Efficiency through Mobility: The Benefits of Mobile Connectivity



19th Judicial Circuit Lake County, IL Winnie Webber

Why Think of Mobility?

Efficiency through Mobility increases productivity, and saves both time and money.



Objectives & Expectations

- Organizational Overview
- Focus area
- A Roadmap to Mobility
- Identify the need for mobile technology
- Review different options available
- Review challenges / issues
- Review policies and procedures
- What's Next... ||

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County, Illinois





Our Organization

VISION STATEMENT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LAKE COUNTY

The vision of the Lake County Judicial System is to be one truly independent and empowered branch of government providing a fair and responsive system of justice while protecting rights and liberties, upholding and interpreting the law, and resolve disputes peacefully, fairly and effectively in Lake County, Illinois. This includes an effectively managed Judiciary and Judicial System that fully utilizes technological advancement and alternative dispute resolution to best serve the public, while seeking the highest possible understanding, trust and confidence.

Our Organization

- Who are we?
 - 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County, IL
 - General Jurisdiction Court
- Organizational Chart
 - Chief Judge
 - 15 Circuit Judges
 - 24 Associate Judges
 - Court Administration
 - 6 Divisions



State of Illinois – Lake County



- Illinois Population –
 12,882,135 (2013 est.)
- 102 Counties
- 23 Judicial Circuits
- Lake County Population – 703,462 (2010 est.)
- 19th Judicial Circuit



Focus Area – Pretrial Bond Services Unit

- Pretrial Program created in 1983 with 3 Pretrial Bond Officers
- Program provides Bond Report information of the defendant to help the Court with its decision of whether or not to release or detain an individual.
- Each Bond Report includes an extensive criminal history investigation, face to face interview, collateral contacts, verifications and the actual write up for the court.

Focus Area – Workflow



- Process initiated by Court Order; Attorney or Pretrial Officer
- Interview process is done in jail using pen and paper
- Verifications is done via phone calls, system checks
- Manager Reviews Bond Report
- Submit 3 copies of report to Court (1- Judge, 1- Defense & 1- Prosecutor)

Focus Area – Pretrial Bond Services Unit

- In 1986, Pretrial Bond Supervision Unit was added with 3 Pretrial Bond Supervision Officers
- Estimated average of 1,800 Bond Reports submitted / yr.
- Bond Reports are in handwritten form
- Pen, Paper Form and clipboard



Sample Bond Report

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Pretrial Bond Reports



Pretrial Bond Report Challenges & Issues - Traditional

- Inadequate paper storage due to lack of office space
- Hard to read reports due to handwriting styles of each pretrial bond officer



- No electronic record of bond report for reference
- No easy way to reference a previously submitted report except to go through the hard copy files



Pretrial Bond Report
Challenges & Issues - Traditional
Started in 1995, tried different technology options to capture information to generate bond report

- Iaptop,
- voice recorders,
- voice to text



- Use of Technology was not conducive in the interview area due to lack of work space, noise and other resources not available
- Redundancy of creating a new bond report when a completed report was previously done









Transition From Pen To Digital Ink - Benefits

- In 2007, transition to a well-formatted form and Digital Pen
- Editing made easier using the application
- Data Re-usability
- No Redundancy of data entry
- Searchable Record
- Bond Report is clear & readable
 Printed format
- Increase efficiency & speed
- Adoption from Users made Easy
- All is Good, however...



Pretrial Bond Report Challenges & Issues – Digital Ink

- Well formatted paper form is still the medium of data capture
- Still Requires to print forms, cartridge cost, etc.
- Cost of Paper
- Storage is still an issue prior to paper shredding
- Forms are not re-usable







From Digital Ink to Mobile Device

- In 2015, decided to take on a mobile solution, i.e. Mi-Co Forms Solutions
- The concept/process is still the same, but instead of well formatted paper and digital pen, use of tablet with a stylus



From Digital Ink to Mobile Device

- In 2015, decided to take on a mobile solution, i.e. Mi-Co Forms Solutions
- The concept/process is still the same, but instead of well formatted paper and digital pen, use of tablet with a stylus (a Paper-like Mobile Form)









Pretrial Bond Report

Challenges & Issues – Mobile Device

- Will run both systems in Hybrid mode
- No Wireless connectivity (inside the Jail)
- User Acceptance/Adaptability CHANGE
- Training, Training, Training, ...
- Bond Reports are still in Paper form
- Opportunities







A Roadmap to Mobility Implementation

Rules of Engagement – User Acceptance
 Set Mobile policies and procedures in place
 Training, Training, Training, ...



Assumptions & Next Steps ...

Promote Green Initiative

- System Integration with other Case Mgt. System
- Promote Accuracy and Consistency
- Support Electronic Record to be the Official Record and not Paper form (based on IL Supreme Court Rule)
- Reduced capital and operational costs no more printing forms & storage
- Promote mobility to other areas where paper forms are heavily use, i.e. Juvenile Probation, Kids Korner, Center for Self-Help, etc.

In Summary:

- Efficiency through Mobility increases productivity and saves both time and money.
- The clarity of the bond report and the speed on how they can process the cases in bond court contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the judicial system
- Overtime, this process will continue to support and improve case processing and actual court proceedings much more in the future.

Literature

As noted in the literature preface section of the National Institute of Justice, the authors said that

"...well-designed and well-managed pretrial services programs have the potential to help justice systems function more fairly and more effectively for all citizens."



Barry Mahoney, Bruce D. Beaudin, John A. Carver III, Daniel B. Ryan, Richard B. Hoffman, National Institute of Justice, Pretrial Services Programs: Responsibilities and Potential, March 2001, page vi



Efficiency increases productivity and saves both time and money.

Contact Information



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Disclaimer

Please Note that all devices and software mentioned and used is not an endorsement nor a marketing promotion; it is only for demonstration purposes ONLY for this workshop presented at the Mi-Co Mobility Summit 2016.