HMIS 101
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

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Overview

- Define HMIS
  - History
  - Data
  - Standards
- Define Continuum of Care
- HMIS and PATH
  - Why HMIS
  - Benefits
  - Future Plans
What is HMIS?

• Computerized data collection tool specifically designed to capture client-level information over time on:
  a. The characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness
  b. The services provided to these clients
What is HMIS?

- HMIS implementations can encompass geographic areas ranging from a single county to an entire state.
- Administered locally within the community (Continuum of Care) by one lead agency that is responsible for standards and privacy compliance as well as HUD and other funder required aggregate reporting.
HMIS Software

• HUD approved HMIS software (i.e. software that meets the HUD HMIS technical standards) is provided by several vendors.

• HMIS software that is selected by a Continuum of Care, region, or state is used by all service providers within that community or geographical area. (Service providers do not choose their own HMIS.)
HMIS Software

- HMIS is managed and administered by the lead agency for the CoC or other designated department of the county or state.
HMIS History

• **1980 – early 1990s**: Cities with large homeless populations pioneer the use of computer-based tracking systems

• **2001**: Congress directs HUD to develop an unduplicated count of persons who are homeless; HUD requires all McKinney-Vento funded homeless grantees to implement HMIS
HMIS History

• **2004**: First HMIS Data and Technical Standards published

• **2005 - 2008**: SAMHSA/HUD workgroup discussed aligning data collection, reporting, and performance measurement for PATH outreach and HUD outreach programs
HMIS History

• **2009**: Workgroup’s recommendations led to the inclusion of PATH voluntary outcome measures into the 2009 HMIS Data and Technical Standards

• **2009**: Grantees receiving Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) funds required to use HMIS
HMIS Data and Technical Standards

The set of data collection, privacy, and confidentiality rules that govern HMIS.

Includes:

- List of data elements to be collected and the valid responses
- Description of privacy & security standards for client information collected and stored in HMIS
HMIS Data and Technical Standards

Originally published via Federal Register in 2004 and updated in March 2010 to accommodate the HPRP program data collection reporting requirements and to include data elements needed to report on the voluntary outcome measures for PATH.
HMIS Data — Universal Data Elements

- Name
- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth
- Race *
- Ethnicity
- Gender *
- Veteran Status *
- Disabling Condition
- Prior Residence *
- Zip Code of Last Permanent Residence
- Housing Status *
- Program Entry Date
- Program Exit Date
HMIS Data – Street Outreach Programs

• Date of Contact *
• Date of Engagement *
HMIS Data — Other Program Specific

- Income & Sources
- Non-cash Benefits
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- Financial & Housing Services Provided *
- Mental Health *
- Substance Abuse *
- Domestic Violence
- Destination
- HIV/AIDs
HMIS Data — Optional Outcome/Self-Sufficiency Measures

- Income
- Employment
- Health Care
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Referral Services Provided
What is a Continuum of Care?

- A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collaboration among local agencies and service providers to address the problems of housing and homelessness within the community.
What is a Continuum of Care?

• HUD introduced the CoC concept to encourage and support local organizations in designing a **community plan** to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency.

• The CoC plan includes action steps to both end and prevent a return to homelessness.
What is a Continuum of Care?

- The annual CoC plan identifies the needs of local homeless populations, the resources that are currently available in the community to address those needs, and additional resources needed to fill identified gaps.

- There are about 441 CoCs across the country.
Continuum of Care Services

Transitional Housing

Prevention

Outreach, Intake, Assessment

Supportive Services

Emergency Shelter

Rapid Re-Housing

Permanent Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing
PATH and HMIS

HUD and SAMHSA worked collaboratively on alignment of data collection and performance measures to support the goals of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)
PATH and HMIS

Collaboration resulted in a proposed set of common data definitions, outputs, and outcome measures to:

a. Ease the reporting burden of individual PATH grantees who are also required to use HMIS for data collection

b. Further integrate HHS PATH programs into the Continuum of Care process
Why HMIS?

- HMIS collects client-level data that is well aligned with the needs of PATH data collection
- Other systems in use, such as TRAC, are oriented more toward clinical data collection
- HMIS is already used in every state for HUD reporting and in most states by a number of PATH providers
- HMIS promotes collaboration among all homeless service providers within a community
Current PATH HMIS Usage

- 46% of PATH providers currently use HMIS for PATH data entry and reporting
- 60% of PATH providers use HMIS for other program data collection (i.e., HUD, VA, HHS or state/local funded programs)
- PATH providers in 41 states currently use HMIS in some capacity
- PATH providers in 39 states currently use HMIS for PATH data entry and reporting
The Importance of Data

• Program Level
  ▪ Annual Performance Reports
  ▪ Program Evaluation & Design
  ▪ Local Funding Requests

• Community Level
  ▪ Integrated Case Management
  ▪ Service Referrals & Access
  ▪ HUD Funding
The Importance of Data

- State Level
  - PATH Funding Request Application
  - State Funding
  - Funding Requests

- National Level
  - Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)
  - Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) & National Outcome Measures (NOMs)
  - Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) Review
The Importance of Data

- Validates the work of PATH providers
- Provides reliable information to HHS and Congress
- Supports funding requests and program expansion
- Shows the impact of PATH programs on linking clients to housing, services, and treatment
- Supports PART reviews, NOMs, and GPRA measures
Benefits for Clients

• Decrease duplicative intakes and assessments
• Streamlined referrals
• Coordinated case management
• Benefit eligibility and acquisition
Benefits for Providers

• Tracking client outcomes
• Coordinating services
• Consistency in data collection and reporting
• Decreased reporting burden and duplication of work
• Streamlined data entry
• Preparing financial and programmatic reports
• Informing program design decisions
Benefits for the Community

• Understanding the extent & scope of homelessness
• Unduplicated client counts
• Identifying service gaps
• Informing systems design and policy decisions
• Development of a forum for addressing community-wide issues
HMIS & PATH – Future Plans

• Regional Meetings
• Online Trainings
• Webcasts
• PATH Grantee Meeting
  ➢ HMIS Workshops
    ▪ Beginner
    ▪ Intermediate
    ▪ Advanced
Resources

http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov

http://HMIS.info

http://HUDHRE.info
Resources

http://HMIS.info
Resources

http://HMIS.info
Resources

http://HMIS.info
Resources

http://HMIS.info

Contacts

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Resources

http://HUDHRE.info
Resources

http://HUDHRE.info

**CoC Maps, Contacts, Reports, and Awards**
Switch among the tabs to view other CoC-related information

[CoC Maps]  [CoC Contacts]  [Homelessness Reports]  [Grant Awards]

**Search Results: Continuum of Care Contacts**
**Daytona Beach/Daytona/Volusia, Flagler Counties CoC**

**Lead Contact:**
Lindsay Roberts  
Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.  
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Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
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Fax: 386-258-1964  
E-mail: Lindsay@vfcoch.org
Resources

http://HUDHRE.info

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Homelessness Reports and Housing Inventories

HUD collects data on homelessness, including homeless populations, subpopulations, and housing inventories collected at the CoC level and aggregated to state and national levels. Data is available for 2005 and later, to be posted as it becomes available.

Search for Homelessness Reports and Housing Inventories

Year: 2009
Type of Report: Housing Inventory
Scope of Report: For a Continuum of Care (CoC)
State: Florida
Continuum of Care: FL-504 -- Daytona Beach/Daytona/Volusia, Flagler Counties CoC

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Questions

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