

Tyler Odyssey Excellent Award 2012

Common Integrated Justice System (CIJS)

In 2003 Collin County realized the need to move off their 30+, in-house written, Jail and Case Manager System. In March 2004 Collin County participated in a collaborative project among the member of the CUC (Conference of Urban Counties) to implement a "common," standardized justice system for county government. The project was initiated in 2002 with a feasibility study to determine if the member counties could benefit through a collaborative justice systems project. In 2004, thirteen counties worked together to develop a common set of requirements for integrated justice. The counties determined that about eighty-five percent (85%) or more of the justice processes were consistent from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. The counties then collaborated on a competitive procurement that resulted in the unanimous selection of Tyler Technologies as the company with the best court system available to meet the needs of large Texas counties including Collin County. This allowed Collin County to acquire several components of integrated justice software, from criminal investigation through arrest to prosecution and courts and, subsequently, and to jail management. This opportunity allowed for a significant savings of \$1.3 million for Collin County. In addition to significant cost savings, the Collin County would collaborate with the other Counties to save on enhancements or improvements to the software that are shared by the participants as well as developing standardized code tables and procedures for justice system management.

Urban Counties members would have undertaken costly efforts to replace legacy "stovepipe" justice systems built on out-of-date technology. The Urban Counties recognized that there were substantial potential benefits to be achieved through the coordination and standardization of these projects. If the counties performed these projects independently, the total cost would have been enormous. This cost was reduced dramatically through the coordination and leveraging of efforts, and standardization of the work-products.

Collin County had old legacy (green screen) software systems written in 1970's for courts and jail. These systems did not provide document management (imaging of case records), work flow, credit card for payment, forms & limited reporting tools, etc. The applications ran on old hardware that was at end of life and no longer supported. They had no online services for businesses or citizens. Although the old system had some integration it was limited and need more. We had 5 party database maintained by separate departments causing the multi-data entry.

Collin has Jail, Case Manager, Odyssey Financial Manager, Prosecution, Hot Checks. Departments are:

Jail

Constable

District Clerks & Courts - Civil & Criminal

County Clerks & Courts - Civil & Criminal

Justice of the Peace - 5 courts

Juvenile Court

District Attorneys

Collin County plan to implement every 12 to 18 months each court type. So we did Probate/ Mental Court live by 2006, all of Civil by 2008, all JP's by 2009, and all of Criminal by 2010. We complete on December 2010 and have the complete system operational.

The outcome was very successful and has many benefits. We saw efficiencies in Indigent Defense, single party database, bonds, warrants, final sentencing, user friendly usage, scanning, integrations to 3rd party systems, criminal reporting to DPS, new functionality & information capturing we did not have, and many more.

Just moving from the 30+ year old Case Manager & Jail in-house system to a new application was a miracle in itself. We wanted to replace the foundation first then we start to building. Getting employees to embrace this change, having the County and Elected Officials to support it, and a vendor that is are partner to lead the way contributed to our success.

Two of the most important advantages of the Odyssey system is the single party and the seamless integration. Just these two alone has allowed for a person to flow through the Justice System at Collin County in a very accurate and effeminacy process. This actually reduced the need to "hunt" for the person or their information. We strongly encourage a peer too look at the enterprise level of their County and the benefits a fully integrated jail and case manager system brings to the Criminal Justice Process in their County. It's made a big difference in Collin County.