



February 2019



HMIS User Shout Out

I am going to shake things up for a second here, and rather than tell you all what we have been up to, I would like to use this as an opportunity to highlight a question from an HMIS user instead:

Here is a recent email exchange with Patricia Ranney, Legal Secretary with Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York.

Patricia:

Hi, Kelli & Bill!

Here's the situation, which is one that we frequently encounter, and it's hit me that this is creating inaccurate reporting issues.

Scenario

"Self" does not receive SSI. However, the minor child of this person DOES receive SSI. Because data entry for minors does not have an income section, the SSI income is entered for "self" as SSI income. Because SSI was noted as source of income for "self," the system wants a disabling condition to be reported as "yes," even if "self" has no disabling condition. I can still select "no," but there's a message telling me that they recommend I select "yes" for a disabling condition. The problem with "yes," is that it is the minor child, not the "self" who has the disabling condition. Additionally, we are concerned that

by entering the SSI income in the "self's" data, this is also inaccurate, because "self" isn't actually the person receiving the SSI – it's the minor.

If I take the same above scenario and enter the minor's SSI in "self's" "other" category for income, I can select "no" for a disabling condition, and there is no message indicating I should select otherwise. BUT, does this throw off household income information with regard to our reporting because we selected "other," when we know this is actually SSI?

Kelli:

I am going to ask our vendor their thoughts on this. Because income collection being designated for only adults is a HUD regulation, I will also submit an AAQ, but I'm not sure how long it will take to get an answer due to the shut down.

Great catch though! This had never even occurred to me.

I then sent this to our vendor:

Hi Kelly,

One of our users sent me this question and honestly I had never even thought about it.

Do you have any thoughts on the best way to record SSI income for a disabled child in the household that would not trigger the system to issue a "data quality issue" for disabling condition in reporting?

(I included the above email from Patricia)

Response from our Vendor:

Good question. They would in that case mark that the adult does not have a Disabling Condition. Yes, AWARDS will give you a warning message about the conflict, but that warning should be ignored in this case. I don't think it will cause an error on the APR in this case.

Why am I sharing this? Because, frankly, it was a great question and completely missed my radar when Foothold announced the update to include income source as a "trigger" for Disabling Condition". We have always communicated that income for minor household members be recorded in the Head of Households admission record, since this data element is not collected for children. However, when Foothold announced that they were updating their coding to include SSI, SSDI, VA Service and Non-service Connected Disability as an indicator of Disabling Condition in addition to the conditions listed in the Special Needs portion a scenario like this - which I am sure is quite common never even registered in my mind.

Thank you Patricia for bringing this to our attention!

POINT IN TIME UPDATE!

The Point In Time Count was conducted last week. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this happen.

Reminder - If you have not updated your HMIS data to reflect the number of clients that were in your project on the night of the count, you only have **2 days left to do so**. It is imperative that HMIS data is current to pull correct PIT data for submission to HUD.

HMIS Updates



Required Annual User Review Training

In last month's news letter we released the dates of the required HMIS annual review sessions. If you have not signed up yet (more than 1/2 have not) please do so as soon as possible. Registering is easy. Email Kelli kclark@caresny.org indicating which session you want to attend.

Online review will be held on the following dates/times:

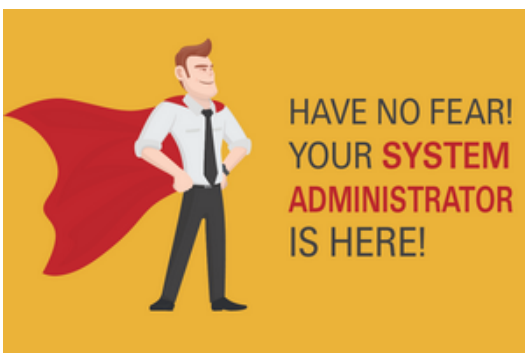
Tuesday 2/19 - 2-4:30 pm
 Wednesday 2/20 - 1:30-4 pm
 Friday 2/22 - 10-12:30 pm
 Friday 2/22 - 1:30-4 pm

In House review (at the CARES office) will be held on the following dates/times:

Tuesday 2/19 10-12:30 pm
 Thursday 2/21 1:30-4pm

Remember, this annual review is **mandatory**. Users that do not attend will lose their access to the AWARDS HMIS Database until the review session is completed.

If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, a pre-recorded version is available on our website. [Click here](#) to watch the 31 minute user review session. If you have already registered to attend either an online or in house session, but would rather watch the pre-recorded version please send an email to Kelli Clark letting her know that you will not be attending the scheduled session.



System Administrator Call Updates

January 30th was the quarterly HMIS System Administrator webinar. Some key updates:

1. NHSDC - National Human Services Data Consortium is being held April 15-17 in Nashville Tennessee. This year HUD is cosponsoring the 3 day conference and will be providing 30 sessions on key topics and issues that are featured in the [SNAPS Data TA Strategy](#). Attending this conference is an eligible HUD activity, and a list serve message will be issued this week with their standard language approving the conference as an eligible activity.
- Also, Kelli and Allyson are both on the planning committee, so obviously it is going to be amazing!
2. HIC/PIT list serve will go out confirming the dates for submission in HDX soon.
3. System Performance Measures will open around March 1st, no later than April 1st.
4. The CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool was released last week via list serve from HUD
5. Data Standards updates will be release on 10/1/19 being names FY2020 HMIS Data Standards. We haven't been given any specifics on what updates are being made, but we expect to have some initial insight to these changes in April

Data Quality Reports

We are making some adjustments to the Data Quality/Completeness reports.

1. Report will now only contain homeless dedicated residential projects.
2. Methodology updated to reflect Head of Household and/or adult household members specific data collection.
3. HMIS Customer Service Reps will announce via email to program directors when the reports are available on our website including the link.
4. Customer Services Reps will begin direct reach out to agencies where projects are above the missing/null data quality threshold.



CARES of NY is proud to host Partners In Progress

Please contact Anna Turner aturner@caresny.org if you have any questions



CARES OF NY, INC.
presents

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS
a workshop series

elevate your financial literacy: mastering a limited budget
JANUARY 17, 2019 ● 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

a national housing crisis: how client sex offender status impacts provision of services
APRIL 11, 2019 ● 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

the state of youth homelessness in the capital region
MAY 2, 2019 ● 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

challenging ourselves to confront discrimination: a review of policies and best practices for homeless service providers
JUNE 6, 2019 ● 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

register at caresny.org

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CARES Inc
200 Henry Johnson Blvd. Suite 4
Albany NY, 12210
Phone: 518-489-4130
Fax: 518-489-2237