The Computerworld Honors Program

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Final Copy of Case Study

LOCATION:
Manassas, VA, US

ORGANIZATION:
Planned Systems International

YEAR:
2011

ORGANIZATION URL:
www.plan-sys.com

STATUS:
Laureate

PROJECT NAME:
Military Health System Learn (MHSLearn)

CATEGORY:
Training/Education

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Planned Systems International (PSI) was instrumental in the design and development of Military Health System Learn (MHS Learn) for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). MHS Learn is a centralized, web-based Learning Management System that provides consistent and timely training to the military medical workforce worldwide. MHS Learn is used by both the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This live application is currently used by over 170,000 students accessing hundreds of courseware titles and learning events. MHS Learn has an expanding collection of medically related course offerings and actively partners with other government agencies to provide quality training. The MHS Learn platform is one of the world's largest, and most innovative, implementations of Oracle Corporation's iLearning application. Prior to the launch of MHS Learn, the DoD and VA used a variety of "stovepipe" training systems and funded many redundant training initiatives. With over 400 DoD Military Treatment Facilities and 153 VA hospitals offering similar content, there was also no centralized way to review programs for costs or quality. Before MHS Learn, training overlaps and system nuances made it tough to find definitive information on any one topic…such as suicide prevention. It was also difficult to quickly launch mandatory training. For example, it could take individual military treatment facilities six to eight months to develop, test, and launch required staff training. Though our partnership, DoD and VA are deploying mandatory training within weeks. MHS Learn now provides access to medically related training from any location. It offers more than 1,200 courses online 24/7. The tool supports traditional classroom, Web-based training, "Webinars" and discussion forums. Key offerings on MHS Learn include: - Continuing medical, nursing, and general education credits - Staff development - Courses on transition support for Wounded Warriors - The latest in annual regulatory training MHS Learn also provides awareness tools and web-based training on Virtual Iraq. Virtual Iraq is a virtual reality exposure therapy system that provides mental health treatment to soldiers returning from war with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Exposure therapy has been shown to help PTSD sufferers confront their trauma and

guide the process that leads to emotional healing.

SOCIETAL BENEFITS

Through shared training, we are saving millions each year by recycling training initiatives. We estimate we are delivering cost avoidance for both DoD and VA of nearly $12 million dollars annually in redundant training while offering the latest in training technology such as animation, video, audio, and gaming scenarios.

PROJECT BENEFIT EXAMPLE

MHS Learn provides awareness tools and web-based training on Virtual Iraq, a virtual reality exposure therapy overseen by PSI's Telehealth Team. Virtual Iraq is a virtual reality exposure therapy system that provides mental health treatment to soldiers returning from war with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Exposure therapy has been shown to help PTSD sufferers confront their trauma and guide the process that leads to emotional healing. The therapy involves exposing PTSD sufferers to a virtual world where they re-experience the sights, sounds, and, even the smells of combat, helping them to confront their trauma in a controlled and safe environment. By gradually re-introducing the patient to the experiences that triggered the trauma, the memory becomes tolerable and the healing process begins. The MHS Learn web-based training, an Air Force Wounded Warrior initiative, will show practitioners how to use the Virtual Iraq hardware and software, and introduce them to ways of administering effective treatment sessions. The online training includes refresher courses on understanding and treating PTSD, as well as the clinical use of virtual reality MHS Learn also supports a module called Virtual Grand Rounds. Virtual Grand Rounds simulates treatment for Wounded Warriors, post-war symptoms, and assistive technology for rehabilitation of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with multiple trauma injuries. This grassroots effort created by Brooke Army Medical Center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, and Madigan Army Medical Center is presented live and recorded via Web video. Virtual Grand Rounds offered on MHS Learn, is a national model in the latest information sharing among medical leaders worldwide.

IS THIS PROJECT AN INNOVATION, BEST PRACTICE? Yes