🗹 **Bitfocus**

Santa Cruz HMIS News
June 2023

Welcome to the Santa Cruz HMIS June 2023 newsletter!

In this edition you'll find the following:

- Upcoming Events
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- HMIS User Survey - Closed 6/19/23
- HMIS Reboot Updates
- Clarity Human Services Feature Updates: Introducing Client Pronouns!
- Clarity Toolbox: Data Quality Fields
- Report Spotlight: Using the Report Library
- Bitfocus is Hiring!

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Housing for Health - HMIS Workgroup

Monday, July 24th | 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, July 25th | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. I 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.

News

New 2024 HUD Data Standards on 10/1/23

HMIS data standards have been established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to allow for standardized data collection on individuals and families experiencing homelessness across systems nationwide.

Please Note: FY 2022 data standards are effective as of October 1, 2021 and remain in effect until September 30, 2023. **On October 1, 2023, the new FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards will go into effect, and you will see changes to data collection and reporting within the HMIS.** The changes to the data standards

does *not* mean you will be asked to do more work in the HMIS, rather, you will just see some changes to some data collection and reporting elements.

One of the most exciting changes to the client data collection is the combining of the race and ethnicity fields into a single element, and an additional race and ethnicity text box option will be added to provide more detail if necessary. The response options for the new "**3.04 Race and Ethnicity**" field will be:

- American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- Asian or Asian American
- Black, African American, or African
- Hispanic/Latina/e/o
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White
- Client doesn't know
- Client prefers not to answer
- Data not collected

There are also some exciting updates to the "**3.06 Gender**" field. The updated response options for this field will be:

- Woman (Girl if child)
- Man (Boy if child)
- Non-Binary
- Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)
- Different Identity: _____

If you are interested in learning more about the specific changes in the new FY 2024 data standards, please check out this resource we have put together for you. The updates described in this resource include those that directly impact user data entry in Clarity Human Services.

In the meantime, we are working on updating paper HMIS forms, identifying

HMIS training needs with respect to the new data standards changes, and more. And not to worry, more information will be coming as we get closer to October 1. Stay tuned!

Updates

"Spring into Summer" HMIS User Survey - Closed 6/19/23

The deadline to respond to the "Spring into Summer" HMIS User Survey was June 19, 2023, and the survey is now closed. Congratulations to the 3 raffle winners who won gift certificates to the Homeless Garden Project!

The raffle winners have been selected and notified.

We would like to spotlight one of them here:
Andrea Eaton
Recuperative Care Center Program Manager at Housing Matters

We had a total of **52 responses** and we thank each and every one of you who took the time to provide your feedback in this survey. We appreciate your

feedback and we can't wait to start reviewing it! We will use your survey responses to address any concerns brought to our attention, create new resources, and hopefully to boost your engagement and confidence using the HMIS. We will also share the feedback we receive at a future HMIS Workgroup meeting.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us or H4H staff with any questions or concerns about the HMIS User Survey.

News

HMIS Reboot Updates

HMIS Organizational Partnership and Data Sharing Agreement

The DocuSign **link** to the HMIS Organizational Partnership and Data Sharing Agreements is live on the Santa Cruz Bitfocus Support website. *If your Executive Director has not already signed, please let them know that they are required to do so by July 31, or your agency's HMIS Users risk losing access to the database.*

Privacy & Security Trainings

Housing for Health is currently holding *mandatory, in-person* HMIS Privacy and Security Trainings. If you have not already taken the training, please make sure to sign up for one of the upcoming trainings listed in the table below. Please email **loren.white@santacruzcounty.us** to sign up for a training session. *Completion of this training is mandatory, and you must complete an in-person training to avoid losing access to the HMIS on July 31st.*

	Date	Time	Location
1st Training	July 7th	9am-12pm	18 W. Beach St. Watsonville Training Room 2 & 3
2nd Training	July 26th	9am-12pm	HSA 1400 Emeline. Training Room 206 & 207

General HMIS Trainings

Housing for Health is currently designing the General HMIS *mandatory, in-person* trainings and plan to offer them later this summer. This training will be broken into two modules and will cover using/navigating HMIS. More to come on this in the weeks to come.

Clarity Human Services Updates

# Feature Updates: Introducing Client Pronouns

Happy Pride Month!

As of this month, you can now record client **Pronouns** in the HMIS. You will now see the option to add your clients personal pronouns on the client profile page. The new field allows you to select from the following options:

- She/Her/Hers
- He/Him/His
- They/Them/Theirs
- Manual Entry
    - *If this option is chosen, a text line will appear where you can manually enter your clients preferred pronouns*
- Client doesn't know
- Client refused
- Data not collected
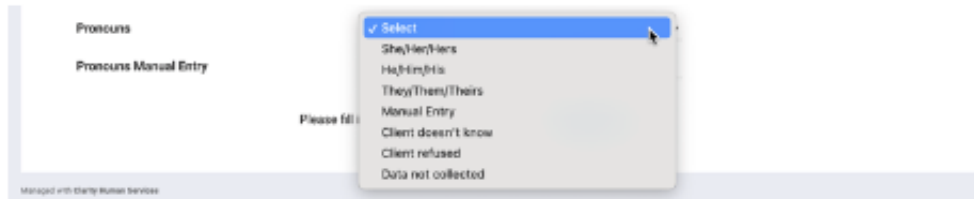
If you enter pronouns for a client, the pronouns will appear in parentheses after the client name in all locations throughout the system where the client name is displayed. *This is an optional field; you are not required to enter the client's personal pronouns.*
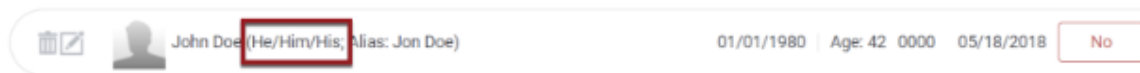
Please note that no pronouns will be displayed for the client if either of the following conditions are true:

- *The value for the **Pronouns** field is "Select," "Client doesn't know," "Client refused," or "Data not collected."*

- *The user selects "Manual Entry" for the **Pronouns** field but does not enter any text in the **Pronouns Manual Entry** field.*

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions about the new pronouns field in the client profile.

How-to

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. Each of these fields has five possible answers:

- A "full" value option for the field in question
- A "partial" value option for the field in question
- "Client doesn't know"
- "Client refused"
- "Data not collected"

They allow you to indicate how reliable the data in these fields are, as well as to indicate when a client is anonymous in the system.
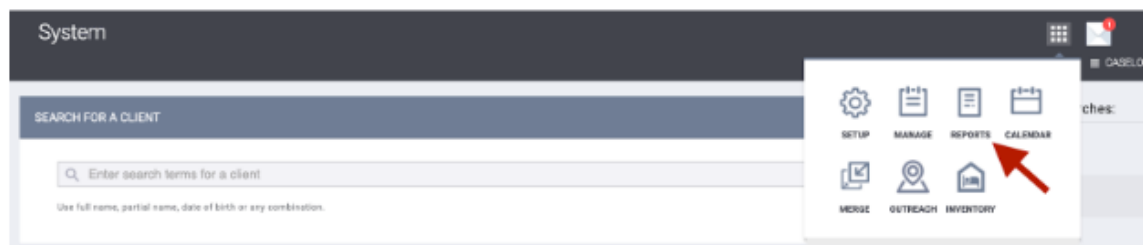
Continue reading

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*.

Continue reading

News

Bitfocus is Hiring

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

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
Email: santacruz@bitfocus.com