



Dear NC HMIS Agency,

I am writing to share an upcoming change in the statewide implementation of the North Carolina Homeless Management Information System (NC HMIS). In April 2015, the NC HMIS Governance Committee (NC HMIS GC) ended our contract with the North Carolina Housing Coalition, which had served as lead agency from the inception of the North Carolina HMIS for many Continua of Care. The NC HMIS GC chose, through an extensive RFP process, to hire the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness to serve as HMIS Lead Agency with the goal of enhancing system configuration and end-user training to improve data quality, better utilize the data to understand local and state homelessness trends, and use the data to develop strategies and systems to end homelessness. This also led to a change in our governance structure, putting more oversight and control in the hands of the CoCs and those that represent them on the GC. All of these changes occurred with HUD Technical Assistance throughout the process.

The common goal of the GC has been to maintain a statewide system that meets the needs and goals of all NC CoCs, while giving us the ability to generate statewide data that will inform our work and serve as an advocacy tool for meeting the needs of our homeless citizens. The transition to a different type of HMIS system management has not been an easy one. While it is one that we feel has improved our collection and use of data, several CoCs have found that the current system does not meet their needs and goals. The Durham CoC, Orange CoC, and NC Balance of State CoC brought concerns to the NC HMIS GC. Despite time and effort put forth by the MCAH team and NC HMIS GC representatives, and Local System Administrators to try and address those needs in a way that is satisfactory to everyone, a solution has not been reached.

In December 2017, the Durham, NC Balance of State, and Orange CoCs, per the NC HMIS GC By-laws, provided notice to the GC of their intent to leave NC HMIS, and create their own implementation. In addition, the North Carolina Coalition to End Homeless (NCCEH), which provides Local System Administration to the Durham, NC BoS, Orange, and Wake CoCs, shared with the NC HMIS GC that because of unresolved concerns, they would not enter into another contract with the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness after the current contract end date of June 30, 2018. All three CoCs have designated NCCEH as their HMIS Lead Agency starting July 1, 2018. These CoCs have expressed their intention to honor their contract and MOU with MCAH and adhere to the by-laws of the NC HMIS GC through June 30, 2018. At that time, the remaining 9 CoCs will continue to participate in the NC HMIS structure as it currently exists.

Over the next few months, the NC HMIS GC will work together to transition the current statewide system to two regional systems. We will focus on issues such as cost sharing for CoCs remaining in NC HMIS, data entry into two HMIS implementations for agencies that cross multiple CoCs, and the future of data in the current server that has been created by CoCs leaving the current implementation. As the NC HMIS GC makes these important decisions, the Executive Committee will communicate directly with CoC Leads to share with their communities.

The NC HMIS GC will continue to meet monthly as a governing body. We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. Data entry into NC HMIS should continue for all CoCs as usual. NC HMIS GC meeting dates and materials can be found at nchmisgovernance.org. Please contact your CoC Lead for information and updates.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kurtz