



Santa Cruz HMIS News

April 2023

Welcome to the Santa Cruz HMIS April 2023 newsletter!

In this edition you'll find the following:

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Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Housing for Health Partnership CoC Meetings

Upcoming "Affordable Housing Month" – Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) Meetings (SAVE the DATE VIRTUAL EVENTS) – more details coming soon!

- **Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - Virtual training, 1 – 2 pm**
Reasonable Accommodations in Housing: Helping People with Disabilities Get and Keep Housing
Presenter: Elizabeth Hutton, Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz
- **Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - Virtual CoC Community Mtg., 2–4:30 pm**
Key Agenda Items:
 - Updates on CoC and other funding
 - Becoming a CoC organizational and individual member
 - Santa Cruz County HMIS “Reboot” - Renewing and Improving HMIS
 - Housing for Health Coordinated Entry – New Policies and Implementation
 - Centralized Housing Assistance Fund

Housing for Health - HMIS Workgroup

Monday, May 22nd | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. | Register [HERE](#)

In this meeting, we discuss specific solutions to system issues end users may be experiencing, along with community-wide initiatives. We would love to have you join us!

Clarity Human Services Office Hours

Tuesday, May 23rd | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Register [HERE](#)

We host office hours every fourth Tuesday of each month. Drop in for as long or as short as you'd like to ask any and all questions related to HMIS or Clarity Human Services. All users are welcome. Please join us within the first 15 minutes or we will assume nobody will be joining us for Office Hours and we will close out the Zoom meeting.



Spotlight

Welcome Loren White to the Housing for Health Team!

Loren White joined the Housing for Health (H4H) team as a Senior Analyst back in October and will be heavily involved in working with the HMIS. Having moved to Santa Cruz County when he was two, he is deeply invested in and familiar with the region. Loren received his Liberal Arts Associates Degree at Cabrillo



College and went on to get both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Philosophy at San Jose State University. After a brief stint teaching Ethics at SJSU, he lived in Washington, DC and worked as a researcher for a variety of Think Tanks, Academic Institutions, and Trade Organizations. Loren moved back to Santa Cruz last year, and he is very excited to be in his new position and getting to assist with one of the most pressing issues facing our community – helping individuals experiencing homelessness find stable, affordable housing.

In his position with H4H, he is tasked with helping with the upcoming HMIS “Reboot” rollout and is heavily involved with improving data quality in the HMIS. One of his favorite components of his job is getting to interact with his fellow colleagues in the CoC, so please don't hesitate to reach out to him with any HMIS questions or concerns. Loren can be reached by email at loren.white@santacruzcounty.us and by phone at (831) 454-4246.



News

Point-in-Time Count (PIT) & Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

2023 HIC/PIT Submitted

The PIT and HIC reports for Santa Cruz County have been submitted to HUD! We want to recognize and appreciate you once again for all your hard work to ensure good data quality on the 2023 PIT Count date. Federal Reporting is a stressful and time-consuming time for all, and we are grateful to have such a great team to work alongside and get it done. All of us at Bitfocus thank you for your effort to maintain high data quality! More information will be coming soon from Housing for Health (H4H) staff about the PIT/HIC reports once they have a chance to review and compile the data to share with a wider, public audience.

Curious about past reports?

[CoC Housing Inventory County Reports](#)

[CoC PIT and HIC Data Since 2007](#)

[PIT Trendinator by Matt Schnars](#)



Updates

HMIS Reboot Updates

In last month's [newsletter](#), we discussed the HMIS Reboot that has been in the works for a while now. This month, we will provide more information about the new [Organizational Partnership and Data Sharing Agreement](#) and the [Consumer Information Sharing Agreement](#).

Updated Policies & Procedures and New Privacy & Security Requirements

At the heart of the HMIS reboot is the updated [HMIS Policies and Procedures](#) and the new HMIS [Privacy](#) and [Security](#) requirements from Housing for Health Partnership. Housing for Health staff asks that you please review the updated Policies & Procedures listed on the Santa Cruz HMIS Support website [here](#).

As part of the update to the Policies & Procedures, there are some important changes coming soon to be aware of:

1. Executive Directors for agencies that enter data in the HMIS, or [Participating Covered Homeless Organizations](#), will be asked to sign the

new [Organizational Partnership and Data Sharing Agreement](#) via DocuSign by **June 30, 2023** in order to maintain agency access to the HMIS from **July 1, 2023 onwards**.

2. There will be a new Release of Information, which will instead be called the [Consumer Information Sharing Agreement](#), and it will detail some of the new privacy and security items for clients. This will replace the current ROI, which will be retired on **July 31, 2023**. **Starting August 1, 2023, only the Consumer Information Sharing Agreement will be accepted.**

Please reach out to Loren White at Loren.White@santacruzcounty.us if you have any questions or concerns related to the HMIS Reboot.



How-to

How To: Client Contact Tab

The “Contact” tab within the client record is where you will go to create and update a client’s contact information (phone numbers and email address). Multiple contact records can be created in a client record, allowing you to save contact information for family members, case workers, primary care providers, employers, emergency contacts, and other important contacts.

During the April HMIS Workgroup, we discussed how important it is to log as many types of contact records as possible. Creating multiple contact records is important for coordinating care between providers, for connecting clients to resource and housing opportunities, getting in touch in the case of emergencies, and much more.

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Report Spotlight

Annual Performance Report (APR)

[HUDX-227] Annual Performance Report (APR) is a report required to be submitted by entities that receive HUD CoC homeless assistance grants.

The APR report is updated regularly In Clarity Human Services to align with the current HUD HMIS Data Standards and provide a comprehensive view of client level data entered in HMIS as well as program outcomes.

The APR report is submitted in SAGE, HUD's reporting repository, on an annual basis, within 90 days after the end of the program's operating year.

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News

Bitfocus is Hiring

Do you enjoy developing and maintaining comprehensive partnerships with customers at multiple

We're Hiring!

levels, anticipating needs and providing solutions as a critical part of a region's homelessness response systems? If this sounds like the ultimate environment to you, check out our open career opportunities [here](#).

Questions? Your HMIS Administrator is happy to help.

Phone: 831-713-2288

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