Bitfocus

Napa County HMIS News

May 2024

Welcome to the Napa County HMIS May 2024 newsletter!

In this edition you'll find the following:

- Upcoming Events
- Clarity Human Services Feature Updates: May 2024
- Understanding Chronic Homelessness in the HMIS
- Clarity Toolbox: Data Quality Fields
- Report Spotlight: Using the Report Library
- Bitfocus is Hiring!

Upcoming Events

Napa CoC General Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2:30-4:00 p.m. | Register here

Monthly CoC meeting run by Napa County on the first Thursday of every month. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Clarity Human Services Updates

May Updates

We have three exciting feature updates we'd like to share with you in this month's newsletter!

Personal ID "Fuzzy Matching"

The **March 2024 Feature Updates article** introduced a process for automatically identifying and deduplicating records whenever a client record is created, recovered, or updated. The system searches for any client records with Personal Identifying Information (PII) that exactly matches the PII in the new/recovered/updated record but have a different **Personal ID**. **Prior to this month's update, if no exact matches were found, the system would stop searching.**

With this update, if no **exact** matches are found, the system will now look for records that are **likely** a match, according to parameters established using the Levenshtein "fuzzy matching" algorithm. This method provides highly accurate identification of records that should be deduplicated because they are associated with the same client.

Coordinated Entry Event "Note" Icon

The icon that appears in the client's **HISTORY tab** for any services or referrals that have notes associated with them **will now also appear for Coordinated Entry events that have notes associated with them**.

The icon will also appear in the *Events* **tab** of a Coordinated Entry program enrollment. Users can hover over the icon to view the text of the note.

Bulk Management of Clarity Inbox Messages

The **Clarity Inbox** now includes the ability to select multiple messages so that more than one message at a time can be deleted, marked as "Read," or marked as "Unread."
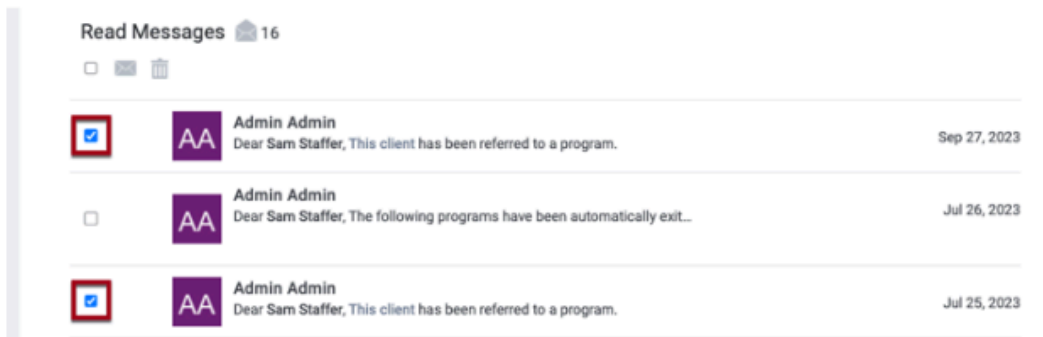
As part of this update, the **Unread Messages** and **Read Messages** are now displayed on separate pages instead of on the same page. The new **Message Status** sidebar allows you to choose which list to view.

To select all messages in the list, check the box at the top of the list.
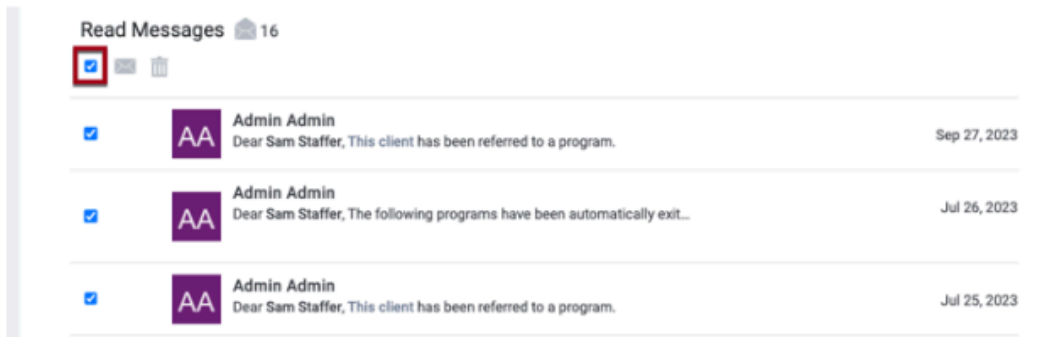
To select multiple messages in the list, check the box next to the individual messages.

To delete the selected messages, click the trash can icon.

To mark the selected **Unread Messages** as "Read" and move them to the **Read Messages** section, click the open envelope icon at the top of the list.

To mark the selected **Read Messages** as "Unread" and move them to the **Unread Messages** section, click the closed envelope icon at the top of the list.

How-to

Understanding Chronic Homelessness in the HMIS

Understanding a participant's **chronic homeless status in the HMIS** is a very complicated, and often confusing, topic. The Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) describes individuals as being "**chronically homeless**" when they meet the following conditions:

A chronically homeless person:

- Has a disabling condition; **AND**
- Currently experiencing **literal homelessness**: living in a place not meant for human habitation (on the streets, in an encampment, in a vehicle, etc) or in an emergency shelter; **AND**
- Has been homeless *continuously for at least 12 months*;
    - **OR** has been homeless *on at least 4 separate occasions for a combined total of 12 months in the last 3 years.*

A break in homelessness is defined by:

- 7 consecutive nights of being housed (which includes "couch surfing," temporarily staying with friends or family, and motels paid for by the participant)
- 90+ days in an institution (e.g. jail, hospital, residential treatment program, psychiatric institution, etc.)

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Training

Clarity Toolbox
Data Quality Fields: What They Are and Why They Matter

When you create a new client in HMIS, you're asked to fill out three data quality fields - Quality of Social Security Number, Quality of Name, and Quality of Date of Birth.

Each of these fields has five possible response options:

- A "full" value option for the field in question
- An "approximate or partial" value option for the field in question
- "Client doesn't know"
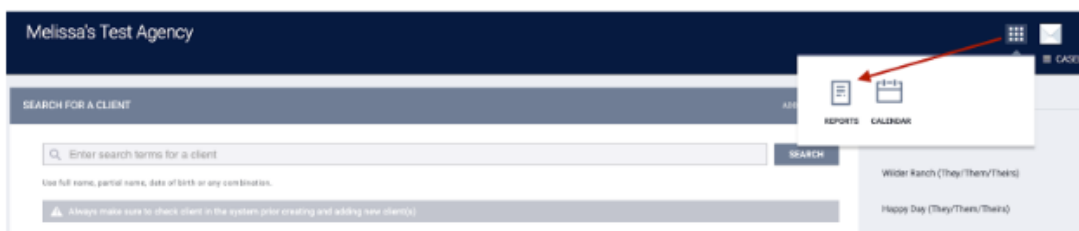- "Client prefers not to answer"
- "Data not collected"

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Report Spotlight

Using the Report Library

The _Report Library_ contains all Bitfocus-maintained reports developed using the **Pentaho platform**. To access the _Report Library,_ click the _Reports_ icon from the _Launchpad._

The *Report Library* contains sections for each report category. Selecting the down arrow to the report categories (right) expands that report section to show the reports within it.

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News

Bitfocus is Hiring!!

Bitfocus hiring for multiple positions! Check out our job postings **here**.

Apply today!

Questions? Your HMIS Administrator is happy to help.

Phone: 888-505-1832
Email: napa@bitfocus.com

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