LIT Presentation

1. Introduction (30 seconds)

1. Alessandra Ambrosio
2. Day Student
3. LIT Fellow
4. Family Advocacy Clinic
5. Michael DiFilippo
   1. Evening Student
   2. LIT Fellow
   3. Health Law Clinic
6. Problem (1 minute) - ALESSANDRA
   1. There are a myriad of public benefits programs and no adequate central hub to quickly determine eligibility. TAFDC, WIC, SNAP, MassHealth, you name it.
   2. The problem is that practitioners and clients often do not know of the programs available, let alone which benefits help there situation or which benefits they qualify for.
7. Context (1 minute) - MICHAEL
   1. We viewed the problem through the lens of the clinic programs here at Suffolk Law school.
   2. We work primarily with low income, indigent clients that can greatly benefit from these programs.
   3. And us students are new practitioners with little to no knowledge of the benefits our clients might be eligible for.
   4. Imagine you are helping a client attain a divorce and they express how difficult it is pay all their expenses. You want to advise them on potential programs to help, but you do not know where to begin.

1. Solution (1 minute) - ALESSANDRA
   1. The solution we came up with to tackle this clinical issue was a complex decision tree. It maps the series of questions we would ask clients to determine eligibility for various benefit programs.
   2. As you can see, the decision tree alone is very complex and relatively difficult to follow. We needed to make the solution more user friendly, otherwise the process would still be clunky and time consuming.
2. Platform (3 Slides) (1 minutes) - MICHAEL
3. We settled upon QnA Markup, developed by our very own Professor Colarusso.
4. QnA is a language that allows users, amongst other things, to develop an interactive decision tree.
5. It is a versatile tool that is available, for free, on the web.
6. As you can see, it allows you to program on the left-hand side of the screen and on the right-hand side, there is a preview of your work.
7. Product (1 minute)(3 Slides) - ALESSANDRA
8. This is what the flowchart becomes when integrated with the QNA Markup Program. It becomes an interactive questionnaire that leads the practitioner through eligibility requirements.
9. The QNA gathers the demographic information required for the individual benefit programs. You’ll answer questions about residency, citizenship, and more.
10. Throughout the QNA, you will be provided with information about the program, including websites and phone numbers. At the end of the QNA, you have the option of requesting an email with a list of action items so that you are given all of the provided information in one central location.
11. Sustainability (30 seconds) - MICHAEL
12. Continue to add more benefit programs to the QnA
13. Continue to gather user feedback from practitioners to improve the current QnA
14. Develop a plan for future clinic students and LIT Fellows to add and modify as needed
15. Eventually expand access to the general public
16. Questions?
17. CLOSING – BOTH (Alessandra and then Michael)
    1. We have a beta version of the QNA available on the web. Here’s the url. Feel free to test it out.
    2. Mike -> Poster Presentation