

HUD HMIS peer-to-peer conference call #2

7/20/05

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

I. In attendance (HMIS stage)

Humboldt County – Amy Knopp (planning stage)

Marin County – Jessica Fiedor (collecting and inputting data)

Napa County – Annette Krammer (collecting and inputting data)

Yolo County – Leona Jull (negotiating software purchase)

Yolo County – Amara Pickens (negotiating software purchase)

Santa Clara County (Community Technology Alliance – Jen Hoey (collecting and inputting data)

HUD SF – Karna Wong

HUD SF – Phyllis Hargrove

QED – Matt White

HomeBase – Lise Ström

II. QED discussion

Matt White

QED, HMIS national TA provider

Description of QED: Five to seven fulltime staff members of QED work exclusively on the development of TA materials and/or technical solutions to HMIS problems.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NATIONAL HMIS CONFERENCE!

National HUD-sponsored HMIS conference: September 13 – 14, 2005 in St. Louis.

- Two (2) participants from each CoC may attend the conference.
- HUD will pay for accommodations and meals at the conference.
- You only need to cover the cost of transportation to/from the conference.
- The national HMIS conference is an opportunity to participate in a large-scale conference (500+ participants are expected). The conference not only has formal workshops and sessions, but also encourages information-sharing and networking among attendees. There are 28 different TA sessions planned for this conference, organized by “track” and addressing HMIS management, general participation in HMIS, participation by special populations (such as youth and domestic violence programs), advanced technical aspects of HMIS, and data analysis and evaluation.

SIGN UP FOR A REGIONAL TRAINING!

Regional data standards training: QED is also sponsoring a series of regional HMIS data standards training sessions; six sessions are scheduled thus far (see list below; to RSVP for a regional session or for further information, contact Jen Hoey at jen@ctagroup.org). QED has developed a curriculum on how to implement HMIS, collect data, and develop and manage privacy policies and procedures. The data standards training is geared not only for HMIS staff but also for frontline agency staff serving homeless people. Local trainings can be tailored to the community’s needs; while there is a set curriculum; each trainer can focus on specific community concerns. The content is uniform and consistent so that everyone knows the same

information, but the particular area of emphasis and/or amount of time spent on a given topic will vary according to community need. Each session is a full day.

Schedule of regional data standards training sessions:

August 4th

10am - 4pm

Mendocino County, CA

LOCATION CHANGE: Mendocino County Office of Education, East Room, 2240 Old River Road, Ukiah, CA 95482

RSVP by July 25

August 9th

9am - 4pm

North Central, CA

Chico City Council Offices, 421 Main Street, Room 1, Chico, CA

RSVP by Aug. 1

August 16th

9am - 4pm

Northern Nevada

Carson City Housing Authority, 3695 Desatoya Drive, Carson City, NV

RSVP by Aug. 8

August 19th

9am - 4pm

Humboldt, CA

Humboldt Area Foundation, Vietor House, 373 Indianola Rd., Bayside, CA

RSVP by Aug. 8

August 23rd

1pm - 5pm

Southern Nevada*

Clark County Social Services, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, NV

RSVP by Aug. 15

August 23rd

9am - 3pm

Fresno, CA

Fresno Housing Authority, Board Room, 1331 Fulton Mall, Fresno, CA

RSVP by Aug. 15

August 31st

9am - 4pm

Stockton, CA

San Joaquin County Agricultural Commission, 1868 Hazelton Avenue, Stockton, CA

RSVP by Aug. 22

Sept. 15th

9am - 4pm

San Rafael, CA**

Marin County Housing Authority, 4020 Civic Center Dr., Garden Room, San Rafael, CA

RSVP by Sept. 5

III. Discussion of One-Page Flyers for Use in Your Community

Discussion next turned to the one-page flyers produced by HomeBase.

Lise Ström

HomeBase, HUD regional HMIS provider

Benefits of HMIS

- Should homeless prevention agencies include data concerning their clients, who are at-risk of becoming homeless, but not actually homeless?
 - Yes, if they receive any funding from HUD, they must participate; if not, it's optional, but worth encouraging them to participate even though their clients are not homeless but are at-risk of becoming homeless.
- What about mentally ill clients (and others) who are unwilling to provide personal information to be included in a shared database system like HMIS?
 - While this is certainly an issue, it is not really an HMIS issue but more of a staff training issue. Frontline staff should be trained so that a client feels safe to share his/her information. Explaining the purpose and uses of HMIS data approach of clinician explaining may also help, but this remains a challenge that many agencies struggle with.

Privacy & confidentiality standards for HMIS

- Must a client actively consent to having his/her personal information shared?
 - No, consent may be *inferred* where there is a privacy policy posted at the intake desk. However, many communities have used written client consent procedures in order to facilitate the buy-in of all agencies in the HMIS.
 - Examples of privacy policies can be found at www.hmis.info and at www.hmisscc.org (Santa Clara County's HMIS website, which includes up-to-date forms).
 - A privacy policy template will also be made available at the regional data standards training sessions, mentioned above, by QED.

Potential funding sources for an HMIS

- Most funding for HMIS comes from HUD's SHP or ESG programs, with the required matching dollars coming from local/county CDBG funds.
- One community mentioned that HMIS funding also came from a regional housing trust fund, private donations, and private foundations. With respect to private foundations, the organization submitted approximately 40-50 grant proposals last year and, of that total, secured 2 grants.

- A different community mentioned that its seed money is being provided by CSBG for the first year of HMIS; however, sustaining HMIS funding is an issue. One idea that has been considered (and may be considered again) is for each participating agency to pay its “fair share.”

Participation of DV programs in HMIS

- For some smaller communities, participation of DV programs in HMIS is an issue that has not yet been addressed (in addition to medical and mental health providers).
- Matt White noted that it is expected that HUD will release additional notices this fall addressing the participation of DV programs in HMIS.

IV. Next call

We will plan to have 2-3 speakers from communities who are in the data collection stage to discuss software selection issues, how they funded the purchase of software, and the strengths & weaknesses of the software they selected.

*Tentatively, our next call will be **either** Monday, August 29 **or** Thursday, September 1.* Details will be forthcoming via email.