March 2021 Brigade Project Standup

Presenters:

David Crawford, CfA

ClientComm - May 2017. Text tool to connect parole officers etc. and their clients. Has mostly been handed off to Gov partners

"Classic" Clear My Record - essentially an intake form. Clearmyrecord.org - enter info about yourself, passes record along to a public defender's office. Public defender follows up and helps walk you through the process.

Automatic record clearance - August 2017, cannabis is legalized in CA, law requires record clearance. CfA started with DA Gascon, working on BEAR (automated record clearance). Helps DAs figure out which records are eligible for expungement.

CGLA Tool - Feb 2020. Petition tool in Cook Cty, IL (Chicago). Streamlines court data for Legal Aid use.

Current projects:
- Assisting courts in implementing automatic record clearance laws.

Code for BTV: Jake Durell, Micah Mutrux

https://codeforbtv.github.io/expunge-vt/

Activity on expungement law in VT has heated up in the last few years, due largely to the work of Legal Aid.

Legal Aid helps people fill out forms manually, frequently have to switch forms. VT does a good job of making sure records are not exposed to public, but also poses challenges to automating access.

Code for BTV built a Chrome extension to help navigate records, as well as generating expungement and sealing petitions. Attorneys, legal aid attorneys, and the court itself can use this tool to generate all the paperwork they need to proceed with expungement.

Over two years, this tool has helped expand clearance from about 2,500 expungements/year to over 14,000. Tool helps expungement clinics run much more efficiently.

Open Data Delaware: Eli Turkel, Eric Truitte, Abby Samuels
CourtBot: started with the Code for Tulsa project--learned about it at 2018 Brigade Congress. Wanted to replicate their success in DE.

Hack nights going virtual freed up time to focus on larger projects--Eli connected with Abby (legal aid lawyer) about the possibility of implementing CourtBot in DE. Partners with CLASI (legal aid), Network Delaware, Delaware Courts.

Eviction court: 72% of eviction rulings are entered by default (meaning, the tenant didn't appear in court).

Program will allow a tenant to enroll to receive text message reminders about their case. They will receive a text reminder of the date, time, and location of the hearing.

Currently, there is no API to access to court records, using Beautiful Soup in python to scrape records

CfA Community Fellowship - Santa Barbara: Victor Sauceda, Jeanmarie Levy, Tim Malstead
Team Santa Barbara all have lived and personal experience with reentry.

At probation office, resources are available as paper forms on a bulletin board. The goal is to take these resources and transition them to a centralized, digital location that is easier to access for SB residents.

A key to successful reentry is involvement and ownership in your community.

So far:
- Began with qualitative research with people reentering
- Collected list of client pain points: feeling helpless, isolated; lack of housing, transportation, food, etc; barriers that limit access to information

Putting humans at the center of everything we make

The reentry journey map helps to highlight areas that were prime opportunities for improvement

Built a searchable resource map, with the ability to send resource info to you by SMS. App also available in English and Spanish, and can autodetect which language your browser is set to.

Also started Code for Santa Barbara!

Q&A

How do you approach it if the court data isn't easily available/ accessible online?
- BTV: The data is sitting somewhere. It's about making key relationships, then showing the value of leveraging the data.
- BTV: ExpungeVT was interesting from a data access point - we didn't have access. We used a chrome extension to help those that have access to this data. This is a limit that users need to have access, but it worked for us since it's
- Boston: It wasn't a lack of electronic records - it was a lack of partners interested in collaborating. We started by building an eligibility checker.