Tori Morris: Going over some technical notes. Great. So, as always, a recording of today's session along with the slide deck and a copy of the chat, and the question and answers content will be posted to the HUD exchange within a few business days. So, materials from this session, along with the recording and materials from prior PIT count office hours can also be found in HUD Exchange and we'll post that link in the chat. And then if you're going to, if you're having some audio issues, we definitely recommend that you also join the webinar by phone, so instead of computers, so we have this phone number for an access code on the slide. So, you can use that number to join by phone and we also posted that in the chat. Great.

So, during the question-and-answer portion of the event, we're going to pause for questions, and we anticipate and hope to hear from you through the chat function. So, to find the chat function, it's going to be at the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. There's a little message icon bubble with the words "chat", so you'll want to click on that chat button and then you should be able to see the chat come up with the words "To:" and then a drop down menu. So, in the drop-down menu, you'll want to switch "To:" to everyone that way, we can, all the attendees and the panelists can see your questions and your comments in the chat. Great.

And for the Q and A portion of the event, we'll also you'll also be able to ask a question verbally if you don't want to ask your question through the chat, and in order to do that, you can look at again at the right bottom hand corner of your screen next to the chat button. There's a participant button that has like, a person icon with 3 dashes. So, you want to click on that, and then a window will appear with your name at the top of the window and, next to your name, there's a little hand icon and you can select that hand icon to raise your hand. And once you have your hand raised, we'll call on, you, unmute you, so you can ask your question and respond to the answer of your question, and then put you back on mute. And also, if perhaps someone else asked your question or you decide you don't want to ask your question anymore, you can just hit that hand icon one more time and that'll lower your hand and then we won't call on you verbally. And for everyone calling in on the phone, you can also unmute and mute yourself by hitting star 6. Next slide, thanks. Great.

So we have a few speakers and resource advisors on the phone today. From HUD, we have William Snow from the office of special needs assistance programs, or SNAPS office. William's preferred pronouns are he, him, his. And then from Abt Associates, we have myself, Tori Morris, Aubrey Sitler,

Meghan Henry, Caroline Roddey. And myself, Aubrey, Megan and Caroline's preferred pronouns are she, her, hers.

Okay, so the agenda for today, we're going to start off with William giving a HIC and PIT count update and then we'll talk a little bit about PIT count safety considerations and then go into PIT count sampling guidance and tools. And for that part, we're going to give an overview of sampling and developing a sampling approach and a demonstration of some sampling tools that are on HUD exchange currently. And then we'll move into question and answers. So, with that, I'm going to pass it over to William to give a HIC and PIT count update.

03:48

William Snow: All right, thanks Tori, looking forward to the conversation today. I was actually looking at the header of the HIC and PIT Count updates—there's not really updates, per say, there's the same things that were required before when we published the notice in Novembre. But wanted to provide the reminders, at this point, everyone should be expecting to conduct your counts, I imagine that's why you're on the call today. We don't plan on providing exceptions. Sorry, that's not, not really extensions that should be exceptions to the count for COVID-19. We plan on moving CoCs forward. If your CoC did not conduct a full count last year, full meaning both a sheltered and unsheltered count, then your CoC should be counting on doing that this year, should be planning for that right now. So just want to make sure CoCs are clear on that. And we're proceeding under that assumption even now. We are watching what's going on. We do know the pandemic is not over and we're aware of that as an issue. At this point again, same thing as we've shared in the past, we've had discussions with our partners at CDC or discussions with our partners at Healthcare for the Homeless Council and there's agreement that while we should continue to monitor, at this point, CoCs should continue to plan on counting. And we really need that information to help us understand, we being hopefully you at the community level, but to also help national planning and thinking about what's going on the streets, what services are needed, who's still out there. So we just need to understand that aspect so we can ensure that that we're reaching them. Alright, next slide please.

Alright, I'm going to shift gears into the safety considerations. I think one of the things to note about the safety considerations is that there are not a lot of changes from what we shared last year. Again, we worked with CDC and national Health Care for the Homeless Council on this as well and a lot of similarities. Let's go to the next slide please. There's some core things to note, I think the biggest one

obviously needed updating thankfully, is the vaccination piece. We didn't have that last year and we do indeed have it this year. So, there's a little bit more to talk about it and I'll cover that in a moment, but most of these other topics are pretty much the same as before. Right, PPE—should still be using it; social distancing—I think we all that's the new norm for all of us. We'll talk a little bit about volunteers and homeless provider staff. Doing a remote PIT count training. Again, spoke about that last year highly recommend, take advantage of that option and find ways to do that, continue partnerships at the local level. That's again you guys know that so well. We'll talk today about sampling. We recognize, right now you're going to have fewer volunteers. That's the way that's going to roll. We all understand that. So, you're going to be relying more on sampling. Given that, we wanted to provide more guidance on what does that sampling look like, what are ways to do it effectively and to have confidence. So, we're excited to see that. That's something you may end up incorporating more in the future anyways. I think there's a lot of good things to be understood about sampling that will help our counts again going forward and then the opportunity to take advantage of mobile count applications, so that's hopefully something that's helping many communities. I've seen lots of communities feel like that's been a value add and remove some of the back-end needs. All right let's go to the next slide please.

So, as I mentioned, one of the changes is vaccination, we certainly encourage you as you're speaking with volunteers and posting that option for community partners and volunteers, citizens to be able to join in the Point in Time count, we would encourage that you stress the importance of vaccination. You at the CoC level, have the discretion to determine how far you want to take that. This is unlike other activities you can prohibit volunteers who are not vaccinated. That is a choice that you can make at the CoC level. So, that's something to consider. We certainly feel strongly that vaccination is going to make this process safer. So, we strongly encourage you to figure out how to do that or how to encourage it among your volunteers. The other thing to bear in mind, again, this actually is not different from the past is how you think about testing volunteers if that's something available to you. It's a good idea to test a couple days, up to 7 days prior to the counts and then to do testing afterwards, or at least symptom watching, just to make sure folks are not impacted by going out. So, again, not a ton of changes there. PPE, we still strongly encourage you to provide the PPE at the CoC level, encourage all volunteers to have it and use it at all times, have it available to those you are counting as well so that they have access to it. Again, that's probably what you're doing anyways. And so nothing, nothing new there and same with social distancing. One of the reasons the Point in Time count is a less dangerous activity is the fact that it's done outside and you should be able to have some distance between those

involved in counting as and doing the counting and those being counted. So, I think the tougher ones are the interactions with volunteers and other staff who are participating. So, let's cover that in the next slide please.

So, some of your areas where you'll have to consider, like, how do I have the same type of interactions again, tends to be with volunteers or partners as you're driving to and from counting sites trying to pair folks again, who have vaccination status, who have been fully vaccinated trying to keep, use vehicles where they are separated, or even have volunteers travel to certain spots. Maybe even meet there in the first place. Those are all options that can help. Again, that doesn't solve it for everyone. We, we understand that. And we don't presume to be able to tell you how each of your local circumstances have to be adjusted. We know that that's something that you'll have to work through and figure out. How do I do this in the safest possible way for our volunteers and for our partner staff. So, we're, again, strongly encourage you to take advantage of your street outreach partners, or your shelter partners, but recognizing as well, most, especially on your shelters, most staff involved are heavily involved with what you're doing already, right? Providing services, keeping folks safe during the winter. And we definitely understand that. That's actually one of the biggest factors to consider in all this. So, we appreciate that. And I think again, a lot of that stuff in the past, we're glad that it's moving forward. And actually, it'll probably move forward in the future, a lot of good practices to implement for safe counts. Now we're going to turn our attention to the sampling side. So, I turn it over, I believe to Tori for that.

11:13

Tori Morris: Great. Thanks William. So, yeah, next we'll go over PIT Count sampling guidance and tools. So, before we get started, I want to outline some sampling guidance and tools that's already available on the HUD exchange. So, the first document on this list is a guidance document that was put together last year that provides an overview of sampling, and how do you use sampling to conduct an unsheltered PIT count. In addition to that there is also, last year on December 3rd, there was the PIT count office hours that focused solely on sampling and going over this guidance document. So that recording, and those materials are going to have a lot more detailed information about sampling than I'm going to go over to today. Second and third, we have the PIT count sampling and estimation tool and these, we're going to be demonstrating today during the call. And then we have the PIT count data extrapolation tool, which we won't be going over today but there's more information available about that on HUD exchange and if you have questions about that tool, you can also submit a question to the AAQ.

Next slide. Great. So, you may be wondering what sampling is or maybe you know about sampling and you're not really sure how it pertains to you or your community. So, on a very general level, sampling is a way to account for information about a whole group of people by only collecting data about a portion of that full group. So, in the context of the unsheltered PIT count, this means that a community could estimate the number, and the characteristics of all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by only counting some areas, some sampled areas of a CoC's full geography. So, we have a graphical way to represent that idea below. So you can imagine that each circle is the area of one CoC. And this is a very simple example, but in this example, the CoC is divided into three urban areas, which is represented by those apartment icons, three suburban areas, which is represented by the, the neighborhood icons, and then one rural area. So, if you were doing a full census count for your unsheltered PIT count, you would have to go to each of these areas, go to every part of those areas, and survey everyone experiencing unsheltered homelessness to get your PIT count. But if you do sampling, your PIT count can look more like the circle on the right where you only end up having to go to two urban areas, one suburban area and one rural area, and if sampling is done accurately, both of these methods can produce an accurate estimate of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Next slide. Great. and like, anything else, there's benefits and drawbacks of sampling. So, as you can probably tell from the previous slide and the graphic, a big benefit of sampling is that it's going to require less time than a full census count and that's because you're not having to cover every area of your CoC and following from that, it's therefore going to require fewer staff and volunteers. And in the context of COVID-19, this means that you're going to be having less interactions between PIT count enumerators and people experiencing homelessness, you're going to reduce that risk of COVID-19 by sampling. Some of the drawbacks is that sampling relies on assumptions that will be made most likely on limited information. So, the data and information you have will inform assumptions about where you think people are experiencing homelessness and at what rates. And going off of that as well, is that sampling is never going to be as precise as a full census count. So nothing is ever going to be as precise as going out to every block in your community and talking to every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness. That's just one of the realities of sampling. And lastly, this is an important point as well, a big drawback of sampling as if demographics are not accounted for in developing a sampling approach, extrapolated information about demographics may not be valid. So to breaks that down into an

example, say, for example, you have an area in your where you know youth or persons under the age of 18 are more likely to experience unsheltered homelessness. If you don't consider that fact when you divide your CoC and select your sampling areas, it may be the case that your PIT count is under reporting the number of youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness in your community. Next slide, please. Great. So, you may be thinking this sounds great, I am interested in sampling, and we wanted to, on that, by that end, give you or lay out some sampling supports that can access to develop the sampling approach. So, the first resource that can be extremely useful is a local research partner. And this most commonly looks like partnering with the local university, but really, it can mean partnering with anyone with expertise of any professional with expertise in statistics, or sampling methods. And these folks can help refine their PIT count data collection approaches to support the implementation of sampling and also, in cases help with data cleaning and analysis. Another big support for communities is technical assistance providers. So technical assistance providers can answer questions about technical assistance tools like the ones we'll be going over later in the webinar. We can connect to resources and assist communities and developing PIT count methodologies. Next slide, great.

So, before we dive into the tools, I just want to go over a few sampling terms. I'm not going to read through all of these, but I want to just go over a few that might be helpful to review before we continue. So, the first is subareas, which are distinct areas of a CoC's full geography. So, if you think back to that first example with the circle and the three urban and suburban area, those would have been the subareas. Usually it's not that neat, the subareas do not need to be all the same size geographically, but your CoC should be divided and categorized based on predicted levels of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. So that's what we mean when we say subarea. And there's also five types of subareas. One, and we'll talk about those more later, but one is a certainty subarea, high density subarea, medium density subarea, rare or unlikely subarea, and then uninhabitable subareas. So, for uninhabitable subareas, this is going to be a place that you don't include in your PIT count, cause it's a body of water or somewhere else where people cannot sleep. Next slide.

Great, so I'm going to go over the 6 general steps there are for developing a sampling approach. These are very general, because as you all know, CoCs vary a lot in terms of geography, size, climate, population, many other factors. So, it's really impossible for us to give specific guidance on how to, for example, do step 1 or 2 of this process. So, but here's like the general flow of how you can go about developing a sampling approach. So, the first one we've alluded to and previously in the other slides, but

it's to divide your CoC geography into subareas. So, again, you're going to want to do that based on predicted levels of homelessness. And also, you're going to want to consider demographics when you divide your subareas. The next step is to identify certainty subareas so that that term was on the previous slide, but essentially a certainty subarea is a place that's so unique based on the predicted levels of unsheltered homelessness that you're going to want to count it in your PIT out always. So, this could be maybe like a street that, you know, there's a 99% likelihood that people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count on that street, that's like an area you're definitely want to include in your PIT count so that it's accurate. And the next is to determine a sampling percentage for each high, medium, or rare area. So, we can talk a little bit—that might become a little clearer what that means when we go over the tool. But essentially that means there's no universal rule for how many or what percentage of subareas you need to sample, but you'll just want to think about those sampling percentages in terms of, again, the predicted levels of homelessness in those areas. And step four is to randomly select sample subareas. That's something that the tools that will be demonstrating in just a bit can help you with, but that's just the random selection of those high, medium, or rare areas that you're going to be conducting your PIT activities. In. And step five, easier said than done is conducting the PIT out and you're going to want to conduct the PIT count in your certainty and in your randomly selected subareas. And the last step is to derive an estimated PIT count, and again, that is something the tools can help you all do but essentially, you're going to be estimating the PIT count by weighting the sampling sites by their sampling percentage. Okay, great. So, with all that being said, I'm going to pass things over to Aubrey Sitler, and she's going to introduce the tools I've been mentioning and also do a demonstration.

20:56

Aubrey Sitler: Awesome. Thank you, Tori. Hi, everybody. I'm Aubrey Sitler. I also work for Abt Associates with Tori. I'm a HUD technical assistance provider, and I use she and her pronouns. So, Tori just gave you all the background on what sampling is. For those of you who are new to sampling, I really encourage you to watch that office hours that we did last year where I think we spent you know, like 45 minutes diving into some of the detailed guidance that HUD has released on what sampling is and what it is supposed to achieve. But to kind of help people to do the math as it were around sampling and to get to that estimated PIT count number that accounts for unsampled areas, using a sampling approach, there are two different tools that we have developed in the last year. One of them is called the PIT count

sampling tool and the other one is called the PIT count estimating tool. Those probably sound like very similar things to most of you. I think that's very reasonable, but what I'm going to do right now is walk you through kind of what the difference between these two tools is. And we're going to start with the PIT count sampling tool. So, as you can see on the slide here, the goal of this tool is to support communities who are in the planning phase of their PIT count. So before you have conducted your PIT count to determine which sample sites you will use and which sample sites you will actually go to collect PIT count information and then you'll use that information that you collect during your PIT count activities in the last 10 days of January to then do the math and extrapolate to account for all of the people across your continuum of care, including those people who were not counted, because they were in unsampled areas, to arrive at a full PIT count estimate for your continue. So, if you think back to the slide that Tori just showed you where there were all the different steps, this tool helps you with both step number four, which is randomly selecting, which sites you will sample, and it helps you with step number six. That is deriving an estimated PIT count.

So, Caroline just stuck in the chat a link to a document, and I'm going to go ahead and share my screen here. Just a second. Okay. And if you click that link, what you'll see is this page right here, we're going to give my Webex stuff a second to go away so it doesn't show you a bunch of gray screens. So, on this page here, this is where all the sampling guidance that had has released lives on HUD exchange. The first tool we're going to talk about is this PIT count sampling tool. And with both of these tools, as I'll show you in a second, there's the tool, which is an Excel file. So, when you click this button here, it will download onto your computer. But there's also a user guide that's a PDF. So, when you click this one, it at least on my computer opens in a new tab, might open in a new window for you. And basically, this tool or this guide, this PDF guide, gives you the overview, the background and the purpose of what this tool is supposed to help you do, and it also gives you the summary of how to actually use and move through the tool. So, this is the most detailed guidance that we have created that tells you exactly when you open it up, what are you supposed to do with tab one. What's the purpose of this tab, what terms are relevant when I'm going through this tab, and how do I actually use it? What do I put into this tab and what does it calculate for me? We've also included example screenshots from each tab of what it might look like if you actually fill it in and kind of what, what columns and what rows you're supposed to put information into and which ones the tool kind of calculates for you, and how those mechanics work. So, the pages I just very, very quickly scrolled through were all for tab one and you'll see that right after that comes to tab two. So, you know, we've tried to be as explicit and as detailed as possible and move

through each of these tabs to explain what it is that you will actually see as you are moving through this tool. Now, we're not going to dive deeply into that guidance document because what we're going to do instead is show you the tool itself.

So, your orientation to the PIT count sampling tool. This first tab is a very brief user guide. It is not nearly as detailed as the one I just showed you, but what it does have are hyperlinks. So, there are two clickable hyperlinks on here. Both of the kind of orange or reddish colored ones here. One goes to generally the implementation tools page and then this one goes back to that user guide that I was. I was just talking about, that landing page that has the user guide that I was just talking about. So, within this tool, the point is, that you're going to start with those subarea types that Tori just mentioned. And so the examples that we just use, we're going to test my memory for a second, we talked about high density, subareas. We talked about medium density subareas. We talked about low density or rare subarea types, and we talked about, you know, places that would be uninhabitable. That is not a prescription for how you have to think about your geography. It's a suggestion. As with all HUD guidance and tools, you know, we try really hard to not be prescriptive and to make it so that you can make decisions that align with, kind of your local context. So, we even didn't even we didn't even say those exact terms in this file when we were creating it. We have example one, example two, example three instead. But so, column A, you're going to put all those subarea types you're going to determine what your sampling percentage is. So, for example, in this example, one subarea type, they've said, 80, we want to go to and actually count people in 80% of this subarea type. And we have five total of those subareas therefore, the tool spits out for you that you would then be going to four different subareas to conduct your sampling activities, your PIT count activities. One thing to note about the format of both of these tools is that any of this kind of white or clear cells are things that you input information into. This one, you may not be able to tell on my shared screen, but it is, I'll zoom in a little bit. Sorry. It's a little bit more of a gray color, so that is a calculated value that you cannot change on your own. Another thing to note about how these tools are set up, is that on each tab, there is there are very brief instruction instructions for what to fill in and what kind of the basics of these terms might be. And once you've filled in any given tab, you have to hit the submit button if it exists there, before you move to the next one. So, for this one, we're going to hit submit. If you did something super wrong and it's going to cause an error, there are a bunch of common errors that we've programmed pop ups. So, it might pop up and tell you, hey, you plugged to this in, and that doesn't make sense based on what you're trying to calculate, can you double check that for me, please, otherwise, this tool is not going to work.

28:25

Okay, so we've done tab one. We're going to go to tab two. For this one, you're going to fill in subarea names. And so, this row seven shows you, in the last example, we had example 1, 2, 3, and 4 as the subarea types. So, within each of those, let's say, for example, you are a continuum of care that has a bunch of different neighborhoods all within the same city. That that would count under example, 1, for subarea type. You could list out what each of those city names are so that you're keeping better track of them. If you're using census tracks or some other kind of identifier, maybe you've numbered them, then you would put those numbers in here. You also have to fill in a random seed and that's kind of a wonky term. But what it does is, it makes it so that if you're trying to kind of replicate this in the middle of doing your PIT count activities, that when you click sample and it's randomly picking your sample, it will pick the same sample every time as long as the data in here doesn't change. And so, it's partly a consistency thing and it's also partly so that if you accidentally re-click a button in the middle of doing your sampling, it's a protective factor for you. So that you don't totally mess up your data and then get totally lost. So, once we've hit sample and we go into our next tab, this will randomly spit out—not randomly—no, yes, randomly—it will randomly spit out each of the subarea names that you're going to go to, to comprise your sample. So, again, the point of sampling is that you are going to some areas and not going to other areas, but you're being intentional about how you're grouping those areas in part so that you can reasonably account for the folks that you didn't actually go to survey or to interview or to count on the night of your PIT count or during your PIT count activities. The white cells here again are the ones that you're going to fill in. The light blue ones, it will auto generate. You'll put your count numbers of people you've actually counted in here after your count activity. So, basically you fill in tabs 1 and 2 before you conduct your PIT count and tab 3 tells you where you're going to go to conduct your PIT count.

After you've conducted your account, you fill in more numbers here to say, how many total people you counted in each of the subareas that were part of your sample. And for this one there is not a submit button; it will just automatically calculate into this tab. So, tab 4, you don't fill in anything. And the whole point of it is that it will tell you the total numbers that all of these are pulled from, from prior tabs, everything in here. So, it will tell you the total number of people that you counted and based on some of those numbers that you put in at the beginning of what the probability was of, that particular area being or type of area, subarea, being sampled. It will calculate for you the total number of people

to count in your PIT count because again, if you're not doing a full census count, but you are using kind of this intentional sampling approach, you will not possibly count all of the people in your entire continuum and you need to account for those people who could not possibly have been counted because they were not in sampled subareas. So, this final one will give you up here in the top left what we call your, your unweighted sample is the total number of people that you actually counted, and your weighted sample will be the total number of people you should include in your Point in Time count data to HUD. Notice, there's nothing in here about demographics. That is intentional. There is a PIT count data extrapolation tool that we're not going to go over today. But again, as Tori said, you can submit AAQs to ask questions about extrapolating for demographic data.

I am going to stop sharing my screen and go back to our PowerPoint here. We're going to get to Q and A pretty quickly so I'm going to not take questions right now on that particular tool, in service of instead, getting to the PIT count estimating tool overview, but definitely want to talk through any questions. I know that was a lot of information, and we didn't dive super deeply into, for example, running through a full example of how to use that tool. I'm going to move into the PIT Count estimating tool. So, I said before that there were two different tools. You do not need to use both of these. The point of both of them is to get you to that weighted PIT count total number. You're going to pick which tool makes the most sense based on whether you want the PIT count sampling tool to help you pick which areas you're going to go and sample or you're going to use the PIT count estimating tool if you're using some other method to determine which areas you're sampling and you just wanted to have a tool to help you get to that final weighted or estimated Point in Time count number, unsheltered Point in Time count number, so again, the goal of the estimating tool is to help communities that have already conducted the unsheltered Point in Time count using a sampling approach to get to that final estimated number. So, I'm going to share my screen again. Let me see here. Okay.

34:05

Same thing with the estimating tool that we started with for the sampling tool. It's on the same landing page. If you click the Excel file, it will download. If you click the user guide, it will open in a separate tab or window because it's a PDF. It looks very similar to the other user guide that we just walked through, and its format is exactly the same. It has some background, provides the purpose, gives you a tiny bit of background on what sampling is and then it gives you a detailed overview of how to move through and how to use each of the tabs in this tool. So, we'll go ahead and open that tool and shocking, but true, the

tabs are also structured kind of similarly in that they start with this, this user guide. That's a super big picture overview. It doesn't dive into nearly as much detail as that PDF I just showed you, but it does have hyperlinks if you've lost the hyperlink and you want to click back to it or, you know, you lose the file on your computer or whatever, whatever it might be. This one starts similarly to the other one, but you might notice that the calculation itself is a little bit different. Because this tool assumes that you have already conducted your PIT count, there are some subareas that you went to and sampled and some unsampled areas that you did not go to, did not collect any information about. It still asks you to name each of your subarea types. So, high density subareas, low density subareas, medium density, subareas. But instead of asking you, the percentage that you would ideally like to sample, because you've already done the sample, you tell it instead the total number of subareas within that category that you went to. I'm sorry, you tell it the total number of subareas that exist and then you tell it the total number of subareas that you actually went to. So, the tool is instead of calculating the total number that you should go to, it's calculating what the total percentage sampled was. You then hit submit and you go to this next tab. I'm going to zoom in a little bit because I know it's probably very small on your computers. And so, it's going to ask you to, starting in row eight, input the names of each of the subareas that were randomly sampled. So, in this example, you know, we've done very generic names. And it's going to ask you for the Point in Time count of people you actually counted in each of those subareas. So, you're going to fill that in. And if for some reason, what you fill in here does not match with what the tool was expecting based on what you filled in for how many total subareas were sampled in tab 1, when you hit the submit button one of the things it double checks for you is, does this match with what I was expecting and if it doesn't, it will tell you, and it will not move forward with doing your calculation. So, again, there are kind of some built in protections for you to make sure that you're not going to arrive at a totally bogus number just because of some typos. So, once you fill this part in and you hit submit, and no errors are popping up, this is also very similar to the final tab in the last tool as well where, and you can see it in this one, the version that's uploaded on HUD exchange has data in here that was from the example, that we had kind of copied and pasted into it. When you add your own data into here, it will clear all the rest of it. For, so that you're not, you know, going to end up with this random stuff that was from the example. But it calculates for you what the total number of unweighted sample is. So, the total number of people who were actually counted and then what the weighted sample is based on that other information that was filled in and tabs 1 and 2. So, you know, for those of you who are a little unclear or a little skeptical of, of sampling approaches, and whether they account

for, or count for HUD's purposes as a verifiable methodology. you can see here that based on this example, approach the unweighted sample. The total number of people counted was 378. But the weighted sample, the total number of people that will be submitted in your, your data, your PIT count data that goes to HUD is 679. And so, this is supposed to be estimating, it's supposed to be helping you to identify all of the people who weren't counted, because you didn't actually go to the unsampled areas. And so, for, you know, in a lot of places, I think people might tend to accidentally do a sampling approach without realizing that they're doing it and just kind of affirm or count the people who they happen to count without accounting for those other areas. but you can also see here that, you know, by trying to account for those, hopefully, you're getting at a more accurate total number. I'm going to stop sharing my screen and I am going to hand things back over to Tori.

39:05

Tori Morris: Great, thanks Aubrey. Alright next slide. Okay. So, we're going to go over some PIT count resources before we move into the Q and A, so if you've submitted an AAQ to the HDX inbox, AAQ inbox recently you might have seen this response. But there hasn't been a change to the AAQ inbox, the HDX AAQ inbox, which also includes the HIC and PIT count AAQ inbox will no longer be answering policy questions, including those about planning for, or implementing the HIC or PIT count. So instead, those policy questions that you have should be sent to this email address, which is HICPITcount@HUD.gov. The HUD exchange inbox will continue to answer questions about technical assistance tools like the tools that Aubrey just demonstrated, that are aimed to assist communities with their HIC or PIT counts or how to submit data in HDX 1.0. when we get to that point of the year. Next slide please, great. And as always, we have some PIT count resources on HUD exchange. So that first link is going to send you to the main PIT count and HIC landing page where you'll find all of the PIT count and HIC resources. And within that, we have a PIT count methodology guide, PIT count sampling guidance and tools, which is what we, already just shared on her screen, that page, all the recordings for the PIT count office hours and the PIT count survey tools. Great. So, next slide. We're going to move into the question and answers, and I've been seeing a lot of questions get sent to panelists. So, I just want to remind everyone to send their questions to everyone and not just to panelists. And that'll get your question on our list for asking Okay, great. So again, if you want to ask your questions, verbally, you can go to the bottom right-hand corner of your screen, and you'll see that participant button with the person icon and the 3 dashes. You're going to select that. And then a window will appear with your name at the top of it with a little

hand icon next to it. So, you're going to want to select the hand icon if you want to ask a question verbally and we'll call on you and unmute you and keep you unmuted until your question is answered so you can respond if you'd like to and then put you back on mute. And again, if you decide, you don't want to have your hand raised anymore, you're just going to select that icon once more and it'll take you off that list. And for everyone calling in on the phone, you can unmute and mute yourself by hitting star 6.

Okay, so I'm going to see if anyone has their hand raised, which I don't think they do. So, we're going to go straight into some questions that folks answered for the chat, and it looks like some of them were answered in the chat. So, we don't have too many questions so far. But if you continue to have questions, please send that to everyone in the chat. Okay, so I'm going to ask, start with questions about safety concerns. So, we have a question that says our goal is to prepare for the PIT HIC, sorry, our goal is to prepare for PIT and HIC and provide incentives to volunteers and engagement kits to staff volunteering their time to maintain safe safety protocols and resources to keep them protected. We are expelled exploring the following items: one, for volunteer incentives are backpacks with items needed for outreach to include safety items, like PPE. Are those eligible for purchase? And there's a few questions. I'm just going to pause there for William to answer that first question among the larger question.

William Snow: All right, so this is actually at the heart of it. Less a safety question, more an eligible cost questions. So, I want to address it as such. So, what can you spend well, various federal dollars on, in terms of the PIT count, right? What can be paid for with HUD dollars in particular, as opposed to all federal dollars? So, there's a few ways to look at this. With your planning dollars, your CoC planning dollars, you can pay for most activities that that you need to engage in to do the count. That could be anything from paying for consultants to help you conduct your count or maybe set up your sampling. That could be for paying for the PIT count app that you may choose to use, that could be for paying for, time for staff, although that tends to not get used there. I think the areas that are of most question and kind of it depends a little how you do it is incentives. There are some limitations on what you can pay for with incentives as this will actually carry forward, not just the planning, but for ESG admin dollars as well. So, those, there are limitations in terms of, like, paying for food, which is unfortunate largely because I think that's the single most common expense, we see across CoCs is paying for food for volunteers, is not an unreasonable concept. Generally, it doesn't appear that that's eligible under part 200 unfortunately. Paying for incentives, to the extent that they provide safety to folks right or

necessary supplies. That's an easy yes, right. Providing socks for instance, that's a good example. Yes. Providing gift cards, though, typically, no, that's a much more difficult piece, but that's one, if folks are more curious, we can look into further, but we've had, again part 200 issues with, with gift cards. So, I would generally stay away from using the funding directly for that and ask for partners to help you to get those incentives. A lot of the examples provided in the question have to do with providing safety supplies, providing, or paying for staff. So, I want to like under CoC planning you can pay for most things. Under street outreach, whether it be CoC or ESG and I kind of flag that here normally, obviously not a big pot of money, not very helpful, with ESG-CV in the works, that could be a very big pot of money. It'd be very helpful right now. You can pay for activities associated with street outreach. For instance, if you have street outreach staff who you asked to participate in the Point in Time counts, and they are engaging in interviews and otherwise doing what they would normally do on street outreach activities that could be paid for with street outreach dollars, and that would include the additional components of data entry into HMIS. You can figure out how you want to do that. You can, you can use volunteers and pay for volunteers in the same way, but often volunteers don't have user licenses and don't have access to HMIS. So you'd have to figure out a way to partner with either someone else in your street outreach team, or perhaps another set of volunteers to get that data entered, but it's that active collecting the data for the purpose of also data collection in HMIS, you can do that. That's a big one. I want to like, put a pin in that for folks. Especially as we're seeing high ESG balances still. You can use that funding to help pay for staff and for volunteers to engage in counting activities, if they're doing again, interview-based counts or engaging in activities that are otherwise street outreach activities, you can also with street outreach dollars, pay for again, lifesaving things. You can hand out socks and pay for it. You can hand out other, like, masks, water, that's the type of stuff, yes that's eligible as the street outreach piece and you can fund it under there. So, we would strongly encourage you to think about how to do that. We know some CoCs are the same as the ESG recipient in the area and that's an easy thing to be able to do and others, no, that you have different relationships with your ESG partners and it may not be so easy, but it is available.

47:40

Tori Morris: Okay, great. And going off of that, we have some very specific asks about eligible expenses, like engagement backpacks for staff and volunteers and hygiene kits for unsheltered people. And if

that's covered. So, can you just clarify quickly again if those more specific expenses are covered or eligible?

William Snow: Yeah, so, hygiene kits, are, yes, that clearly falls into something you would normally do in street outreach. Backpacks, I honestly am not sure about the backpack itself, but I believe that's been eligible in the past. And so I would say, yes. If you're not clear on that one, I would err on the side of paying for that with CoC planning or ESG admin. I'm not exactly sure if that can be provided through the street outreach, but if that's something you want to pursue, you can send a question to the email inbox that Tori mentioned earlier, and I can just verify that with our team as well.

Tori Morris: Great, and you talked a little bit about eligible expenses for the PIT count but someone's asking will you cover more information about record keeping requirements for PIT count activities.

William Snow: Yeah, that's a great question. So, the record keeping, we don't have much of a standard in terms of record keeping. You have to conduct your counts, right? If you're going to be reimbursing activities from there, you need to show that they were tied to the Point in Time count. That could be signup sheets for volunteers, that could be again in your planning documents how, if you're reimbursing for those expenses, then yes, you'll just have to show that you did them and they're tied to the Point in Time count. We don't require like client level records. Again, if you're reimbursing street outreach, you need to be collecting the data in such a way that it can be entered into HMIS. But we don't have a Point-in-Time count specific record keeping requirement for that, and we will not be asking you ever for your client level Point in Time count data. We would strongly encourage you to follow your HMIS privacy standards for your continuum to figure out how to hold that data and ensure that it is safely stored and eventually eliminated.

Tori Morris: Thanks, William. One more clarification question for eligible expenses. The question is, can we help pay for overtime for outreach teams if they are not being currently— they're not currently being paid out of HUD funds.

William Snow: That's a great question. Yes. So again, if they're doing street outreach activities, that would otherwise be eligible under whatever funding stream you're trying to pay for it. If it's CoC street outreach dollars or ESG street outreach dollars, yes, I think the difficulty there is making sure you do whatever shifting of funds locally often, you know, that's tied to RFPs or or other things that could be

contracts. So as long as you can figure out locally how to make sure that funds get distributed to those participants, yeah, we are definitely okay with that. That is an eligible activity.

Tori Morris: Great. And here's a more general question about the PIT count. The question is, I'm new to this, and I've read through all the tools and guides over the past few months, but I keep getting hung up on the amount of time we have to conduct an observation count. Can you talk more about that and clarify that if an observation is done, a sampling survey is also conducted and what's the timeframe?

William Snow: That's a great question. So, I should start with observations are always a challenge. Sometimes the, your CoC may be so large that that's actually your only option and in many other cases, it's simply not done. So, the PIT count is actually based largely on what we would call a bliss count or an observation count, that's really where it started, but it's shifted largely to survey-based counts. So if you're going to do an observation count, the whole premise behind it is that you're not asking people questions generally, and so you need to have some way to confirm that they, that you're not counting them multiple times and the way to do that is to do it in a single night. In some areas where there's low transience, it might be two nights in areas where they feel very confident that people are not kind of crossing boundaries and you're going to be double counting. So, that's the key for observation and why it's done in a short time frame in the night hours where people would be buckled down and sleeping and not moving between sites. In terms of the sample, yes, we would even in the observation, encourage some sampling because you're going to use that sample then as the basis for your demographic data, your subpopulation data, so that tends to be what's used for that. Some CoCs actually do some surveying after the count is done of the unsheltered population to gather some of that other demographic data. That's another option as long as again, you complete your actual observation piece within again, one night or possibly two given the parameters that are given. Tori does that answer the full question? Is there more that I missed there?

53:25

Tori Morris: I think that does it, but if it didn't clarify whoever wrote that question, please write into the chat. Okay, great. Let's see what we'd like to ask. Okay, so this is about tribal consent. So, the question is, can you clarify if we need consent if tribal housing entities are conducting their own count, and then submitting data to the CoC. Is tribal consent required for sheltered PIT data? We currently have many tribal programs reporting in HMIS and represented on our HIC. We've been waiting for guidance on

what is required for tribal consent and it is extremely unlikely that we could get request approved at four tribal councils within the next 6 weeks. So, some background on the question yeah.

William Snow: Yeah, great question as a preface to it, we are all learning on the tribal side, so I'll just give that caveat that I don't have all the answers I would like, on the travel side, but let's start with consent. So, there's kind of a couple of scenarios where you're interacting with tribes. It could be that you have one or multiple tribes in your jurisdiction, they're not interested in being their own CoC, but they're in your jurisdiction. What should I do there? Well, we would strongly encourage you to reach out with them or to them, ask for consent, again, you should not enter their lands without consent to do a Point in Time count. That consent would need to be from somebody who actually has authority to grant that consent. So, either a Chief or a tribal council, but it needs to be somebody with the authority to grant that. Once consent is given again, you would partner with them to conduct the count and then include that information in your Point in Time count there. As part of the consent process, there are some tribes who will likely say we don't want to give you the client level data back, but we'll give you an aggregate form. That's, that's fine, right we're okay with that. If you're able to use that aggregate data to again, fill in kind of the gaps in your count. Another scenario is you have tribes who are contemplating doing their own or being their own CoC. At this point, no tribe has been approved separately for that. So, nobody is in that boat yet but many are considering it. If I were you at the CoC level, I would move forward with them as a partner in trying to conduct the count and help them understand how to do that, try to get consent to participate with them. And give them guidance and be prepared for either scenario—one, where they go in separately and do their own thing, where their count will be better as a result of your partnership with them and then there's the flip side, if that doesn't happen, they don't become their own tribal CoC, ask again for consent to not only participate in their lands but to have that data, at least an aggregate form to submit for and with your CoC. That's probably the more likely scenario for many of you. And again, it all comes back to that partnership, like a true partnership, and then consent from somebody who again has authority to provide that consent, but very excited to see all the tribal questions. So, on the sheltered side, we are assuming and you're going to have check this locally. But we're assuming that at the time you collected the data, you were following the existing privacy plan which includes consent at data collection. If that is the case, then you should be able to proceed with no additional action required. So, you're going to have to look at your own privacy requirements to make sure that you're honoring those. Again, I'm just going to assume you are, and that way you don't have to do an additional set of steps to move forward with your sheltered count.

Tori Morris: Great. Thanks. William. Okay. So, I'm going to move into some more classic PIT count general questions. This one's for the HIC which, the question is a domestic violence shelters that are paying for a hotel stay on the night of the PIT, what project type should this be on the HIC?

William Snow: That would be emergency shelter and you would enter that about your beds, again, you might want to look at is this, are they in the voucher because you couldn't house them in your facility and maybe it had to do with your, your gender options, it could be there's actually a lot of reasons that that might happen. So, consider this is part of your normal inventory, maybe an overflow concept here and you would enter it as voucher or if this is your program, your DV provider, or you have a DV provider in your CoC, and then the way they provide services is through hotel motel either way you'll enter it as emergency shelter in the voucher side.

Tori Morris: Okay great. Okay, for the sheltered PIT count we have a few questions. The first is if a client is in permanent housing, but hasn't moved in yet, do they count the client for PIT in the permanent housing program or does the shelter, other location count them?

William Snow: So, if they're enrolled, but have not yet moved in and you are confident that they're still homeless, I would count them as homeless. Right? The enrollment itself isn't the trigger for counting them in the permanent housing so you'll just have to decide where they are on the night of count. That's, that's some of the challenge there. Now, maybe if it's one of these clients that, again, you have them enrolled, you may not find them on the night of the count, I just want to remind folks, you can do follow up after the count if you're doing an interview based count with clients who aren't showing up in your PIT count but you're pretty sure are homeless and that's what your records are showing. You can absolutely reach out to them if you have the resources to do that. So, you could send, you know, maybe it's a case worker in the shelter says, hey, I didn't see Abu on this list they can send the text to Abu say, hey, hope all as well do you mind let me know where you were sleeping last night or the night before again? However, they want to do it. If you find out that they were unsheltered or in a sheltered situation, but weren't otherwise captured, you can absolutely count them. That's, that's okay, so we'd encourage you to use your resources that you already have.

Tori Morris: Thanks William. Okay. So, another question about the sheltered PIT count. So it is, we have a HHS funded RHY youth transitional living program in our CoC area. In reading the PIT guidance it reads like, we should be counting all youth staying in TLP because the TLP's primary purpose is transition, transitioning youth, experiencing homelessness to housing. They only serve unaccompanied youth

experiencing homelessness, not those currently in foster care. Can we include all youth in that TLP or only those who came to the TLP from category 1 or category 4 homelessness? HHS allows accepting youth who are homeless in a couch surfing situation, which is common in our community, because we have no youth shelter or adult shelter in the county. I can repeat any part of that if you would like to.

William Snow: No, I think I understood. So, we treat as transitional housing in the first place. So if they're there, we're counting them as transitional, you can choose to use all those beds to the extent you don't have a carve out, right? There are TLP programs out there that say this portion is only going to be serving those who are exiting from the foster care system and some of them also have a, look this is only for those who are in doubled up situations. I see that a little less frequently, but the foster care actually, a little more frequently. So, if there's no known carve outs or kind of regular set aside, you can include the full inventory and the people sleeping in that inventory on the night of the count.

Tori Morris: Thanks William, and then one unsheltered PIT count question as well. And this could be also for communities to answer in the chat. But the question is, aside from colleges and universities any tips on how to find strong and reliable volunteers.

William Snow: Yeah, I certainly strongly encourage other CoCs, you guys have been doing this for so long, please chime in on the chat. I've heard of other partners in the business sector, right. Using your business partners, often there will be some sort of analyst sometimes an economist. So again, we don't often think that because we're looking for maybe a statistician, but often they'll have the same tools and training. So that's another potential resource. But I know many communities actually just luck out. Right? They have somebody who they were grad students and they just graduated and that's stuff that they worked on to some of that plays out as well. But again, I turn to communities to answer that because you, you're in the thick of it.

Tori Morris: And it looks like there's some responses coming into the chat. Again, if you're responding to that, please make sure you're sending the chat to everyone and not to all panelists. I think it'd be really helpful for other communities to see those tips as well. Okay, here's another question that communities also feel free to enter your opinions in the chat. And it is, I would like to hear from other balance of state CoCs that have used an app to conduct their PIT count, which one was used, and whether it was sufficiently helpful. So, maybe, William could talk a little bit about the app. But again, it would be great if CoCs could chime in, especially those that are balance of states.

William Snow: Yeah, we did it a pilot of an app a few years ago and weren't able to continue it, but there are mobile app options out there. We, as HUD aren't allowed to endorse a single provider per se so this is an area where we strongly encourage communities to chime in, but we definitely know that market has been building and there are apps out there and most communities are grateful that they use an apps and have kind of had very positive feedback on it. I can't say that 100% of the communities, but it's pretty darn close to 99%. Right. It's most communities actually have enjoyed having the app.

Tori Morris: Definitely. Okay great. Another PIT question is, is it possible to duplicate records for the PIT HIC count and what measures are in place to correct such situations.

1:04:14

William Snow: Yeah, I mean, it's kind of a loaded question if you, if you think about the, the pain of the PIT count is the effort to deduplicate. Right, all of what we're doing is centered around making sure we're not counting people more than once. So, this is why, we don't count over 3 weeks, 3 months right? This is why it happens in a very short time frame. This is why we ask questions around who are you counting? Where are they sleeping? These are ways to avoid duplication, so a lot of the methodology baked into the PIT count is centered around this idea that we don't want to duplicate the number in addition to understanding the population empowers us to be able to serve the population. So, we don't want to duplicate, and we want to make sure we're understanding again the proper or kind of the real balance in terms of characteristics. Helps us understand equity or inequity in the system. So, we strongly, strongly encourage that. Definitely don't want duplication in the PIT Count.

Tori Morris: Great, okay, just going to do a few more questions and we're going to move on to questions about the sampling tools and sampling. Okay, so we have another question for the sheltered PIT count. And the question is, so if we are interviewing someone that was couch surfing, and if we can count those, would they be considered sheltered or unsheltered?

William Snow: I'm trying to figure out what context they would be in. So, in the sheltered counts if they're residing in a shelter, we would count them as being sheltered. It almost is irrelevant that they where they were two nights ago, if they slept in that shelter, you would count them in the shelter. If you're talking about engaging with people, maybe at a library, or otherwise on the street and you're doing an interviews-based count and they said, yep, I slept, I slept with my on my buddies couch last night you would not count them in that case. So, the sheltered side, it's almost circumstantial tells you

the answer, right? You count based on where they were sleeping the night before and actually that's true even of the unsheltered. If they say a situation that's not going to meet the living on the streets or so sleeping in a shelter, then you're not going to be able to count them in the count.

Tori Morris: Great. Okay. And another clarification for eligible costs. And this is based on your comment earlier, but the question is our gift cards not allowed under CoC planning dollars or was that specifically for ESG.

William Snow: Yeah, that's a good question. So, my understanding is, we can't use it for either because of part 200 rules, but that's something, if it's something you have been using, and you want to do a follow up, please send the email to the HICPIT and we'll do more follow up there, but I would discourage using the planning dollars or even ESG admin on gift cards, gift cards are always challenging because you have to show how the money was spent. And so, if it's spent on a gift card, that in and of itself is not an eligible expense. So that's the challenge that we bump into.

Tori Morris: Okay, so I'm going to go to some sampling questions. The first question is, do the tools and sampling techniques allow for tiny, tiny unsheltered populations common in cold weather rural areas? Will we be able to use the tools if we find 0 to 3 folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness?

So, I think the Abt team can jump in, or I can quickly try to answer that and folks can let me know if they have any clarifications. But the short answer is yes, you could definitely use the tools in that case. It doesn't like necessarily matter how many people you end up finding in those areas any CoC or area is eligible for sampling or you should be able to do sampling in any community. Even if you find not a lot of folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Okay, great. So, another sampling question. So, this question is, my balance of state is formed by 91 different counties split into 16 regions. We are planning on doing a full count where PIT coordinators and volunteers will go into their communities and survey people. Since it is such a large geographic area, and each region is different. I'm not sure how we would apply a sampling approach. My concern with my geographic area will be that each—we had, sorry, would be to have each region do the sampling in a different way. That's making it hard for me to collect overall results for my balance of state and report the total number to HUD. Does that make sense, any suggestions, or clarifications on what I am missing?

I feel like the short answer is it depends, Aubrey maybe you can chime in, but I think this is going to need some more thought and possibly like a request for technical assistance. But Aubrey, your camera came on. So, please feel free to chime in.

1:09:35

Aubrey Sitler: Sure, I think this is a great example of how every single continuum of care is different and there isn't like one template response to questions about the nuances and the intricacies of each continuum's geography. I think you absolutely could end up using a sampling approach and I'm willing to bet that you're not going to have a full coverage approach, that you're not going to send volunteers and staff to every single square foot of your CoC anyway, and so trying upfront to be intentional about kind of segmenting off or defining those subareas within the continuum, and then extrapolating from there using one of those sampling tools if that is how you want to do your sampling approach from there, could be something that serves you and the community very well. It would certainly have to be something that takes into account the different dynamics, and the different folks who are at the table and kind of what the capacity is for ensuring consistency across those regions. I think though that the conversation about that feels a little more like a TA request to me than something that we're going to be able to dive super deeply into during this call. I don't know, William, if you have anything that you would want to add to that.

William Snow: The only thing I was thinking of, so PIT Counts can be as simple or as complicated as we want. Right? There is a way to address, if you have 16 unique regions, you treat them as 16 unique strata and you address it in each way. That's complicated. It's going to take a lot of work that's kind of to the technical assistance arm, but there definitely is a way to do it. Often, too, it helps just to step back because while you're seeing the differences in each region, when you have somebody else who's not steeped in all of the stuff that your steeped in sometimes they're able to say, you know, these 4 regions actually look very similar. Right, that the way that the total numbers would manifest, maybe even the types of folks who live in these type counties they're. They're relatively similar, so it is often good to get a little bit of help. If you're the only one who's looking at this try to get somebody else with a new set of eyes to say are you saying the same thing? How can we look at this to think about aggregation or similarities or non-similarities? But TA probably is going to be helpful in this regard as well.

Tori Morris: Great. Okay great. I have a short question next. Essentially, it's asking what communities are doing versus, like, surveying total geographies, doing a full census count versus surveying. So, the overall question is do a lot of use sampling methods. I don't know William, if you have an idea of the actual numbers of communities that are doing sampling so far.

William Snow: So, I don't have the numbers off top of my head, but here's what I'll say. It is almost impossible to cover your entire geography in 1 night, in 7 nights, right? If you're doing an interview-based count, you can do it up to 7 nights. It's, it's very hard to do that. So, sampling is likely going to be something baked into most if not all CoC's approach, just because it's impossible to not do that. So, sampling is good. Right. It's not a problem. Some of the value of your sampling is that allows you to go into more areas but some of the downsides are like, well, it allows you to cover more areas I should say, but the downside would be how representative your samples are how well that's set up in the first place so that's the real question. Can you develop kind of these buckets for lack of a better term of, like, types of areas. These ones have higher density, these ones have lower density. If you feel confident that you can do that, you should feel confident to rely on sampling. Not just because of COVID but because. That's the reality of counting people experiencing homelessness and you may need to do that going forward. That's a good thing. Again. We wouldn't anticipate most communities counting a full coverage count as in literally counting every part of their geography during the counting process. So, sampling is strong, again, just make sure you're including all the necessary data elements so that's an important part and make sure if you're a very large area, large balance of state, some consistency is going to be key. Right? You can't really do an observation in one area and then do an interview-based count in another because you can't extrapolate to all of that. You actually need to have some commonality even if they implement in a different way. That's fine. That's some of the realities of having a large geography and we're okay with that. But again, having some consistency in terms of especially interview based versus observation is going to be very helpful to account for those areas where you just can't get to. One other piece to remember is there are some parts of most geographies that no one has ever been counted. It's actually unreasonable to think people are sleeping there, whether these are large deserts or large force areas or gated communities. Right? Almost every CoC has something that's like that. So it's okay for you to document that, especially if you've gone and tried to count there and never found anyone, it's okay for you to not include that as part of your counts, but again, just key for you to understand why did I exclude an area, and if you don't count in other areas, but you don't have that same background, you're not sure if there are people again, include them in your sampling regime. Just say, look, this is, I don't

really know, but we have never heard of someone from here we're going to count them in the low, low category. Right, there's a low probability that there's more than a handful of people at any given time in the area, so distribute them as such. Right, include them in the sample, but it's going to be in your small side.

Tori Morris: Okay, another sampling tool, sampling question, and then I have a few questions about the tool as well, but the question is, sampling results in a number of people but does it include any demographic detail or does that detail reflect the actual detail of those counted?

01:16:08

Aubrey Sitler: Want me to take that one, William? Okay. The way that those tools are set up is to arrive at a total number, you are correct. You, I would imagine, would most likely also be collecting demographic information while conducting your PIT count activities in your sampled areas. There is a PIT count extrapolation tool that is separate from these ones that help with extrapolating demographic information by household type. And so, we would encourage you to use that to extrapolate for demographic information for folks. Ant that tool, it's separate, because it also helps people where, for example, if they had to do some observation counts, as many or most, or hopefully all of, you know, there is no missing data allowed to be reported in your PIT count data. So, if, for example, you count 100 people, but you only have 90 people's gender, the extrapolation tool helps you to extrapolate those data for other purposes too but it can be used in conjunction with a sampling approach. I think the caveat there is to be super intentional and attentive to for example, if there are different demographics, different people in different parts of your continuum of care, that you're paying attention to kind of how you're using that tool to extrapolate. And this is where somebody, you know, local researcher, somebody at a local university can really help you to cater your, your approach and your math for extrapolation to your region. But I think again, if there are kind of specific questions about that, I think that might be something you could submit to the AAQ or to the PITHIC email and one way or another we'll help you get sorted out there

Tori Morris: Yeah, definitely. Okay, one other question is, we are planning to conduct a service-based count during the seven-day period following the count. Can you talk about how the data responses or how the data I, I'm assuming the responses from the service base count fit into the sampling method?

William Snow: That's a great question. So, this would assume that your sample is an interview-based count as a starter, right? So, one way or the other, you are getting that information about clients, you're not deduplicating when establishing it. I think you have a few things to consider. One, you may not do a service base. It may not make sense because it is a lot more challenging, you if I were doing a service-based count tied to a larger sampling regime, I would be asking where people are, so one additional question, right? If you have strata or your subareas, I would be asking that kind of information in the survey for the service base. For instance, can you tell me what county you were sleeping or generally what area if you think you can get enough information from that in the question that will help, you would add them to the sample and then you would use that sample to extrapolate to the other areas, this actually is another way to do some of the validation on like I found, I counted 50 people and then when I did the service based count, I missed 8 more people or 10 more people. So I'm going to, I'm going to bring my count number up to 60 and then I'm going to use that number for my extrapolation factor. Right? That will be the base for your sample. So, a couple of options. But that's probably how I think about it and make sure you kind of understand whether the people in the service base count were in an area. That's in the sample or out of the sample and that's going to make it a lot easier.

Tori Morris: Thanks, William. I think this is a good clarifying question as well about sampling. The question is, what do you mean when you say observation versus survey? First year counting, I thought surveying was the only option.

William Snow: Yeah, great question. I, I'm grateful for folks doing it for the first time, but I also feel for you because I do know that there's a lot involved with the Point in Time. I would refer you to the Point in Time count methodology guide. So, counting essentially gets like, counting methods essentially gets boiled up into are you doing are you doing a count that involves only observation on the night of the count? Are you doing account that involves engaging with surveys? So, you would know again, who, basic information, including the things that we ask for on the HUD side, and you can also include, as we just talked about, a service based component. So those are kind of your 3 different options. There are some variations within that as well, right when you do your survey, is it at a random site, or are these known locations, not so random. All of those come into play, but the key there is understanding survey when we say survey, we're saying. You're picking whatever location whether sample or not. And you are literally engaging folks and asking them the variety of questions. Whereas the observation, you won't be, you'll have people tallying, it will essentially be a headcount and then you'll go back and use either

surveys, you may do some surveys that either account and use that for extrapolation or again, go and engage this unhealthy population afterwards and use the information from that to do your extrapolation. But that's a lot to try to tell you like again there's a whole guide on all that and trying to cover that in 3 minutes probably is going to leave you with more questions. So I would encourage you to go there.

Tori Morris: Yeah, to that end, Aubrey just posted the link to the methodology guide in the chat. So, I would definitely recommend bookmarking that one if you're new to the count.

Aubrey Sitler: Another link that I put in just before that is the online training for HUD's PIT count standards and methodologies, which is kind of like the low, it doesn't cover the entirety of the methodology guide, but it starts with some of the basics and hopefully a more digestible way. There are a lot of videos of William talking, to help, help get, get the message through. But those can be really great resources hopefully, especially for people who are newer to this work.

Tori Morris: Great. Okay. I'm going to ask a question about the tool. So, are we able to input subareas manually instead of having them be automatically and randomly generated? Will we have some resources in certain areas and few or none in other areas? I think it's a clarification question about the tools.

Aubrey Sitler: Yeah, so if you're using the sampling tool, part of the, the point of using the sampling tools to help, you determine a literally random sample of subareas to survey. If there are reasons that it's not a possible idea in your community to do a truly random poll of subareas, it might be in your best interest to figure out a different approach to defining which subareas you're going to sample and then use that estimating tool once you have kind of made that determination and gone through the actual PIT Count activities in those sampled areas to derive your total count, cause, I mean, the short answer your question is, no, that is an auto calculated value or poll for that tool, with the intention of it being truly random. I don't know if there's anything else you want to add to that, William.

William Snow: No, I think that makes sense. Great.

Tori Morris: Okay, so I'm I see one more sampling question in the chat and then, after that, I'm going to move on to some other questions. So, the question is, are we able to contact someone for follow up questions with sampling questions after today as things come up and I can answer that really quickly. So, the answer is yes, technical assistance providers, and also, if you need clarification on HUD requirements

and policies around the PIT count, including methodology, then you can contact the HICPITCount@hud.gov that we linked in the, trying to remember it all, that'd be linked in the slides. And then for TA providers you can request technical assistance or submit a question to the HUD exchange desk, and we can also help clarify questions, help assist with your developing your sampling approach and other things like that. So, there are definitely supports available for communities after this call if you're thinking about sampling. Great. And Caroline just put that email back on the chat. Thank you. Okay, so a few other questions.

01:24:57

One question is, does, this is a mobile app question, so does HUD have any specifications or guidelines that CoCs can use to judge the privacy and security standards of the tech companies offering PIT apps. I'm apprehensive to explore these services due to privacy and security concerns.

William Snow: Good question the short answer is, no, we don't actually even do this for HMIS or for comparable databases for that matter. We don't do like certifications, which is what that would essentially equate to. We just use the notices that we've used for HMIS, you would use a similar standard here for privacy and security. So that's what I would refer to. But your local privacy notice should actually already cover whatever, whatever's in the requirements and whatever considerations your community is already wanting or considering for privacy. So, I would definitely lean heavily on that.

Tori Morris: Okay, another question for safety concerns with the PIT count is, is there any sample language for COVID waivers and vaccine requirements for recruiting volunteers available?

William Snow: It's a great question. No, we don't have that. You can certainly ask for that from other communities, but no we, we don't have that.

Tori Morris: Okay great. Okay, so a few more minutes more questions in the chat. So, for the sheltered PIT count, the question is, would we want to count families in the sheltered count who are staying at a homeless shelter, transitional housing program? The program only takes HUD homeless families into the program, and they stay anywhere from 6 months to 2 years. These units are leased by the shelter. The client does not hold the lease.

William Snow: Yes, yep you would definitely include those in the sheltered count.

Tori Morris: Okay, and here is a question another question about the unsheltered and sheltered PIT count, this was referring to an earlier question someone else had about couch surfing, but the question is the same rule regarding sheltered unsheltered the same for our unaccompanied youth in regards to couch surfing.

William Snow: Yes, so this is really critical. The rule applies to everyone equally, right? Every population. If you're homeless on the night of the count, then you're homeless on the night of the count, homeless in terms of how we're counting for the count. So, homeless as in on the street, or in shelters. That's how they're going to get counted. Now, a lot of communities have added more in their own local counts, whether it be counting folks who identify as sleeping and double up situations, counting folks in hospitals or jails again, those are not allowed to be included on your HIC count. But it doesn't mean you can't collect that. And it doesn't mean that you can't report it locally. You can't report it to HUD, though, not at least in your PIT count numbers. But that's data that I think is fantastic if you're collecting doubled up data, I would just caution you, one of the reasons, we don't do it, is it's almost impossible to get an accurate read on that. Right? You'd have to knock on everyone's door to figure out in any given household is there somebody sleeping on a couch so you're going to have probably an extreme under count just based on the people who identifies sleeping in that type location, that's fine. If you're going to have that data and present it, but just present as such. Right? Like, we're just this is tip of the iceberg. We know this much around people who are in doubled up situations and we know there are more that's that's great and powerful communication and we definitely encourage that.

Tori Morris: Okay, and we have a HIC question: I'm wondering if HUD would ever consider allowing CoCs to enter more than one geocode on the HIC. Not sure if other CoCs would like it or hate it. That's a good question. We are starting to have more and more projects that serve regional geographies and it would be helpful to use the HIC as a tool for truly analyzing which counties or areas are served by which projects.

William Snow: So, the short answer is probably not, although there's nothing to stop you from creating multiple projects, right? If you have three facility-based projects that right now are being racked up under a single one in the HIC, there's nothing to stop you from doing three projects. The catch with, with trying to do multiple geocodes is which inventory goes to, which geocode, that's valuable information but if you're at that point, you might as well have separate records because that's essentially what you're doing. So, we would just encourage you if that's the type of data you want to include, which is

great. We love using it for strategic planning. We hope you use it for something like that. But again, the utility is not going to be in can we have multiple geo codes, it's can you have the information underlying that as well and to do that you're really going to need to have separate inventory pieces.

Tori Morris: That's a great question. Okay. I actually have 1 more question from the chat. We haven't asked. I think that will be the last question because we have 1 minute left. So, it is, if a community did a count last year and used an existing dataset to report an unsheltered count, does that allow the community to skip the count in 2022?

William Snow: Yes, that would, you would be seen as having done a full count, the full sheltered and unsheltered count last year. And so, you would not be required to do the count this year, so, yeah, good question. You would still need to do a sheltered count to be clear, but you wouldn't have to do an unsheltered count.

Tori Morris: Great. All right I think that's all that we have. And we're at 3:30, so thanks everyone for joining. You can reach out if you have other questions and thanks for your time today.