submitting them to stakeholders for review. CISA incorporated the Federal Incident Reporting, the Automated Indicator Sharing (AIS) and Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX) data exchange specifications within the NIEM Cyber domain construct to allow users to better exchange information.

The team identified and **partnered with the Cybercrime Support Network (CSN)**, a public-private partnership organization to evolve the NIEM Cyber domain and ensure it meets the needs of a wider community.

## **Current uses include:**

**Federal Incident Reporting** - NIEM will be used to normalize agencies' submissions of incidents and breach notifications to CISA to enhance shared situational awareness and a coordinated response activity across the U.S. Federal Government.

• State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) Cyber Incident Reporting —In support of CISA via an existing Cooperative Agreement, CSN is currently working with the Cyber Domain to adopt NIEM to enhance collaboration and information sharing in support of cybercrime victims across SLTT through reporting and recovery efforts as well as information sharing to protect against future incidents.

CISA awarded the Cooperative Agreement to CSN with the purpose of exploring the development of a prototype data exchange standard format based on NIEM with a select group of States that can eventually be rolled out for implementation across SLTT agencies. This implementation will result in an effective model for cyber-physical information sharing and development for improved SLTT information exchange capabilities.

This Year's Best of NIEM **recognizes CISA** for **Improving the NIEM Model by** incorporating Federal Incident Reporting, the Automated Indicator Sharing (AIS) and Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX) data exchange specifications within the NIEM Cyber domain.

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And the next award: Next slide



Goes to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Innovation, Information and Technology Branch (IITB) and Interoperability Solution Division (ISD) for their contribution the NIEM Community.

This award is for sharing best practices for Implementing NIEM by aligning processes with the IEPD lifecycle, all while following an Agile scrum development methodology.

They provided a standard format for expected output from the Scenario Planning and Analyze Requirements phase which became the input to the Map and Model phase.

They provided Developer level documentation of their highly effective best practices, generated using Azure DevOps Services, for consumption by the NIEM Community. The products really focused on providing developers the level of NIEM documentation that they would need to support the work required to create IEPDs. In addition, they eliminated barriers to using or understanding XML or NIEM by creating transformations in their tooling to accept various input formats including JSON, Python, & scripting languages. Likewise, the output artifacts includes all expected artifacts as per NIEM standard and additional API definition YAML files and generated class in Java, ASP.Net Core, C#, Python or any other language depending the clients need.

They demonstrated their tool capabilities and documentation strategy at the NBAC 2021 Annual Meeting, which resulted in significant interest from other participants in the meeting. The NIEM Management office plans to publish an edited version of their developer documentation, which removes links to specific resources internal to ESDC, ISD, and IITB exclusively.

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And last, but certainly not least our final Best of NIEM award goes to the Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) for Exceptional Domain Stewardship.

The Biometrics domain is an extremely active player in the NIEM community and a respected NIEM advocate to external stakeholders that might benefit from NIEM.

As an advocate of NIEM, the NBD Team provided a briefing for the Data Stewardship Tactical Working Group (DSTWG), chaired by DHS USCIS, to provide updates on the NIEM Biometrics Domain activities and discuss ways to further promote NIEM within DHS. It should be noted that your peers in the Immigrations domain gave the NIEM Biometrics domain a strong testimony to the work the NBD is doing to promote NIEM.

Inside the community, the NBD supports the NIEM State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Tiger Team (SLTT) and actively engages in the NIEM Technical Architecture Committee (NTAC) and Harmonization Workgroup efforts. The NIEM Biometric Domain (NBD) provided extensive outreach to communities of interest, government agencies, and various NIEM domains to promote NIEM utilization and implementation. The NBD team is working with the OBIM DNA project implementation team to co-ordinate with FBI CODIS on harmonizing DNA elements across CODIS and the NIEM biometrics domain.

DHS OBIM, as the NBD Steward, facilitates the NBD Working Group (NBDWG) biweekly meetings to bring together NIEM and Biometrics SME's, DoD, DOJ, and NIST to mature the DNA standard. This was a multi-year coordination, collaboration, and consensus process which focused on the addition of DNA kinship verification by using pedigree to identify familial relationships. **This effort was in support of the prevention** 

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**of human trafficking on the border**. Approved changes to the NBD model during this process were submitted formally to the NBAC for harmonization during several NIEM releases.

In addition to consistently providing new content updates for NIEM releases, they also produce a polished quarterly newsletter informing constituents about NIEM as well as their own domain. Keeping a pulse on the community, the team solicits relevant topics of interest from the NBD Executive Committee members which includes DoD, DOJ, and NIST.

Most recently they designed a GitHub repository for the '.fsax open-source project requiring collaboration between NIST, NIEM, SME's and DNA Vendors There, they shared several key documents for reuse by the community:

- Standards Development Plan
- Governance Process Plan
- Domain Management Plan
- Enterprise Level Data Standards Execution Plan
- "How to" Guide for Creating NIEM Biometric Exchange

The NIEM Biometrics Domain stands out for Best Domain Stewardship.

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As we close the announcements for Best of NIEM awards, I want to point out that these four winners demonstrated significant accomplishments with noteworthy contributions to the use, -- growth, -- and adoption of NIEM.

Each represents organizations with unique responsibilities – regardless of their jurisdiction and size and each are using NIEM to solve real-world problems – enabling timely, accurate, and consistent data sharing and reporting – with greatly improved performance and increased efficiencies

Ladies and Gentlemen – I give you our **2021 Best of NIEM award winners**.

Thank you.

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