

Clinical Management Software Suite



Data**Decisions**,Inc.

Data Decisions™ Case Study

Central Valley Autism Project, Inc. - Modesto CA

The Central Valley Autism Project, Inc. is a clinical and research replication site, replicating the landmark work of Dr. Ivar Lovaas (1987,1993), demonstrating the effects of his program with young children with autism. CVAP, Inc. is organized to provide Early Intensive Behavioral Treatment for children with autism. The intervention curriculum includes all areas of development and particularly focuses on language and cognitive development, socialization and play skills, social language, self-help, reduction of inappropriate behaviors, and generalization.

The Business

Between 1993 and 2000, California saw 425% more cases of autism in schools. In proportion to the rate of autism increase, institutions providing treatment or education received less funding than expected¹. CVAP, Inc. employs roughly 90 tutors who are directly involved in the treatment of children with autism. Unlike a standard 9-5 office workday, a tutor spends 100% of his/her time out of the office and with the client at the client's home or in the center. With varied schedules across tutors and growing numbers of clients, scheduling shifts became difficult and significantly more time consuming. In addition, time sheets from the staff out in the field were faxed to the office for processing two times per month, resulting in over 400 sheets of paper per month to process. Finally, data collection, although accurate, was done manually and stored and analyzed from these hard copies. CVAP, Inc. found that they needed a more efficient way to gather required standardized information and reduce manual processes, while maintaining high quality of treatment of children with autism.

The Approach

The Data Decisions *Clinical Management Software Suite* takes advantage of the ubiquity of the Palm® Operating System, and its inexpensive hardware platform, to provide CVAP, Inc. with a fully portable and integrated technology solution. Data Decisions has developed for CVAP, Inc. two distinct software packages to resolve longstanding issues. The packages are the *Remote Employee Scheduling and time Tracking* (ezREST™) software package and the *Case Management/Program Monitoring* (CMPM™) software package. These two software packages make up the Data Decisions *Clinical Management Software Suite*. CMPM will guide the individual therapist in running the program for a client while giving supervisors an immediate window to the progress of clients. With the push of a button, ezREST provides a simple interface for therapist to record hours spent with clients and related activities while giving supervisors with instantaneous scheduling information, client billing and time reports.

The Advantage

Without the time burden of producing clinical reports, scheduling clients, processing timecards, and client billing, Supervisors and Directors will be able to spend more time on providing high quality care to the children and families, which they serve. Almost all of CVAP's business practices will streamline with efficient use of technology. Spending hours creating long and involved reports will be a thing of the past. In addition, early numbers indicate that over 200 hours in administrative time can be saved a month through effective monitoring and report generation.

With technology, CVAP, Inc. will spend less time and money on administration, payroll processing and client billing, allowing more time for individual client attention while serving more families. This feat would not be possible if not for the availability of an affordable, portable, and reliable software suite.

¹ From the Department of Education annual reports to the US Congress [Children with a diagnosis of autism aged 6-21] served by IDEA (Individuals With Disabilities Education Act).

Application Overview

The goal of the Data Decisions Clinical Management Software Suite is to provide therapist an automated and portable system for the creation of protocols involved with client treatment, and using these protocols to track the progress of a client over the course of the client's curriculum. This functionality is encapsulated in the Case Management/Program Monitoring (CMPM) software package. Complementing CMPM is the Remote Employee Scheduling and time Tracking (ezREST) software package. ezREST provides an interface for therapist to enter timecard information while staff can use CMPM to build schedules, create invoices and perform client billing.

The need for automation has become clear, and established goals appear in the list bellow.

- ◆ Consistent reporting to offer clear case to case comparisons
- ◆ Elimination of redundant programs and reports
- ◆ Reduced cost in data compilation and retrieval
- ◆ Easy creation of reports
- ◆ Instant access to funding and billing information

The Data Decisions Management Software Suite is built using both Microsoft's .NET technology, and Sun Microsystems J2ME to bring affordable ubiquitous computing to the hands of all CVAP's therapists. By using this technology in conjunction with current off the shelf office products, Data Decisions is able to quickly introduce an easy to learn, high-performance software suite.

Continued Advantage

While the management and productivity cost savings are significant, perhaps the greatest benefit of the Data Decisions Clinical Management Software Suite for families and children comes from the long-term research capabilities. The Clinical Management Software Suite allows for the complete collection and retention of all ranges of data. Having access to a complete digital data warehouse could have substantial impact on future research and analysis. For example, this data could be used to further advance program curriculum by:

- ◆ Determining trends and best practice techniques
- ◆ Standardized and organized therapy results for every child.
- ◆ Reduce research time needed to change curriculum.
- ◆ Develop trend analysis based on demographic data.

Contact Information

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