Survey Suite Data Management Software for the Progress Tracker Survey

Description
The SurveySuite data management software is a Windows application used by transition specialists to administer the Progress Tracker section of the Family In Crisis completed case history. SurveySuite generates a database and a simple user interface built with Net technology. Each transition specialist uses the application to generate Progress Tracker questionnaire responses on his/her desktop, make changes and print out the data for final project reporting. The software is used to manage and store data in a single database and to facilitate data export.

Progress Tracker Questionnaires
The SurveySuite application employs common types of data entry such as radio buttons, checkboxes, drop down lists, and open text fields to enter data on a Progress Tracker survey. Validation of numeric, integer, and date values; restricted numeric ranges and integer length; and other custom validation expressions are performed to ensure data quality. The application also allows data entry to follow the same sequence in the log book (or skip patterns) occurring throughout the Progress Tracker survey.

Progress Tracker and Young Person (YP) Data
Young Person (YP) data and Progress Tracker survey attributes such as question text, response choices, skip patterns, and validation rules are stored in a relational database. SurveySuite software dynamically accesses and updates the database tables as Progress Tracker data are entered.

YP responses are tagged with identifiers for questionnaire (YP Info, Question Id, Domain Ids, Entity/Exit Tracking), question, and YP respondent ID codes. The database table structure allows storage of multiple interviews for each Young Person. Responses are automatically tagged with ID codes for the transition specialist who entered the data. The application allows transition specialists to manage and edit data. Previously entered records can be easily retrieved by an editor to view, update, or delete.

YP Responses and Data File Export
Response data can be exported to a comma delimited text file (csv). Each row in the data file corresponds to the responses for a single Progress Tracker interview. Data files can be exported with or without numeric codes for missing values. Users also have the option of designating a placeholder (e.g., “*” or “?”) for missing values for data export. Data files are also exported in SPSS or other statistical software packages for further data manipulation and analysis.

SurveySuite Deployment for Progress Tracker Data Entry and Management
For Progress Tracker survey data entry and management, SurveySuite software is designed to be a stand-alone desktop application used by multiple transition specialists. Each transition specialist enters data into his/her own laptop and maintains his/her own locally stored YP Progress Tracker data. Data are only aggregated by manually combining data files generated with the data export feature. While similar to Excel, SurveySuite reduces the need for server administration, internet access, or a shared network among Progress Tracker transition specialists and/or the survey administrator.

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Centralizing the Collection of Evaluation and Program Performance Data
Project Ho`omahalala faced many data collections challenges. First, the administrative and evaluation staff, service providers, youth support organization, and family support organization are all housed in separate locations throughout O`ahu. In addition, being family friendly, youth centered, and community based means that staff are working in the community, during unannounced hours. Compounding these issues is the fact that various personnel from each agency are responsible for providing data related to evaluation and program performance.

CAMHMS Infrastructure
The Hawaii Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHMS) is not only a portal of entry for Project Ho`omaha, it is also the funding agency. Thus it is critical for both the Project and the IRB to establish an information system that will allow for the easy acquisition and utilization within the system-of-care.

CAMHMS Information Management System (CAMHMS) provides the organizational foundation for CAMHMS’s outcome tracking, utilization management, and accountability systems, as well as billing and government compliance activities. CAMHMS is a web-based information system that allows treatment facilities to conduct real-time reviews of youth’s services, to measure and evaluate the performance of multiple facets of internal health systems, and to systematically manage billing and payment transfers.

In addition to the information stored at each facility, CAMHMS also allows contracted provider agencies to upload information through a HIPAA-compliant Health Transactions Service for billing and monthly therapeutic progress and practice data.

CAMHMS Outputs
To improve function and data-driven administrative and clinical decision-making, CAMHMS also has two core data displays. The first uses an Oracle database platform which “flattens” data from the data repository (see Figure 1) into over 200 different pre-defined reports. Reports are used by CAMHMS personnel to make data-informed administrative and clinical decisions. For example, if an intake coordinator wanted to quickly view current care coordinator caseloads to determine who should be assigned a new case, she could select a report that identifies the youth assigned to each care coordinator at her center (see Figure 2).

Additionally, CAMHMS features a clinical reporting module or “dashboard” that allows for an on-demand, user-friendly, graph-based reporting of child status and treatment patterns accessed at the site-level by care coordinators. Through an analogy with the instrument panel for driving a car, these reports have become known as the “clinical dashboards” for driving cars. This dashboard uses a combination of Excel and Oracle to perform a “data dump” which populates an “infinite” dashboard report.

Figure 3 illustrates a global individual case summary that includes diagnosis, basic outcomes, interagency involvement, and the levels of care received. Users can “drill-down” into increasing depth of information, including state rules, progress ratings, and even history of specific therapeutic practices.

Finally, flat tables are routinely served from the data repository and are used to monitor performance and service utilization and to conduct system evaluation and audit.

Systems Evaluation and Sustainability
In the interest of sustainability, CAMHMS will be adapted to track the service experience of all enrolled youth, including both internal and external referrals. In addition, the flat table design of CAMHMS will allow the system to make fiscal and program decisions with regard to the delivery of transition services.

Technological Solutions for Integrating and Managing Evaluation and Program Performance Data