

September 2011

New Hampshire HMIS

HMIS updating to Bowman 5

Current entry system will be updated to more efficient software.

The New Hampshire Homeless Management Information Systems is finally doing it: they're updating to Service Point 5. The update is scheduled to occur next summer; however, there is still a lot of work to do.

The new HMIS program features a new, sleek look, which is easier to use and more accurate than Service Point 4. Other states have implemented this new software, including Maine, Michigan and Rhode Island. The agencies that have used the new HMIS have seen positive

results.

As we all know, data accuracy is extremely important in community partners planning, funding, public awareness and in understanding the nature and scope of homelessness. Data is useless if it is not accurate and reliable, and thus, the update will hopefully eradicate some of the errors that have occurred using HMIS version 4.

HMIS is HUD's response to capture better data on homelessness. Training for the new software will be available this spring, but the date is TBA. Donna Curley is also

offering a refresher course on ServicePoint 4 this October.

Data is the link between the people who need services and programs and the people who make the decisions about services and programs. Every HMIS record is a survivor story, and so the HMIS team is dedicated to helping the agencies in New Hampshire provide this information.

HMIS team attends Portland conference

This July, the HMIS team composed of Donna Curley, Al Vitale, Bernie Bluhm and Tony Nappo ventured their way to Portland, Maine to the Bowman Systems July Eastern User Summit.

The Bowman Systems User Summits session included partner presentations and panels from a number of communities. The New Hampshire HMIS team provided a presentation on data quality and on the New

Hampshire project.

And they did it in good fun; in order to educate conference attendees about New Hampshire itself, they presented the youtube video "Granite State of Mind."

It's due to the user difficulty and weakness of version 4 that some wacky data reports have been recorded. It's the HMIS team's intent that with the new Boman 5 System, the pregnant males, 200 year old women and 10-year-old veterans will be eliminated due to mistakes in

data recording.

Consistency and accuracy are essential in moving forward.

The team also attended a number of workshops at the conference, and they were able to gain some expertise from the communities that have added Bowman 5 in their systems.

They were granted scholarships by Bowman that covered the conference cost.

HMIS brings in Tony Nappo and Kelly Sennott

Kelly Sennott

The HMIS team has expanded this year to include Anthony Nappo and Kelly Sennott.

They're both very excited to have joined the HMIS team. Not only are they excellent company for Donna Curley in her top-of-the-line basement quarters, but they are bringing in tools that will help improve HMIS and data quality this year.

Kelly Sennott is an Americorps VISTA volunteer from Derry, N.H. She's one member of the Families in Transition Americorps group dedicated to providing safe, affordable housing and services to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This is her first year as a VISTA member.

She's looking to bring her Journalism and communication background to provide assistance to the HMIS program.

Tony Nappo

Before Tony joined the HMIS team, Tony was a service manager for 25 years in the Northeast. During this time, he fostered a team that focused on providing total customer support to end users.

Tony has been working for HMIS since November 2010. He's looking forward to utilizing his many years of experience to move HMIS to the next generation of software and professional support.

Do you have the right computer configurations for BOWMAN 5?

All client data currently available in 4.x will also be available in the upgraded software. However, the optimal configuration for computers running with SP 5 will be a little more demanding than with SP 4.

Right now, it is recommended that HMIS users have PC's. Monitors should be 1024 x 768 XGA, and a dual-core processor is advised. As for internet browsers, Google Chrome and Firefox work best. Internet Explorer 8 is also supported, however, other browsers will work with varying

results. This recommendation, however, is subject to change.

Many computers have a slot to add memory, which is not expensive or difficult. While a dual-core processor is recommended, it is likely that the program will still function with an older processor, but performance may be reduced.

If you have technical support staff, please ask for their guidance about these recommendations. If you do not, you may email Tony Nappo

(a.nappo@harborhomes.org) . We'll try to help you assess whether or not your computer will be able to run SP 5.

Users were sent a detailed document in an email on August 31.

Bowman Systems public training sessions available to HMIS users

Refresher training courses will be available at the Welcoming Light training facility on Oct. 17 and 18 at 45 High Street in Nashua, N.H. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The course will cover ServicePoint 4 for HMIS users who would like to relearn HMIS data entry. The training course will cover hot topics for users, particularly ones that have caused problems or difficulties in the past.

Users were asked about which specific topics they would like covered on an email August 24.

Users were interested in learning more about adding family members in data entry, how to move people from program to program, how to perform annual updates, and how to run reports. Basic data entry instruction will also be provided.

Training registration is available at <http://nh-hmis-refreshertrainingsp4.eventbrite.com>.

Details about the event can also be found at this site. Please sign up by Friday, Oct. 7. Registration closes at 5 p.m.

Accurate data entry is imperative in providing accurate data reports, and thus, assessing New Hampshire's progress in serving the homeless. It's also critical in determining where there can be improvement.

The HMIS team estimates that ServicePoint 5 will be available next July. Training sessions for ServicePoint 5 will occur this Spring. These training dates will be available later this year.

Reporting Period for HPRP ends Sept. 30

September 30 marks the closing of the reporting period for HPRP.

The HMIS team will be working on the Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) once all the required information is submitted.

The team will also begin working on Year 2 of the Annual Progress Report (APR) once all the required data is put in the system.

Our team truly believes in the power of using Data to better serve our clients. HMIS is the vehicle we can use to help drive additional funding. We look forward to working with you all to help New Hampshire meet and exceed its HMIS goals.

Harbor Homes is a non profit organization dedicated to creating and providing quality residential and supportive services for individuals and their families who are experiencing mental illness and/or homelessness. The non profit organization became the Homeless Management Information Systems lead agency on August 1, 2010 with the aim to better equip New Hampshire agencies to provide accurate data quality.

For more information, check out the New Hampshire HMIS website, www.nh-hmis.org.

New Hampshire HMIS

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