2/1/2017: Recap of DDJ Convening in Salt Lake County, Utah and Loom Demonstration

Presenters:

- Holly Howat, Executive Director Lafayette Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Lafayette Parish, La.
- Michael Daniels, Policy Director to Commissioner Marilyn Brown, Franklin County, Ohio
- David Ryan, Policy Director, Middlesex County, Mass.
- Peter J. Koutoujian, Sheriff, Middlesex County, Mass.
- Matthew Tamayo-Rios, Developer, Loom

Key Takeaways: DDJ is taking shape across the country with counties, cities and states seeing meaningful changes in the way their communities respond to individuals with mental illnesses. New partners are developing the technology and tools that support communities in using data to improve decision-making and processes.

The call started with updates from three counties that attended the DDJ Convening in Salt Lake County, Utah on January 24th. Prior to arriving at the convening, these communities were asked to provide an update on their progress, using these questions as a guide:

- Since signing-on to the initiative, what progress do you feel has been achieved? What are some of your successes? What are you most proud of?
- What are your biggest priorities for 2017? Were you able to use data and analysis help decide these priorities?
- Are there ideas or practices that have been difficult to implement? What are the greatest barriers to implementation?
- What lessons learned would you like to share with other communities and DDJ partners? What do you know now that you wish you would have known before?

Holly Howat: Lafayette Parish has a population of about 240,000 residents. The parish has a long history of pretrial diversion, but recently started moving towards prearrest diversion. The parish took time to evaluate their capacity and brought together stakeholders. A key agency to the process was the local 211 call number, which does crisis counseling, information dissemination and referrals. The 211 call number was the first partner to really offer help. They have received great support from the local HIV clinic, which offered space and a part-time counselor, and the local hospital said they could offer free prescriptions for indigent individuals. Lafayette Parish is able to provide prearrest diversion on an annual budget of less than $50,000.

Michael Daniels: Franklin County has made a commitment to Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), particularly in providing CIT for sheriff officers. Any person that joins the sheriff's office goes through CIT training as part of the on-boarding curriculum. The county is working on rolling out CIT training to officers that were hired before the new practice went into place. Franklin County has found that this has reduced the number of incidents and inmate/staff conflicts in the jail since new hires start in corrections. The county has seen a 40 percent reduction in incidents in the jail for use of force. The

county is also rolling out mental health first aid in their probation department and fire department. The county is moving from a culture of conflict to one of de-escalation.

David Ryan and Sheriff Koutoujian: The biggest success of Middlesex County is the diversity of stakeholders, demonstrating the need and desire to address this issue. The county struggles with a lack of political will from policymakers to implement new practices, even with reports, data and the capacity to treat individuals. The county wish they knew the benefits of reliance on local practitioners in the community and simply picking up the phone to make a call to get stakeholders on-board. Additionally, the county wishes they knew how to leverage Medicaid at the outset to help the justice involved population. It is important to know the kind operation each county has and what works in one county will not always work in another.

The second half of the call included a demonstration of a new tool developed specifically with DDJ communities in mind.

Matthew Tamayo-Rios: Loom is a venture capital backed team that works to improve operational and policy outcomes for government through secure data sharing. Loom can help a jurisdiction manage, search and share sensitive datasets while also allowing internal and external parties to request and access data to streamline workflow. Through Loom, individuals within an organization (e.g., a county) can request access to datasets uploaded by others in the same organization, resulting in department to department sharing. Departments have control over who has permission to access certain data elements.

The data sharing platform also allows for jurisdictions with legal data sharing agreements in place to incorporate that into the platform when sharing data. The Loom platform has the ability to translate the sharing agreement and control access as stipulated in the agreement. Thus, Loom offers a way to share data while giving the user controlled access on what they share. The program offers local governments the opportunity to organize and manage the roles of each agency or stakeholder in the data sharing process.

Q&A

Q. Once jurisdictions have the agreements in place, what do they do? What is the process of getting the data into the platform? And how does the platform work with identifiers especially if you have multiple identifiers?

A. Loom has built out the data integration tool to streamline getting data into the platform. It has the ability to import data and Loom works with jurisdictions to help them get data into the system. They are working on a more visual tool to make it more possible for analysts to define the mapping between their data and the mapping in the system. Also, Loom is working to make the program easy to use, so that jurisdictions don't have to be a programmer or IT person to know how to use the data platform. Loom will work with jurisdictions throughout the process to model the data correctly and provide a consistent data model.

Q. Have you worked with any jurisdictions and their homeless data? How did you use it?

A. We began on this project a few months ago and have been working to build out this tool, but have not had the opportunity to build out a part addressing homelessness. We have been entirely focused on building out the platform but are looking for feedback from jurisdictions as to what they need specifically.

Q. Is Loom on the cloud? If a jurisdiction uploads their data on the cloud, what is the security? Can this be hosted on a server at the county-level?

A. It is possible to host this on your own server. We strongly recommend against it is because a large part of the system is that you can share not only within your jurisdiction but across jurisdictions and with researchers. It is possible to run it locally, but because of technical components, jurisdictions, especially IT staff, would then need to learn more about the technical side. The system does periodic backups and snapshots of the data. The security on the system is encrypted and complies with HIPPA requirements. But the data is always accessible. There is also monitoring of the platform in place as a best practice to ensure no one is trying to break into the system.

Q. When we talk about giving data permission and requesting data, can you only see requests for permission in the platform or do you get an email that says a person is looking for permission?

A. Individuals will get an email when a person requests permission to review a dataset and it sends you a link to the site to login and complete the process. The mailing service is an open source code and available now for folks to check it out now.