

NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

December 14, 2015

ServicePoint Updates:

We are currently on ServicePoint version 5.12.8, as of last Friday, December 11th. We have been versioning up very rapidly lately (5 version upgrades since October), due to a number of critical reporting changes Bowman has made for federal partners. These have included changes to the SSVF Export, the AHAR Report, and the addition of a new RHY export module in ServicePoint.

2015 AHAR Submission Information:

The 2015 AHAR Submission period is winding down to a close. HUD moved back the final submission deadline for the AHAR until December 23, 2015.

MCAH Staff is still available to provide technical assistance to Local System Administrators throughout the rest of the AHAR season. Elizabeth Hurkman is leading our MCAH support team with Sue Saul, Jill Shoemaker and Gerry Leslie also providing support.

2016 PIT/HIC Count

HUD just released the final guidance for the 2016 PIT Count. Our staff are currently going through the detailed guidance to prepare the training aids for the 2016 edition of this activity. We have scheduled two training webinars to help communities prepare for PIT/HIC 2016:

- **2016 PIT and HIC Part 1: HUD Guidance and Count Strategies for CoCs**
Friday, January 8, 2016 - 10:00 am
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/566049847843473409>
- **2016 PIT and HIC Part 2: Using HMIS to Complete Your PIT/HIC Submission**
Tuesday, February 2, 2016 - 10:00 am
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/78683622250439937>

Leading up to these webinars, below are key points and resources heading into the PIT/HIC season.

- **A Street Count is Not Required in 2016:** Communities will not be required to count individuals and families living on the streets or in other places unfit for human habitation. However, communities are encouraged to still conduct street counts if practical.
- **Per historic HUD Guidance the Count Date should be scheduled for a night in the last 10 days of January:** We STRONGLY recommend doing it on the last Wednesday of January, to align with other HUD required activities such as APRs, the HMIS APR and the AHAR. That date is January 27, 2016.

- **Historic HUD Guidance for the PIT/HIC Available:** Historic PIT/HIC Guidance is available from HUD at <https://www.hudexchange.info/hdx/guides/pit-hic/>
- **MCAH Historic PIT/HIC Guidance is Available:** MCAH Guidance is available at <http://mi-homeless.org/index.php/user-resources/hmis-training-certification/downloads/point-in-time-count-resources/viewcategory/187-pit-kit-resources>
- **The 2016 HUD PIT/HIC Data Collection Notice Can Now Be Downloaded:** The following link takes you to guidance from HUD for the 2016 Count. <http://hudexchange.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=87d7c8afc03ba69ee70d865b9&id=cda6c6f603&e=a77cec56d7>

MCAH Visit/Training in January

Bob Taylor and Cecelia Peers are working with all NC LSAs to find a time and location to conduct a training/LSA meeting in North Carolina. Tentatively, we are looking at a date during the week of January 11-16, 2016. Jill Shoemaker, former LSA for Oakland County, Michigan and current MCAH staff member will be joining us to introduce an audit tool that will be available to NC LSAs to assist with auditing projects and agencies within the local CoC to understand the local health of an HMIS implementation. This tool will be a variation on the one we have used and field tested in Michigan for three years and will help LSAs and Agency Administrators identify strengths and areas for improvement within their communities. We will then look at specific Continuous Quality Improvement steps Agency and CoC leadership can introduce to improve some of these areas.

Important Changes to the Chronic Homeless Definition from HUD:

On Friday, HUD released a memo discussing changes to the definition of Chronically Homeless for the purpose of service delivery. HUD has released the final rule in the Federal Register, the following are highlights of the changes:

- To be considered chronically homeless, a person must have a disability and have been living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or a safe haven for the last 12 months continuously or on at least four occasions in the last three years **where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months;**
- Replaced “disabling condition” with “homeless individual with a disability”;
- There is not a minimum number of days in which each occasion must total but instead, occasions are defined by a break of at least seven days not residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or residing in a place meant for human habitation;
- Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break and count toward total time homeless; and
- The final rule establishes record keeping requirements for documenting chronic homelessness that take into account how providers use Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) and that does not require documentation of each day of homelessness but a method that can be more easily implemented.

This rule goes into effect January 15, 2016. On this date, any persons served in permanent supportive housing (PSH) that is required to serve persons that are chronically homeless (either dedicated or prioritized) may only accept new participants that meet this definition. Program participants who are already residing in these programs will not be affected.

MCAH Staff are currently working on training materials for the new definition, which we will be releasing soon. However, we want to stress that the Chronically Homeless interview needs to be a controlled process performed by staff who have been extensively trained in its application. Because of the nuances within the definition, there will be issues if the interview is performed by individuals who are not properly trained and who attempt to rush through the interview process. We strongly recommend that this interview is owned by trained staff at Central Intake/Coordinated Assessment agencies and agencies which provide PH or PSH for Chronically Homeless Individuals. It may be problematic conducting this interview at high volume emergency shelters which try to make intake interviews as short as possible.

Status on Submission of Agency Agreements:

In the meeting attachments is the latest spreadsheet of agreements that the MCAH office has received and executed. This is available to use as a reference in the coming discussions on how to address agencies who have not submitted theirs yet.

The NC HMIS Training Site has been synced with the Live Site

The North Carolina Training site has now been synced with the North Carolina Live HMIS site. The update was delayed while agencies finished creating and configuring provider pages and visibility settings.

Development of ServicePoint 6.0 to Start in January:

Bowman has informed us that their team will begin intensive development of ServicePoint 6.0 after the first of the year with the (very) preliminary release date of it coming in the third or fourth quarter of 2016. This is the first massive redesign of the product in over 4 years, and Bowman has solicited extensive feedback via focus user groups to drive the development process. We have been informed that SP 6.0 will also include a brand new reporting tool which will exist alongside the current reporting tools in ServicePoint.

Follow Up Items:

Submitting the HMIS APR to HUD:

As many of you are aware, each CoC is responsible for submitting an HMIS APR to HUD if a CoC receives HMIS dollars as part of their CoC award. The HMIS APR requires that the CoC have a number of reporting statistics for the entire statewide implementation as part of the submission process. MCAH prepares these statistics, on demand, for any CoC needing them. We ask that you submit your request for them at least 14 days in advance to give us time to pull the appropriate reports.

Sue Saul is available for On-Site TA for CoCs As Needed

We want to continue to stress to CoCs that Sue Saul is available to do on-site Technical Assistance at no charge, for CoCs who would like hands on and engaged sessions. We will honor reasonable requests for visits wherever possible, where Sue's schedule allows.

Register for the NC HMIS Local System Administrator Mailing List

We want to encourage all GC members who have an interest in knowing more details about what is happening on the project to register for the NC HMIS Local System Administrator's Mailing List. The list contains detailed information on what is happening with the project and is the best way to stay current with developments and news as it happens. It is really the best way to get a good grasp on what is happening operationally with the project. To register, go to the link below:

<http://eepurl.com/bvGNY1>

As a note, we are currently sending out updates once a week on Friday, and also as needed for urgent news briefs. As need diminishes for that frequent of a publishing schedule, we may opt to move it back to a bi-weekly release.