CASE STUDY – LONG BEACH

"Justice Lab"

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1.   Background and concept

In January 2017, the Long Beach Office of Civic Innovation (OCI) shifted its efforts from Economic Development to Public Safety. To support the Long Beach Police Department, OCI researched data-driven solutions pertaining to high-frequency utilizers. High-frequency utilizers are individuals cited or booked 11 or more times over a five-year period. The primary objective of this research effort is to better understand the experience of high-frequency utilizers and develop solutions with the Public Safety Continuum. The entire Long Beach community benefits from the City's Public Safety Continuum, which includes Police, Fire, Health, Development Services, City Prosecutor's Office, and other key departments, all contributing to make Long Beach a safer city.

In January 2018, the City launched a first-of-its-kind Justice Lab to provide new tools to first responders to divert high utilizers out of the criminal justice system and toward treatment, care, and other resources. The Justice Lab includes several initiatives designed to help break the cycle of incarceration. Prominent among them is the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), which convenes City and County service providers to better coordinate and reduce the burden on individuals accessing and navigating services such as mental health, substance abuse, and homeless services. Other initiatives include Clinician in Jail, Long Beach GUIDES (Government User Integrated Diversion Enhancement System), Data Sharing Agreement, Data Mart, and CSULB Rising Scholars Education Lab.

2.   Goal

The goal of the Justice Lab is to reduce recidivism rates for misdemeanants in Long Beach. The City of Long Beach, CA is committed to digital equity and ensuring all residents have access to digital literacy training, the internet, and technology devices to be successful in society, democracy, and the economy regardless of their background and identity.

To accomplish this, cities must have internal policies in place to use data in a collaborative, analytical, and meaningful way. In Long Beach, our Open Data Program and Data Governance Initiatives have created forums where City Departments can smoothly share data, often protected under privacy laws, with one another in a way that improves outcomes for Long Beach residents. What follows is a case study of the **Long Beach Justice Lab** that highlights the City's development of data sharing agreements and data standards.

3.   Data Sharing Challenges and Strategies

One challenge that emerged early on was data sharing. The Justice Lab brings together multiple stakeholders from various City Departments and external agencies together. To meet the goals of the initiative, multiple datasets must be brought together to cross-check information about Police, Health, Fire, City Prosecutor's Office, and other departments to help coordinate much-needed wraparound services for residents.

To enable sharing of data cross-departmentally between members of the MDT, the City adopted an [inter-departmental data sharing agreement](#) in May 2017 to easily share data for our various programs. The agreement allows City-based providers to access needed information, including records protected by health privacy laws such as HIPAA, to better serve residents who frequently interact with the justice system.

The data sharing agreement provided a policy framework, but the next step was development of an actual system for data sharing, which would need to in include workflows, administrative permission setting, and data tables. The Justice Lab required a system that could accomplish the following goals:

- Enable civil servants, researchers, and policy makers to work together by integrating data.
- Link individual level data across criminal justice, healthcare, and social services.
- Streamline data collection and performance reporting for stakeholders.
- Provide the ability to conduct quick analysis.
- Allow Departments to determine the access level of any data that's shared and uploaded onto the platform.
- Help jurisdictions identify and assist those individuals who repeatedly cycle through consuming a disproportionate amount of social resources.
- Inform policy decisions based on how government services are delivered and consumed.

4.   Next steps

In January 2020, The Justice Lab began exploring use of the Open Lattice platform for data integration and information sharing. The platform will provide the City with a framework to upload and share data between participating departments to conduct analysis, as authorized by the City's Inter-Department Data Sharing policy. In addition, The Justice Lab is working with the City's Technology and Innovation Department to ensure that the data infrastructure put in place is in accordance with Citywide data and infrastructure standards for the sustainability of the work.