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September 2019

CARES REGIONAL HMIS NEWSLETTER



Who Knew We Have A Star Using the CARES Regional HMIS???

Last month Sylvia from Schenectady invited us to attend Clash of the Comedians held at The Funny Bone in Albany. There were a total of 10 comedians competing for the win, and not only did Sylvia KILL IT, she won the competition! Congratulations on your well deserved win Sylvia! Don't forget guys, while yes, we are "Data People" we're also "Fun Data People" and we love getting to spend time with our users. We'll never turn down an invite to hang out with you.

As November approaches please feel free to send us any flyers or messages about what your community/agency may be doing for Homeless Awareness Month if you would like us to publish it in the Newsletter.

Updates



Upcoming Training Schedule

Thank you all so much for the thoughtful responses to my plea for help. Your feedback was truly helpful. Bill is currently looking into training software options for us that will allow users taking the online training to complete all of steps in one place - No more having to take a screenshot of quiz results! I am hopeful that we will have this up and running soon, however in the meantime the current training videos will be available on our website.

Bill will be conducting an online New User training on Wednesday September 11th at 1:00 pm

If staff are unable to attend a scheduled online training there are several other ways this required training can be attended.

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1. Email Bill Robson at wrobson@caresny.org to schedule a one on one webinar training
2. Email Bill Robson at wrobson@caresny.org to schedule a one on one in person training
3. Visit our [website](#) to access the HMIS training library and complete the recorded training sessions at your own pace.

From Foothold



Build Up Your ReportBuilders By Adding Data Variables

AWARDS ReportBuilders are powerful reporting tools that can be used to generate customized data reports to meet your unique reporting needs. Each ReportBuilder contains a variety of data variables relevant to the portion of AWARDS in which that ReportBuilder resides, but did you know you can actually add data variables to ReportBuilders?

Fields available for inclusion on the [Demographics ReportBuilder](#) (including FormBuilder fields) can be pulled into the [HMIS ReportBuilder](#), [Service Contacts ReportBuilder](#), and [FormBuilder ReportBuilder](#).

Do you want to add Admission Date and Discharge Date to the Service Contacts ReportBuilder? We've got you covered. Need Primary Worker added to the FormBuilder ReportBuilder? We can do that too.

To request additional fields, contact the Help Desk for assistance. Be sure to list the exact field names to be pulled from the Demographics ReportBuilder, and specify which report they should be placed onto.

Bonus Tip! If you want to use a custom field that doesn't already exist on the Demographics ReportBuilder, you can add it by using the FormBuilder tool to create a form with that field. On the Add New Field or Update Form Field page, click the Available on Related ReportBuilders checkbox to include the field as a variable for relevant ReportBuilders and enter the report label you want to use in the Report Field Label field. Doing this will place the custom field on the Demographics ReportBuilder (with the exception of fields from employee, incident, or group note forms).

Uploading Agencies

Don't forget that HMIS data uploads are due by the 15th of the month.

If you have any questions or need any assistance with uploading HMIS data please reach out to Rachel at rbradt@caresny.org



HUD Updates



The FY2020 HMIS Data Standards changes are coming October 1, 2019. Full details will be shared in the October 2019 CRHMIS newsletter, but here's a brief overview of the changes you can expect:

- Several of the data elements related to project setup are being changed and System Administrators may need to update Agency Program Information, Continuum Provider Agency Information, and HMIS Bed Inventory.
- The **Entitlement Filter** can no longer be used to separate out homeless clients. Projects which currently serve both homeless and non-homeless clients will need to be split into two projects. Contact your Foothold Senior Project Manager for assistance in this process.
- The changes to Intake/Admission are relatively minor, including some new list options in **Previous Residence**, fewer **Special Needs** follow-up questions, and an "Other/Specify" option for **Sexual Orientation - for RHY Projects**.
- A new "Current Living Situation" section is being added to Outreach, SSO, and Coordinated Entry projects. This section will be filled out each time you have an encounter with a client.
- Two new Coordinated Entry Data Elements are being added to track assessments and referrals. The HMIS team will be working with Foothold to configure these forms and implement them into the Coordinated Entry process over the next 6 months.
- The CoC APR and ESG CAPER reports are both being updated.

RHY Updates

The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) are pleased to host the 2019 National Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantees Training in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from November 12th through November 14th.

Participation in the national training is open to RHY grantees as well as other youth service providers. This event provides an opportunity for like-minded individuals to come together to share knowledge, experiences, and creativity in order to pursue the common goal of providing effective services to our nation's RHY.

[Learn more about the RHY Grantees Training](#)



VA/SSVF Updates

Important! CSV version 6.11 will stop working on September 30th.



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SSVF grantees should download their September SSVF export file on Monday, September 30th to avoid interruption. CSV version FY2020 will go live in early October. The new CSV version has many additional tables.

PATH Updates

The FY2019 PATH ARS report was released in early June. A new Housing Outcomes question was added, a few outdated questions were removed, and the remaining questions were renumbered and updated to use the current (FY2017) data standards.



NHSDC Updates

Fall 2019 Conference Registration is Now Closed. The National Human Services Data Consortium (NHSDC) will be holding its Fall Conference on October 15-17, 2019 in Austin, Texas. The Conference **sold out**. Please join us at the Spring 2020 NHSDC Conference!

The theme for our Fall Conference is: "Solving Problems and Impacting Communities With Data"

PS..... Because System Performance Measures AND LSA's will both be opening in October, and we will be in Austin, I'm thinking that a Data Clean Up Karaoke Challenge needs to happen. Keep an eye out for a poll later in the month to help pick the song.



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