Customer Impact:
James A. Karnes Corrections Center, Franklin County, Ohio

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Situation:

When Geoff Stobart became Chief, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, he knew the James A. Karnes Corrections Center needed an official classification system. Prior to his leadership, there was no official classification solution and inmates were simply separated by misdemeanors and felonies, posing serious risks to both staff and inmates.

Challenges:

With 2600 beds and violent and nonviolent inmates being housed together, incidents were occurring fairly regularly. In addition, there wasn't consistency in classification and it took longer than it should to classify inmates. Additionally, because inmates were not being classified properly, the facility was failing the state jail inspection which impacted reputation and funding.

Chief Stobart engaged the National Institute of Corrections about an objective classification solution. Taking an academic approach, Chief Stobart tested both the Decision Tree classification tool and the point additive classification model on several hundred jail management system records. He found there was more consistency and less subjectivity with the Decision Tree model and knew that's what he wanted to implement to greatly sophisticate the classification function and enhance the safety of the facility.

Solutions:

equivant Corrections was one of the few providers offering the Decision Tree and, after Stobart talked with jail commanders around the country about what they were doing for classification, he decided to pursue equivant Corrections' Classification Management solution which used the Decision Tree. The solution connects seamlessly to the facility's jail management system and Chief Stobart now has a Sergeant managing the classification efforts at the facility. This sophisticated classification solution has helped propel the facility into a model corrections center with innovative programming.

Impact:

According to Chief Stobart, the Northpointe Decision Tree has "made classification faster and more effective." He notes that proper classification has made the facility safer with far less incidents. "With accurate classification, we are able to house inmates together with similar risks and needs and can drive specific programming to these inmates, instead of having centralized programs. For example, we have classrooms in every housing unit so in our veteran's pod, we can provide PTSD programming." This innovative programming delivery, the foundation of which is proper classification, is one reason this facility is a National Institute of Corrections pilot program. "equivant Corrections is a collaborative partner," said Chief Stobart. "They understand what we want to achieve and help us customize our software solutions to our needs. We've been a customer for over a decade because of shared priorities: safety, effectiveness, and innovation."

> *They decided on equivant Corrections' Northpointe Decision Tree because it is court-verified, easy to use, and easy to implement.*

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