Automating Data Collection

Using advancing technology to save time and effort

Performance-based Standards (PbS) is unique among standards and accreditation programs because it uses both quantitative and qualitative information to measure conditions of confinement and the quality of life in juvenile facilities. PbS has used modern web technologies to develop tools to help juvenile justice professionals better gather and analyze data quickly and intuitively and has established one of the largest, timely national databases. To expand and ease data collection, PbS offers two tools to automate the process: the PbS application programming interface to collect quantitative record data and the PbS survey kiosks to collect qualitative data from youths, staff and families.

Application Programming Interface (API)
Transferring data to PbS from an existing data source

Many quantitative data elements required by PbS can be found in existing state or agency information systems. An API gives software developers the tools and information needed to create a program that sends data from the existing data system over to PbS. PbS' API is completely free. The API accepts incident data, youth record data and administrative data. To get started:
- Contact your IT staff. The API is a REST based transfer of JSON data via HTTP so you should make sure that your agency has a developer familiar with this process.
- Build a team that includes members of your IT staff as well as facility staff who are familiar with the PbS process.
- Map data elements to determine how much data required by PbS exists.

Resources available for working with the API include a Software Development Kit (SDK), well-written documentation, a working demo application for .NET developers and technical support from the PbS.

Survey Kiosks
A touch-screen terminal for youths, staff and families to take surveys

The PbS kiosk is a touch-screen computer terminal that youths, staff and families can use to answer survey questions directly into the website and replaces the need for staff to collect and enter paper surveys. The survey process using the kiosk works the same way as it does on paper but eliminates the need to do any data entry. PbS kiosk users have reported taking a survey at a kiosk takes less time to complete, helps to foster anonymity and increases overall participation from youths, staff and families.

Each kiosk includes a key-locking secure stand, protective casing, touch-screen computer, custom configured software and separate documentation for kiosk administrators and kiosk users. The kiosks are available for purchase through PbS. Contact us to receive a formal quote or purchase order.