

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** All right, well, welcome to Preparing for your 2018 Housing Inventory and Point-in-Time Counts Webinar. You should now be hearing the audio broadcast. Note that today's webinar is being recorded and your microphone and phone will be muted for the duration of the webinar. Today's presenters are William Snow with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Aubrey Sitler with ABT Associates, and Tracy D'Alanno with ABT Associates. So, let's just take a quick look at the page layout to help you get the most out of the webinar. There is a Q&A box for questions. Go ahead and type in your questions and at the end of the webinar we will try to answer as many of those as possible. The questions are located on the right-hand bottom side. Just click the arrow to open it up. You may also use the chat box for general comments and discussion with other participants. We ask that you keep the chat relevant to the presentation and if you would like to enlarge the slides a little bit, on the lower left-hand corner you can click on full screen and to exit that just hit your escape button and note that the webinar will be posted on the HUD Exchange website next week. So, I'm going to pass the ball over to William. And William, you should be able to see how to move the slides forwards and we're going to go ahead and let you start.

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Great, thank you and thanks everyone for your patience. We love technology. It's our friend and sometimes as with PIT Count in general, it doesn't always work as planned. So, thank you very much. Excited to have this conversation. Again, we love having this webinar, it gives us a chance, again, to prepare us for the next round of 2018 Housing Inventory and Point-in-Time Counts. Want to say a few things to lead out. 2017 saw a lot of great effort there. Saw a lot of communities really thinking about what they should be doing to get the most accurate count. I appreciate that. That's what we're encouraging. The focus of this is to get the count right, understand who your population is, so that you can better plan and serve them. That's really important to us. We especially saw that with the efforts on counting youth. So, thank you very much for all of your hard work and collaborating with our important partners in the youth space because they're one of many helping us all trying to end homelessness especially, again, for our youth, that's very exciting. Let's talk a little bit about some basics. The Housing Inventory Counts gives us a snapshot of inventory beds and units that are dedicated to serve people experiencing homelessness. It also includes the inventory of permanent housing that is dedicated to persons who are homeless at entry. This is done annually, and it's done in conjunction with the annual Sheltered Point-in-Time Counts. That leads us to the Point-in-Time Count. This, similar to the HIC, is a snapshot of people who are experiencing homelessness both on the street and in various forms of shelter at the end of January in the communities. The sheltered piece, again, is done annually in conjunction with your Housing Inventory Count. The unsheltered piece is only required to be done every other year; however, we do strongly encourage communities to do an annual unsheltered count as we are preparing to release the 2017 Point-in-Time Count Data you'll see and hopefully many communities are already using that data. It tells a very, very important story, and it actually changes from year to year, so, we strongly encourage communities to do this for their own planning purposes. To throw another incentive in there we certainly include Point-in-Time Data in the Annual Continuum of Care Program Competition. We look very carefully at it, so, another incentive to do those counts. It's really important to use these two pieces of data together. The Housing Inventory and the Point-in-Time, right. You get a sense of who's out there and then you get a sense of what you have

available to serve those who are out there. So, it's a very critical part of your thinking and of your planning and will continue to be going forward, we hope.

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So, what have we got this year? We released the 2018 HIC and PIT Count notice the end of September or early October. That will be the trends going forward. We want to have this data to you or this information as early as possible, and we've been able to get it to you sooner and sooner so, we're happy to do that. You certainly can start planning your Point-in-Time Counts earlier than you receive the notice because we don't plan on changing much. Our goal is to have it as static as possible. We will correct for errors in the past and small things at the margins, but we're really, really trying not to make changes. So, you hopefully will recognize that this year most of the changes are associated with changes due to the HMIS Data Standard changes, and a little bit of clarification in addition to that. That's our target. So, early planning with the right partners is certainly a key to all of this. All right, a few specific lessons learned I want to highlight from 2017. More effort to get accurate counts may or may not be reflected in the numbers themselves. We had several of the applications this year sounded -- the responses sounded concerned that efforts didn't lead to more people or less people being counted. HUD doesn't care about the more or less per se. What we care about is the effort given to get an accurate count. For some communities that's going to mean you identify more people. You get more volunteers, you go to more locations, you're able to do a more thorough job. Rely less on sampling, and you have a stronger sense of your count. For others it's going to be less. Actually, for that same purpose, for sampling, we have some communities who were surprised that they counted fewer people because they had more volunteers because they covered more geography and that's fine as well. For us, again, it's about the accuracy of the counts. I think the best highlight of that is the efforts around youth homelessness in 2017. Some communities went up and some went down, but most communities expressed that they felt confident they had the right partners at the table, they did what they could to identify youth and we were pleased with the efforts and we hope you are as well. Validation impacts results. So, last year we clarified, and this is something that will go forward, that you can use other forms of data to verify PIT Count Data. For instance, PIT Count Data collected through surveys is generally almost always self-reported data. You often have information in your HMIS or if you're working with your VA partners, they have access to something called squares, which ties to Department of Defense data about Veteran status. Again, all types of Veteran status. Those are great pieces of information that you can access to verify data. If your information HMIS says something different than what was self-reported it is okay for you to rely on what was in HMIS. The key there is making sure A, that the person was homeless on that night, and then, use the most reliable source of information. That played out very heavily in 2017 when we look at the chronic homeless information. That is very hard to get the right amount of information in the context of a PIT count, but most of you have a good idea of who your chronically homeless people are, and you certainly can rely on your HMIS data to make sure you're accurately reflecting the nature of those who are homeless. So, I can't reiterate that enough. People, again, have been nervous to override self-reported data. If you are confident that your other data sources are better data sources, more valid, then you can use them. That PIT count should be your primary source for like identifying how many people and identifying where people are on that night. One other

piece I will touch gently on now, and we'll touch on it again later is working with partners to do follow ups. If you have a by-name list or if you are working with education partners and you know that somebody on your list or a youth in the schools was not identified on the PIT count, but you have information about them, it is okay to follow-up with that family or that individual to verify where they slept on the night of the count. If they were, in fact, homeless, it is okay to include that information in the count. Homeless by our Point-in-Time Count Standards for HUD.

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That's really important. That follow-up is absolutely good. We'll distinguish later, that's not the same thing as an online survey or a phone survey. That is a known person who is experiencing homelessness and you are verifying their homeless status on that night. So, again, that's a really important concept. I want to make sure communities take advantage of it, because you have great, great partners and we should be using all the best data that we have and the information that we have to get the most accurate count. Early planning with more partners leads to greater confidence. Again, we saw that heavily in the youth space. We see this with the Veterans. We've been grateful for the work of the VA. Many of our VA counterparts are coming out on the counts. We have some areas where our Department of Defense partners are coming out. Our HHS partners and those are the Federal ones. There are certainly lots of local and state partners coming out, so, please plan early, plan often, try to have as many people as you can to come out into the counts and participate. Methodology is critical. Make sure that you are confident your methodology accurately reflects your community. Verify it. You can send a [PH] Q-SES. I talked to several communities this year directly about Point-in-Time count methodologies. It is critical that you land on a methodology you are confident in. Then, work on implementation. So, once you have the methodology you're happy with, try to get out the right number of volunteers. Try to make sure you have as broad a coverage as you can possibly have. Make sure that the implementation of the methodology is as effective as possible. So, those are just some major lessons learned from 2017. Again, it reflects all the work you guys are doing -- I shouldn't say all, because it really touches on one small part of the many hats you're wearing and the many things you're doing, but we appreciate it. Your efforts are seen. We notice it and we're proud to partner with you and grateful for that. With that, we're going to keep moving, and I'm going to turn the time over to Tracy to go over the Housing Inventory Counts.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Great, thanks so much William. Okay. Just pass me the ball here. Okay, so let's talk about the Housing Inventory Count and what we should really be including in the HIC. So, beds and units included in the HIC are considered part of the CoC Homeless Assistance Systems. Beds and units on the HIC must be dedicated to serving homeless persons or for permanent housing projects dedicated to persons who were homeless at entry. Importantly, for the purposes of the HIC a project with dedicated beds and units is one where A, the primary intent of the project is to serve homeless persons. Two, the project fair fights homeless status as part of its eligibility determination, and three, the actual project clients are predominantly homeless or for permanent housing, were homeless at entry. Note that beds in institutional settings not specifically dedicated for persons who are homeless such as detox facilities, emergency rooms, jails, acute crisis at treatment centers should not be included in the HIC. HUD considers extremely weather shelters as dedicated homeless inventory and those can be included

on the HIC. Now, while there may be occasional instances where a project with dedicated beds serves a non-homeless person, beds in those types of projects can still be counted on the HIC. Let's get into some changes. Changes for 2018. There are basically four primary changes to the HIC in 2018, and a lot of it is related to the 2017 HMIS Data Standards. These are as follows: HUD published its 2017 HMIS Data Standards in April 2017 outlining changes to the HMIS Data collection. So, while you're not required to use HMIS to generate your HIC, HUD updated the data standards to include the data elements associated with the HIC so that communities can now generate almost all of the data directly out of you HMIS and import them into HDX if you so desire.

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Second big change, the Department of Veterans Affairs recently designated components within its Grant and Per Diem GPD Program. The 2017 HMIS Data Standards were updated to reflect those changes. So, beginning in 2017 communities must now report their GPD projects by component type and project type in the HIC, and on the screen, you can see, for example, Bridge Housing should be typed as Transitional Housing. A Low-Demand GPD Program should be typed as a Safe Haven. The Service Intensive Transitional Housing, hospital housing, and clinical treatment should be the Transitional Housing Project type and lastly TIP Project, Transition in Place, should be categorized under Permanent Housing OPH. In the additional funding sources field, you also need to identify the GPD component. The 2017 Data Standards Funding Sources were updated to include VA funded Contract Residential Services or CRS, which is the third change. This is a consolidation of the former Healthcare for Homeless Veterans or HCHV Project and Emergency Housing and Residential Treatment Program. So, the fourth change was related to the HUD McKinney Vento funded question, and that question has been expanded to include some subcategories for each McKinney funding source. So, note, this is not really new, but for Emergency Solutions Grants Program, CoC should identify whether the ESG funding is for emergency shelter or for rapid rehousing. If a project receives funding for both activities, then the CoC should record that as two separate projects. In addition, underneath the Continuum of Care Program, we have now added the subcategories. So, select the appropriate CoC Program funding source, whether it be Safe Haven, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing or SRO. Also note, that Shelter Plus Care, Section 8 Mod Rehab Program and SHP can remain as their own standalone categories, but CoC should only select Shelter Plus Care, SRO, SHP, as the McKinney Vento funding source if they still have funding and use requirements associated with that funding. Projects that were originally funded underneath those programs, but now have been currently renewed under the CoC Program should only identify CoC as the funding source. Okay, unfortunately, this year our country has experienced a lot of natural disasters. So, if you're recording disaster related beds on your HIC please create that as their own separate project. Select yes on the [PH 00:18:28] radial button on the inventory's details page and leave a description of the disaster. Now, I'm going to go ahead and pass the ball to Aubrey and Aubrey are you there?

**AUBREY SITLER:** Yep, I'm here. Can you hear me?

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Did I give you the ball? Okay, and she's --

**AUBREY SITLER:** Can you hear me?

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Great, and you can cover the PIT.

**AUBREY SITLER:** Okay, great, thanks Tracy. So, we're going to start by reviewing some of the general PIT count requirements before moving into the changes in the 2017 notice, and Tracy I don't seem to have possession of the Power Point, so, I'm happy if somebody else wants to maneuver through it.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay.

**AUBREY SITLER:** Or I can, whatever. Oh, there we go.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** No, you should have it. Okay.

**AUBREY SITLER:** There we go, got it. Okay, so, as a review, CoCs are required to conduct PIT counts at least biannually during the last 10 days in January. PIT counts have to be conducted in compliance with HUD Counting Standards and the Related Methodology Guidance. Remember that the PIT count should be completed using unduplicated counts or statistically reliable estimates of homeless persons in both sheltered and unsheltered locations on the single night designated for the count. For further in-depth descriptions of different counting methodologies you can use, please be sure to read the PIT Count Methodology Guide, which is available on the HUD exchange. From year to year as you improve your PIT count methodology HUD does understand that this can result in a more accurate PIT count.

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And that your PIT count can increase or decrease from year to year because of this. William touched on this a little earlier, but remember you have the ability to explain any changes in your PIT count that are due to methodology improvements in the CoC Program Competition. HUD will take explanations for these changes in to account during the application review and scoring process. Again, just throw another pitch out there, as William mentioned earlier, if you have questions about whether your community's counting methodologies meet HUDs requirements, please submit a question to Ask a Question on HUD exchange. Finally, remember that CoCs are required to identify their methodologies in their 2018 PIT count in the HDX when they submit their data. So, be sure to keep track of those changes from year to year to your methodology. Also, note that CoCs are encouraged to use HMIS to generate sheltered counts where possible. There's more guidance provided on this in the methodology guide. For the sheltered count, CoCs need to include all the individuals or families who meet the criteria defined in the CoC Program Interim Role. This includes people living in supervised privately or publicly operated shelters that are designated to provide temporary living arrangements. This includes congregate shelters, safe havens, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals. Remember that rapid rehousing is considered permanent housing; however, for homeless households that are enrolled in a Rapid Rehousing Program, but are awaiting placement, these folks should be counted based

on where they reside on the night of the count. So, for rapid rehousing assisted households that are residing in an emergency shelter, transitional housing bed, or safe haven on the night of the count, those folks would be included in the sheltered count. Whereas, if they are Rapid Rehousing Assistants still waiting for placement, but they are unsheltered on the night of the count, they would be included in the unsheltered count. Now turning to the unsheltered PIT count, this should include all individuals or families who meet the criteria as defined in the CoC Program Interim Role. That mainly includes people with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. It can include cars, parks, abandoned buildings, buses, train stations, airports, camping grounds, and other places that you may encounter and deem unsuitable for human habitation on the night designated for the count. Every year we get a lot of questions about whether or not communities should include people in the PIT count and so, we would like to talk a little bit about people who should definitely not be included and go through this list really quickly. That includes people who are residing in Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, which include folks who are housed using VASH vouchers. People counted in any location not listed on the HIC. So, for example, people who are staying in projects with beds or units that are not dedicated for people who are experiencing homelessness. Do not count people who are temporarily staying with friends or families. People who are doubled up or couch surfing. Don't count people who are residing in housing that they rent or own. So, permanent housing, and that includes people residing in rental housing with assistance from a Rapid Rehousing Project, as I mentioned earlier. Also, do not include people who are residing in institutions. So, that might include jails, juvenile correction facilities, foster care placement, hospital beds, and detox centers. All right. So, as William mentioned earlier, there aren't a ton of changes. In fact, there are really just three changes to the PIT Count Requirements in this year's notice. As with all the HIC changes, these are called out specifically at the very beginning of the notice so they're really easy to find, and I'll note that the model surveys on the HUD exchange are in the process of being updated to reflect these changes, but it's also important for any CoCs that develop their own survey tools to update those to make sure that they account for these changes. All right, so, the first change that we'll talk about relates to the gender identity category, which has shifted slightly from last year. Instead of listing "don't identify as male, female, or transgender," we are now using the gender response option of "gender nonconforming that is not exclusively male or female." Note that this category should not be used for people whose gender is unknown or missing or for people who refuse to answer a survey question about their gender. As a general note, also, remember that there is no missing data recorded in the PIT count, so, you should always use extrapolation methods for any missing data, and I'll throw out a plug now for the -- there's an extrapolation tool, which is a spreadsheet available on the HUD exchange that can help you to extrapolate and account for any missing data.

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The second change to the PIT count guidance for this year, requires CoCs to report on the number of children of parenting youth households where the parent is under 18 separately from reporting for children of parent to youth households where the parent is 18-24. Finally, the last change in this year's notice relates to how we report on domestic violence survivors. Starting in 2018, HUD is requiring that CoCs just report on people who are currently experiencing

homelessness because they are fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stocking. This is in contrast to the past when people have reported on survivors who have ever experienced those kinds of circumstances or situations. Again, this one is particularly important when you're thinking about updating your surveys for use on the night of the count, you'll want to make sure that questions are updated to be able to report specifically on this fleeing component -- on this change. Tracy, I'm going to go ahead and hand it back to you now.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Great. Thanks so much, Aubrey. Pass this up to me. Okay. Just to reiterate household types and use categories because it is really confusing. Note that CoCs must collect data on persons in youth households which includes the gender, the race, and ethnicity for parenting youth and unaccompanied youth. Note that parenting youth are youth who identify as the parent or legal guardian of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent and where there is no person over age 24 in the household. If there is a person in the household that's over 24, you wouldn't count that household as a parenting youth household. Parenting youth are either a subset of households with at least one adult and one child if the parenting youth is between 18 and 24. Or for households with only children if the parenting youth is under 18. Unaccompanied youth are persons under age 25 who are not presenting or sleeping in the same place as their parents or legal guardian or their own children. Unaccompanied youth are either a subset of households without children if they are 18-24, or households with only children if they are under 18. Okay. We thought we'd get you started with the Q&A by showing a couple of frequently asked questions. I'm going to ask these questions of William and he is going to explain the answer to you. William, how do you count rapid rehousing projects on the HIC?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** All right, thanks. We got this question a lot over the past couple years. I should say we know the rapid rehousing piece of the housing inventory is difficult because it, by nature, is fluctuating throughout the year. We came up with a methodology that we think gets us as close to what we intend, but we also recognize it's not perfect. So, this is what you count. For beds and units, first you identify the persons and households who are currently in the rapid rehousing beds and units. You essentially count the number of beds based on the number of clients, or people in the units, and households is connected to the unit side based on these three core criteria. If the project participants are actively enrolled on the night of the count, including those who are just receiving services and there is a residential move-in date. Those are the two big ones and the third piece is, we know that there are some rapid rehousing projects that for whatever reason, will have zero people in receiving the rapid rehousing assistance on that particular count night. It is okay for you to include those rapid rehousing projects with zero beds and zero people in those beds. We know that you use the housing inventory count data more broadly and that it is helpful to have

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a sense of the inventory that is available both in your community and also, nationally. We like to know of the rapid rehousing programs as well, so please include them. Those key components, right? The people have to -- you're essentially counting beds based on who's in them and those people need to be actively enrolled and there needs to be a move-in date. All right, Tracy.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** All right. Let's go to the next question on RHY programs, and this is a common question. This one indicates that there are three RHY programs within their CoC: a basic center program, a transitional living program, and a maternity group home. Now, these programs do not necessarily verify or screen for homeless status. Should they be included on the HIC?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yeah, great question. We are very happy to have our HHS partners at the table and any state and local corollary to those partners as well. Yes. You should be including that inventory on the HIC. The exception is if a portion of the project is clearly dedicated to somebody in institutions. Could be in foster care, could be juvenile justice, or is specifically dedicated to people who are doubled up or couch surfing. Then, you would not include that portion of the project. We have found that it is rare to have projects that dedicate inventory to people who are doubled up, but it is not uncommon for RHY projects to have some foster care set-aside beds, or some juvenile justice set-aside beds. That's your more common situation, but generally, you should be including the whole inventory. Again, unless there is some clear set-aside for a population that doesn't otherwise meet HUD's literal homeless standard.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. Aubrey, this is a PIT question. Do you want to pose it to William?

**AUBREY SITLER:** Sure. How do you count couples without children when one is over 25 and the other is 18-24?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yeah, couples. Couples are a fun one. Right now, when we talk about the concept of family, we actually don't really use the term family very often in the context of HMIS or the point in time count. We generally look at household configurations. Couples is one of those areas where -- we don't include couples per se as a separate category in the way we collect data. Essentially, the individuals in the couples get treated as the individuals, so you would report them accordingly. If you had somebody who was over 25, they get reported as in the households without children category and under the age category over 25. And then, for the 18-24, you would also include them in households without children in the 18-24 age category. For that grouping, the 18-24, you will also include them in the unaccompanied youth subcategory. Remember, we have our three core household types: households with children, households without children, households with only children. Every person identified on the house -- on the night of the count needs to be in one of those three categories. And then there are some subcategories where -- like veterans or youth where there will be some crossover. There are in households without children category and whatever corollary category for veterans or for youth based on whatever subset they fit. So, please make sure that they're all in those three household types and then, you'll count them again in a subset, if applicable.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Great. Thanks, William. We have one more slide before we get to a bunch of questions that you guys are putting in. Thank you for asking questions. William, do you want to just highlight this particular resource available on the HUD exchange?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Sure. This website, the PIT and HID guides tools and webinars, has all of our resources. It has the notice, it has the tools, so we have as Aubrey mentioned, we have the extrapolation tool available. We have model surveys available. We have past point in time count and housing inventory count data. We have the 2014 PIT methodology guide available. This site has all of that

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information. We have resources on subpopulations. This year, we will provide a supplement document later, closer to the count, on best practices for counting persons experiencing domestic violence or currently fleeing domestic violence. And we'll provide more in the future, but that's one we're preparing now. We know it's not going to be helpful for planning. Most of you have done your planning. Hopefully, it will be of some use if not this year, next year. So, this is the place to go to access those resources.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay, great. We're going to use the rest of the time to take questions, but before we do, I just want to thank William and [PH] Audrey for their participating in the webinar. And I'm going to go ahead and read questions to William and have him respond. William, the first question is related to the new data collection requirements for victims of domestic violence. Why did HUD change the data collection requirement for victims of domestic violence?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yes, thank you. We need more information about survivors of domestic violence. However, that's being balanced with the very, very important aspect of confidentiality. We certainly don't want to compromise anybody's safety and privacy. We're trying to find that balance. When we analyzed our domestic violence data in the past, as collected in the point in time count, we realized we didn't know what we were getting. We didn't know if we were getting information about everyone who's ever experienced some form of domestic violence, whether we were getting information about those who are currently fleeing, and we're pretty sure that we were getting a mix of the two. So, in order to clarify what we would like to have and to avoid providing too much of a burden on you guys at the community level, we decided to narrow this a little bit just to, when asking the questions about those survivors of domestic violence or those currently fleeing, we want to know are they homeless because of their domestic violence -- they're currently homeless because of their domestic violence experience. Not to differentiate from past history there. We just wanted to know what we were getting. So, we want to know those who are homeless because they are fleeing domestic violence. That's not to say that you, at the community level, cannot ask the other broader question about anyone who's experienced it. That is good information. We just wanted to again, narrow the amount that we put out there for you to ask in your surveys.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Great. Thanks, William. And as a reminder, use the Q&A box to ask your questions, and the next one is related to phone and web-based survey options. The question is, is our CoC is interested in expanding our PIT count methodology to include phone and web-based surveys, but HUD has traditionally wanted to focus on face-to-face surveys. Particularly,

in regards to using 211 to collect information, what do you think about CoC expanding the way that they're conducting their counts with new technology?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yeah, I love that question. That is something. We're grateful the technology is here to help us. There's a distinction here. Can you use phones? Can you use the internet? Can you use mobile technology to conduct counts? The answer to that is yes, but that is different than providing phone-based surveys, providing web-based surveys that are out to everyone. Here's the distinction. On the night of the count, you can absolutely use mobile technology or web-based tools when your community goes out and interviews or engages with those who they think are homeless and ask the question about whether or not they are homeless. They can even go out and hand them -- because we have found, especially with youth, sometimes they prefer to answer the questions on their own. You could slide over a tablet, let them answer those questions, but you are seeing them out on the street on the night of the count and you can verify that they are there. It's a body that you can see. That is absolutely

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okay. You cannot create a Facebook survey or a SurveyMonkey that's just available writ large to anybody in the community or even beyond the community to answer that. You do not know if one person is submitting 200 responses or if the person responding is providing accurate information. You need to have some way of knowing -- of verifying if people are actually homeless. Now, we spoke earlier about using things like [PH 00:40:33] my name list or working with your education counterparts or other counterparts who have a known list or known universe of people who are likely homeless on the night of the count. Can you use information about them to follow up, to make phone calls, or send an email, or send a text? Yes. The key there is you need to, in that interaction, verify their sleeping status on the night the CoC chose for their PIT count night. 211 is one of those cases where you know people are seeking services. It is okay to include information about people seeking services because -- and well, you should be asking the question about their homeless status. That's the key there, but you are -- don't even have to reach out to them. It's almost like a face-to-face interaction in that they are making a cry for assistance and you are able to evaluate their housing status at that period and then decide if they meet our definition. And if you have expanded definitions you use locally, you can certainly decide how to include them in that as well. Do you use technology to do the counts? Absolutely, but there are certain cautions and things that are prohibited with what you simply make available to the public at large.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Right. Thanks, William. We're going to go over some of the questions that you have submitted and note that if we don't get to all your questions, please submit them through the HUD exchange AAQ desks. And there may be some questions that I read that William may want to think about a little bit and then we'll have to respond to those through the AAQ too. This is the first one, William. This one is regards to, they do not have the option of parenting youth or children of those parenting youth in our household type options within HMIS.

**WILLIAM SNOW:** All right. I'm probably going to lean back on Tracy and Aubrey on this one because we have in the HMIS data standards the household relationship information. I know

that's an important piece we have used in doing our APR specs. So, there should be some information about relationships that give you an idea about the parenting aspect. Is there an actual HMIS standard or element that is parenting youth? No, but I think the building blocks are in HMIS to be able to do that. Tracy and Aubrey, did I miss beats there?

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** No, I think you're right. You need to look at those household relationships along with dates of birth and ages to determine and weed out where those folks go, particularly on your point in time. Aubrey, do you have anything you want to add to that?

**AUBREY SITLER:** No, I don't.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. The second question, William, is on RHY again. With regard to RHY crisis shelters, how does HUD define predominately homeless? If it doesn't prioritize and designate it for homeless youth, but of the youth who actually stay there, only 40% or so are homeless. Should this project be included in the HIC?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yeah, so go back to what we were speaking about earlier. It is a RHY project -- a predominately, certainly, we don't have a number. I will say that. For the RHY project, unless there are beds set aside for juvenile justice or foster care, you should include that project and all the beds in the housing inventory count. And include them in the emergency shelter count as well because there's obviously the corollary there too.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. Well, this one also reverts back to RRH and this first question that we were talking about. Does the first FAQ in regards to RRH also apply to other permanent housing projects since they now have start dates and move-in dates?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Oh, I love that question. We were so happy to put in --

**[00:45:00]**

start move-in dates. We haven't expanded the guidance that way, partly because we just didn't wrap our heads around all of it. I would say as a principle, yes, the move-in date is a key here. We have found that people are coming from various places when they go to those other permanent housing, but many systems have information about where they're coming from. Yes, the move-in date is a trigger for how to include people in your inventory.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. Now, the next question is, how would we count a family with a 25-year-old father and an 18-24-year-old mother and their children?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Okay. That is a great one. That would be a household with children and we would base it on, well, the reality that we have the household with two parents, or two household members and a child under the age of 18 there. So, maybe the follow-up here is, are we trying to figure out if this should be classified as parenting youth.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Yeah, I think that is the question and a lot of people ask this question as we go through. The fact that there is at least one person in the household who's 25 years or older, then that becomes part of the households with children. It does not become part of the household youth category.

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yup. Yes, if that's what we're looking at. Is it a parenting youth household, the answer is no. We're basing it on the older parent here.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Yes. Okay, and we've got a lot of questions, good questions, in RHY and they find it confusing. So, they're asking again, are we to include beds that meet the HUD homeless definition, except for RHY which is an exception, and HUD is okay with the expanded definition for RHY programs?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Yes, and I have to be totally honest, we've done this already in the VA context as well. We've been a little more expansive about what we've included in the VA. They similarly have, some of their inventory is not necessarily limited to what we consider the homeless. For the most part, it is. It fits pretty nicely, but some of it is more on the treatment side. And we have included that. Yes, that's the standard we're following, allowing a little more leeway on the RHY and the VA side.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. The next question is about people who are unstably housed and continue to be homelessness due to domestic violence. I'm not terribly sure, what about people who are unstably -- not exactly sure what the question means.

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Let me see if I can answer this. This is not an attempt to count all of the category four homeless definition persons. There are going to be many who are not identified here. However, in the count, we give it an option to communities to identify survivors of domestic violence or those who are currently fleeing a domestic violence experience. We do not expect you to be able to go into homes and identify people who may be in that situation, may be in a precarious situation. However, for those who you identify through your count process, whether it's in your shelter system, whether it's in your street count, we would ask. Even if they say -- if they said, "I am fleeing. I have a home with a partner in it, but I don't feel safe sleeping there. I am not staying there because it is unsafe," that should be counted as -- well, sheltered or unsheltered depending on where you find them. So, if they say they're staying away from their home that night because they are not safe, you would count that. But again, we do not expect you to somehow find all persons who are precariously housed in the system who may meet a domestic violence definition, but are not currently in the streets or shelter.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. Let's take one more on domestic violence. For the domestic violence clients who are in our rapid rehousing project, would we count them as fleeing domestic violence or just homeless? The clients who are in our DV shelter are indeed actively fleeing domestic violence.

**[00:50:00]**

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Great question. If they're in a rapid rehousing project, you would not count them on the housing inventory -- or on the point in time count because they are in a form of permanent housing. That gets at that, we're not trying to count everybody in category four. We're trying to identify those people in the streets or shelter situations that are there because they are fleeing. In this case, they would not be in the sheltered point in time count. You would count them in your rapid rehousing inventory associated with -- there's a PIT count question at the end of the HIC for every project. You certainly would include them there, but not in the larger sheltered count.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay, and this one is a great question. Referring back to the RHY Q&A, what if it is not an RHY funded project, but a project that houses youth who often tend to enter from a doubled-up situation. Does the expanded homeless definition still apply?

**WILLIAM SNOW:** I'm going to actually have to give that one more thought. My gut feeling is yes, we probably would allow that, but I do need to verify it because it's a tough question. And I imagine most youth providers, whether RHY funded or not, actually have that type of criteria. We'll get back to you. We'll post an FAQ with that because it's a good question.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Okay. So, we're at the end of our time here. As a reminder, if you have additional questions or we didn't get to your question, please submit them through the HUD Exchange Ask a Question. There is one more thing. We had some really big technical difficulties, so I really apologize for that and after this, we'll do a little discussion to determine whether or not we need to redo or repeat this session. Thank you very, very much for attending and appreciate all your great questions.

**WILLIAM SNOW:** Thank you.

**TRACY D'ALANNO:** Thanks guys. Bye-bye.