



Information Sharing Capacity Review, Assessment, and Planning

Client Agency

Cook County Circuit Court
Juvenile Probation Department
Cook County, Illinois

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Dates Services Provided

December 11-13, 2007

Overview of Technology Assistance Request

The Juvenile Probation Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (the "Department"), has envisioned the future implementation of electronic exchanges with existing partners to improve their information sharing capacity. The Department acquired support for this effort in the form of a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as part of an initiative entitled "Reclaiming Futures". The Department also requested assistance from the BJA Training and Technical Assistance Program, administered as technology assistance (TA) engagements through the IJIS Institute, to provide guidance on how it could best position itself to start developing standards-based exchange capabilities.

The TA Team identified four priorities for establishing a baseline to modernize the information technology infrastructure and begin development of critical intraorganizational system integration and interorganizational information exchange capabilities:

- ◆ Juvenile Enterprise Management System (JEMS) rollout to achieve operational efficiency;
- ◆ Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) interface with JEMS;



- ◆ Implementation of an imaging capability; and
- ◆ Improved document management by leveraging automated tools.

Type of Technology Assistance Services Provided

Specific activities performed by the TA Team included:

- ◆ Review of Business Issues
 - Discuss the role of the TA Team and its typical assistance projects to support standards-based interorganizational electronic data exchanges.
 - Identify potential project participants, roles, interests, and constraints.
 - Determine high-level interface needs and the potential scope of future data exchanges.
 - Lay out the purpose and intent of desired information exchanges and identify the challenges and issues regarding information sharing.
 - Review related policy matters relevant to system security and operation.
- ◆ Review of Technical Issues
 - Establish how existing system capabilities facilitate or restrict interface development and implementation, specifically as they relate to the following systems:
 - The Cook County Juvenile Detention Center system (currently not fully operational);
 - The Department's AS 400-based Juvenile Enterprise Management System (JEMS);
 - The Department's personal computers that are currently not yet capable of accessing to shared word processing documents;
 - The Department's inability to synthesize the probation information contained in databases stored on separate systems (IBM AS 400 and Microsoft Windows); and
 - The Department's use of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI™).
 - Examine system issues and how these might facilitate or restrict interface development and implementation.
 - Review any other information that would facilitate planning efforts and recommendations on the best strategy for interface implementation.

Overview of Observations and Recommendations

A copy of the TA report can be found on the IJIS Institute website at www.ijis.org.



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