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Children in Foster Care Benefitting from Breakthroughs in Innovative Predictive Analytical Application to Improve Front-Line Social Work Practice

Tampa, FL – Mindshare Technology presented the results at the American Public Human Services Association's (APHSA) National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCW) meeting of a multi-year implementation involving more than 35,000 children in the Florida foster care system. As its enters its 3rd year of deploying a modular data technology platform utilizing machine learning to enhance the visibility of data contained within the state-managed and provider information databases, Mindshare has demonstrated that children in foster care can experience enhanced safety and accelerated episodes in foster care with a reduced chance of reentering through its focus on operationalizing predictive models through its ICARE system.

The Mindshare ICARE Predictive Analytical Module equips social workers to isolate the most vulnerable children based off a comprehensive understanding of the risks associated with maltreatment and poor outcomes, and refocus attention and priorities onto the specific symptons causing those risks. Florida leaders, including former Florida Department of Children and Families Secretary, George H Sheldon and former Detective of Florida Department Law Enforcement, Dr. James D. Sewell, identified the use of Mindshare as an "outstanding application for better analytical and case management for child welfare data."

Historically, business intelligence and program reporting focused solely on the past - on what has already occurred. Mindshare's critical differentiator is its focus on forward looking and the unique ability of its ICARE modular platform to surface potentially harmful issues that pose substantial and future risks to an individual child. The use of predictive analytics for the child welfare population, while still in its infancy relative to other human service populations, is continuing to be discussed and redefined. Often confused with standard business intelligence, predictive analytics represents an evolution from business intelligence in that it is more than mere statistical analysis, and is centered instead in data science that envelopes a process that is applied to refined sets of data. The Mindshare predictive analytical models are the result of three years of daily application to groups of individual children with remarkable positive results.

Proven results seen through the application of the Mindshare ICARE system include:

- Significant improvements in child safety and a reduction in the risk of reentry and recividism
- Improvement in compliance in more than 14 federally mandated performance measures
- Significant man-hours saved (approx. 12,000 man hours per year per county)
- Reduction in length of stay in foster care and the likelihood of "aging out" at age 18
- Improved awareness of harmful over-medication of harmful anti-psychotic medications

"Mindshare Technology is breaking new ground with how it is applying technology to liberate information across Child Welfare systems." says David Newel, CEO Nebraska Families Collaborative. "We're excited about working with Mindshare and embracing new approaches to making best use of the data that exists within our systems. Using the right technology is yet another way we can improve outcomes for children and families."

Mindshare continues to expand and refine its library of predictive models, including applications to determine which children are most likely to experience repeat maltreatment, prolonged stays in the foster care system and "age out", and the likelihood of re-entry into foster care after a reunification with family. The engineers at Mindshare are currently researching the fact patterns of young adult runaway's combined with their recovery episodes and establishing a new model to help identify the risk of young teenage girls exposure to human trafficking.

"Our predictive models are very unique in that we inject subject matter expertise that is generated from the very team that faces the family. This is an essential ingredient in using technology to assist in minimizing the gaps that currently exist across the larger system of care, while allowing the front line social workers to improve their decision making through greater visibility of disparate and siloed data systems". Greg Povolny, CEO Mindshare Technology

The Mindshare data technology platform is performing analytics for more than 18,000 individual children in the State of Florida, and approximately 32,000 annually.

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