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ENDING HOMELESSNESS

November 2018

Happy November Everyone!

Do you know what November is? November is National Homeless Awareness Month. I know that many of our communities are holding events to highlight and address the needs of those they serve. If your agency is holding or participating in a Homeless Awareness event feel free to email me kclark@caresny.org with the event details and I will make sure to share it on our HMIS Facebook page. If you haven't "liked" us on Facebook yet, you should! It's as easy as clicking the Facebook icon at the bottom of this newsletter.

HMIS Calendar

Monday November 12: CARES Inc. will be closed in honor of Veteran's Day

Wednesday November 14: HMIS New User Training 10:00 am at the CARES Inc office. If you would like to attend please contact Bill Robson wrobson@caresny.org or 518-489-4130 ext 120 to register

Thursday and Friday November 22 and 23: CARES Inc. will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday November 28: HMIS New User Training 1:00 pm Online. If you would like to attend please contact Bill Robson wrobson@caresny.org or 518-489-4130 ext 120 to register.

LSA Updates

Over the last month the HMIS team has been working diligently on database back end clean up to ensure successful LSA submissions.

Good News: We have completed this task and were able to local data one day before the deadline!

Not So Good News: **Move-In Dates:** If any move-in dates are missing for PH or RRH we will get the error, but because the data is deidentified, it's difficult to tell which households are being referred to. We are working with our software vendor to isolate and correct these issues. The number of these errors is fairly small and should be easily resolvable. **Bed Inventory:** Uploading PH and all (uploading and direct entry) RRH projects have not needed to have beds in our database. This changed when we received final specs for LSAs 3 weeks ago. To deal with this issue, we have created beds for all RRH direct entry projects. Yesterday, Foothold informed us that their script for transferring uploading agency beds to our database will not be ready before the final LSA deadline. Even though not having these beds created does not create a validation error, it does compromise LSA data and may lead to the rejection of the report (and thus may impact CoC NOFA points). Because of this, the HMIS team is now working to copy all beds from the home databases into ours and assign consumers appropriately. This is time consuming but will give us a much cleaner upload, so we're committed to trying to accomplish it before the final deadline of 11/30. We will keep everyone informed on any issues that arise in your community.

Data Completeness and Quality Reports

It's a new fiscal year, which means the first Data Completeness and Quality report for the month of October has been posted on our website. You can access the report by **clicking here**

This report is separated in two sections; (1) Data Completeness and (2) Data Quality.

Data Completeness: Refers to ensuring that each required data element has a "complete" response recorded for reporting purposes. In addition to a required element being left blank, responses of Client doesn't know, Client refused, and Data not collected are defined as incomplete. All of the elements included in the data completeness portion of the report can be monitored at the user level using the HMIS Data Quality Report. Instructions on how to view and use this report for data clean up can be **found here**.

Data Quality: The state of completeness, validity, consistency, timeliness and accuracy that makes data appropriate for a specific use. Currently the HMIS team are tracking specific elements for quality that have the potential to effect certain HUD required reporting, such as the APR, System Performance Measures, and the LSA. We are working on building an HMIS Report Builder

report that will be available for all users to allow for individual project monitoring. Once it is completed and made available, we will communicate this via this HMIS List-serve.

In addition to posting this report to our website, the HMIS team has formed a new process to deliver this report to Program Managers via email sent from either Sue or Rachel (divided by CoC) for review. Bill will also begin reaching out to individual users to assist with data clean-up/corrections for projects that are above the 5% missing/null data threshold.

Updates

Grantee Fall 2018 Data Submission Schedule
RHY grantee upload period: November 12-30, 2018

RHY data that are uploaded should cover the period from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. The authorized RhyPoint user uploads grantee data by: (1) generating a RHY upload file in the local HMIS, (2) logging into RhyPoint (www.RHYMIS.net), and (3) attaching the file to upload [done separately for each grant].

The 2018 RHY-HMIS Fall Data Submission period opens November 12 and closes November 30. New usernames and passwords will be emailed to prior to the submission period. Resources (manuals, webinars, videos, FAQs) available at rhyttac.net/rhy-hmis.

The HMIS Team will be pulling initial exports to review any errors and will be reaching out to users for corrections. However, as always please reach out to us if you need any assistance please contact either Kelli or Sue

From Our Vendor

HMIS - CSV 6.12
The CSV format used in HMIS Exports and Imports has been changed to version 6.12. This new version is very similar to version 6.11 but has been expanded to cover the updated list of Federal Funding Sources. Most users will not notice any difference between 6.11 and 6.12 and imports will be supported in either version.

Household Changes
Later this year we will be deploying a project that will make it

possible to create separate households for individual program stays and denote different people as the head of household for each program episode.

NHSDC Highlights
Allyson Thiessen, Rachel Bradt, Emily Rebehn

I asked Allyson, Rachel, and Emily to share some highlights from October's NHSDC Fall Conference with all of you. Here you go:
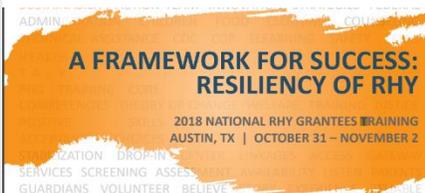
Rachel:

1. "I REALLY appreciated the plenary that discussed taking a closer look at and changing how race is currently defined."
2. We heard from an organization in Chicago who talked about how advancing their use of technology helped with accurately capturing intake and discharge information. They provided the unique AWARDS ID assigned to each Client on a keychain tag with a barcode and simply "scanned" them in. This was particularly helpful for night by night intake/discharges.

3. Attending a presentation that discussed the best way to tackle Data Quality, and one of the recommendations was HMIS partnering with the CoC teams and collectively monitoring together. We were the only organization present already practicing this.

Allyson:

1. Pre-conference on data maturity and ideas on how to utilize data within the community
2. Morning coffee with Abbie Miller from HUD, who then gave me a shout out at the lunch plenary about our LSA Conversation - Shows their listening!
3. Climbed an extinct volcano!

Emily:

1. Focus turning from increasing data collection/data completeness to the quality of data (i.e., race categories is now an issue we can address)
2. More varied presentations on ways communities have used the data collected
3. Emphasis on communication and collaboration of HMIS System Admin organizations with their CoC planning counterparts

NRGT Highlights
Sue Palmer and Kelli Clark

The day before the conference we attended the Topical Institute "Making Data Work for You". Presenters touched on topics such as; (1) Monitoring outcomes along with what the performance goals are - which was great, as now the CRHMIS can assist our RHY funded projects with this monitoring. (2) Presentation of the

new RHY-HMIS Dashboard. (3) Grantees were invited to discuss data related challenges using HMIS.

On the first day of sessions we attended the Regional Meeting with Federal Project Officers. This was, in essence, a general Q and A for grantees. To our delight our region tended to focus more on data and HMIS. We learned that there are RHY grantees out there who still aren't participating in HMIS, because they don't know who their lead is - WHAT?!?!?! (I already have a plan in mind to discuss this at the next NHSDC Conference in April).

Day 2 landed us in Runaway and Homeless Youth Data: Data Collection, Quality, and Usage.Best practices for data collection were discussed, and we are proud to say, that our admission forms (found on our website) are indeed a "Best Practice". Some miscommunications were also addressed with a plan for clearer guidance from HHS to be released soon.

National Runaway Prevention Month November 2018

National Runaway Prevention Month is the annual awareness and prevention campaign for runaway and homeless youth issues. Every November, participants across the country host activities and events that amplify the experiences of runaway and homeless youth and the role everyone plays in ending youth homelessness.

Trump Administration announces decline in Veteran homelessness

WASHINGTON — Veteran homelessness in the U.S. continues to decline, according to a new national estimate announced today by U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson. HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report finds the total number of reported Veterans experiencing homelessness in 2018 decreased 5.4 percent since last year, falling to nearly half the number of homeless Veterans reported in 2010.

Opioid Deaths May Be Starting To Plateau, HHS Chief Says

The American opioid crisis is far from over, but early data indicate the number of deaths are beginning to level off, according to Alex Azar, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, citing "encouraging" results in overdose trends. .

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