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00:00:06,307 --> 00:00:08,000

[Joan Domenech]

Hi, everybody.

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00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:13,800

I'm going to get us started. So first of all, I want to acknowledge that you will see me trembling.

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00:00:13,800 --> 00:00:18,080

It's not because I'm very nervous. It's because it's very cold in here. And I'm from Puerto Rico,

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00:00:18,080 --> 00:00:24,120

where I'm used to 100-degree weather. So, let's just start there. So welcome. We're going to be

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00:00:24,120 --> 00:00:33,240

talking about HMIS project monitoring today. So, my name is Joan Domenech. I am a CSH provider. I

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00:00:33,240 --> 00:00:39,920

have been a TA provider for about six-ish years. Before that, I did HMIS-ing. And I did coordinated

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00:00:39,920 --> 00:00:46,320

entry, not at the same time because that's a lot. And I'll let my co-presenters present

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00:00:46,320 --> 00:00:49,720

themselves real quick. And then we'll get a sense of who we have in the room. Ooh, probably not do

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00:00:49,720 --> 00:00:59,920

that. I got you. I just got it on mute. No, no. [Jessica Lurz] Hi, I'm Jessica Lurz. I've been

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00:00:59,920 --> 00:01:07,520

a HUD TA provider for about two years now, but about 18 to 20-- I don't want to tell you that,

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00:01:07,520 --> 00:01:12,120

years of experience. I don't look at it.
I know, but-- in affordable housing and

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00:01:12,120 --> 00:01:19,760

homeless services. Prior to coming to TA, I
was a CoC lead agency collaborative applicant,

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00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:28,600

where we also housed the HMIS lead agency in
Northern Virginia. But just before 2019, I moved

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00:01:28,600 --> 00:01:35,040

to the great city of Pittsburgh, which if you've
never been, I encourage you to come, and love

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00:01:35,040 --> 00:01:43,280

doing outdoor activities. So, pass it on to Eric.
[Eric Gammons] Hey folks, good morning. My name is

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00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:50,400

Eric Gammons. I work for TAC up in Boston. I've
been in the TA world for about four years now but

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00:01:50,400 --> 00:02:02,160

have been in the CoC or homeless field for 20
or 30 years or so. And I definitely look it, so-

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00:02:03,320 --> 00:02:09,880

So, I'm also freezing because I'm from South
Louisiana. But I've also been HMIS lead,

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00:02:09,880 --> 00:02:15,080

done a lot of work around HMIS, of course, and
governance. And so glad to have everybody here.

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00:02:15,080 --> 00:02:19,640

And for you in the back, believe it or not,
there's available seats in the front. I know

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00:02:19,640 --> 00:02:27,960

that's a shocker. But you're welcome to come up.
So, thanks. Turn the mic back over to you, Joan.

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00:02:27,960 --> 00:02:34,480

[Joan Domenech] Thank you. So, we wanted to get
a sense of who we have in the room. So we'll just

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00:02:34,480 --> 00:02:43,040

go old school, raise your hand and just to get
an idea. So, who in here is a CoC lead? Quite a

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00:02:43,040 --> 00:02:53,240

few. It's always good to see in a conference
that is HMIS-driven. So, good. HMIS leads? A

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lot more. A few. Service providers? Just a
few. And any other-- all right. Do you want

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00:03:08,720 --> 00:03:13,720

to shout out? What are you representing? HMIS
admin. An admin, yeah, we should have said,

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00:03:13,720 --> 00:03:25,360

HMIS kind of-- I have no idea what I am-- It's OK.
You don't have to identify. All right, perfect.

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00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:29,480

So I wanted to get a sense where you're
at in your community process in terms

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00:03:29,480 --> 00:03:36,240

of project monitoring. So, raise your hand if
you are conducting monitoring, and it's going

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00:03:36,240 --> 00:03:45,600

good. Probably why we have a lot of people in this

session, so good. You're at the right place. Yes,

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00:03:45,600 --> 00:03:55,760

but you need a little help to make it better. A few of those, no, and we definitely need help.

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00:03:57,840 --> 00:04:02,880

Shy people because there's not adding up, but it's OK. No, and we just don't want to

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00:04:02,880 --> 00:04:12,760

do project monitoring. To be honest, we're here. Thank you for the honesty. All right, perfect. So,

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00:04:12,760 --> 00:04:18,160

the learning objectives of today is that we are hoping that you leave with a clear understanding

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00:04:18,160 --> 00:04:25,120

of why project monitoring is important and that you understand the key components of

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project monitoring, and that you leave with some best practices so that you can go and implement

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and get some tools and examples. We'll also be identifying common findings and solutions

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for those common findings that you get. So why is project monitoring important?

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00:04:45,080 --> 00:04:51,806

Let's retract. Why do you all think project monitoring is important? Any brave people?

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00:04:51,806 --> 00:04:55,840

[Audience Member] It will lead to data accuracy.
[Joan Domenech] Fast reader right here. We have a

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00:04:55,840 --> 00:05:01,764
fast reader. I was slow. I like
it, yes, yes, anybody else?

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00:05:01,764 --> 00:05:04,520
[Audience Member] Improving project performance.
[Joan Domenech] Improving project performance.

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00:05:05,120 --> 00:05:12,760
What, are you a fast reader, or do you not see
that Fast reader? That was the second bullet,

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00:05:12,760 --> 00:05:18,720
so yes, yes. Anybody else? Why is
project monitoring important?

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00:05:18,720 --> 00:05:22,320
[Audience Member] We're about to launch a
new implementation in Multnomah, Oregon,

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00:05:22,320 --> 00:05:26,800
so I'm primarily concerned about
compliance to our new policies over

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00:05:26,800 --> 00:05:31,760
the next year or two years, forever.
[Joan Domenech] Awesome. Thank you.

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00:05:31,760 --> 00:05:38,600
[Audience Member] I do feel like
good data tells the story. And so,

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00:05:38,600 --> 00:05:43,280
by doing good monitoring and holding people
accountable and continuing training, then we

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00:05:43,280 --> 00:05:49,384

have more accurate data. And we can better tell the story of what's going on in our community.

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00:05:49,384 --> 00:05:54,898

[Joan Domenech] Absolutely, absolutely.

Yeah, I-- I have somebody else?

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00:05:54,898 --> 00:06:00,160

[Audience Member] I'm sorry. It's for the camera. I mean, basically-- sorry. That's

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00:06:00,160 --> 00:06:06,560

the second time I've done it. Sorry. Basically, I mean, to add on there, it helps us find the

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00:06:06,560 --> 00:06:10,760

ultimate-- the solutions that we can have for the clients. So, we can help them out in the

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00:06:10,760 --> 00:06:16,160

best way. And if our data isn't accurate or somebody isn't entering in accurately,

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00:06:16,160 --> 00:06:21,480

how can we do that to our best ability?

[Joan Domenech] Absolutely. Mitchell--Mitchell

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00:06:21,480 --> 00:06:28,600

is your name? That is said perfectly. I always-- in my role as a TA provider, I've always wanted

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to go back because we're a few steps away from serving clients directly. And we always

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00:06:36,120 --> 00:06:40,760

have to think about how is-- what we're doing,
improving the services that we're delivering,

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00:06:40,760 --> 00:06:45,880

improving the lives of the people that we're
serving. And I think that that is, for me, how I

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see monitoring being important. That is accurate.
But why does that matter? It matters so that we

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00:06:50,440 --> 00:06:55,280

can understand our system. And it matters so that
it's accurately reflecting our system, and that we

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00:06:55,280 --> 00:07:01,240

can use that as a baseline for system improvement
and improving services. So, all of these technical

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things that we'll get into, I always like tying it
back to how is this improving the lives of people

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00:07:06,800 --> 00:07:11,640

that we are serving. So, good. I didn't have to
do anything in that slide. That's perfect. We just

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00:07:11,640 --> 00:07:19,840

got to keep asking them. So, these are basically
what we talked about. I have to repeat that. So,

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I wanted to talk a little bit about this. Who
hasn't seen this document before? Very few.

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So, this is an old-ish document. It was published
in 2018. And it's a really good document because

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it lays out a vision for technical assistance as it relates to data strategy and improving how we

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use data. And so, HUD published this, and it had three goals in it. And I think that they relate

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really well to monitoring. So, one of the first goals that I said-- so this is a goal meant for

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technical assistance. But, through technical assistance, we're supporting you to be able

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to accomplish some of these. But this is not a measurement that you need to have specifically

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for yourself, but it is a vision that HUD has for the future, which is the future is technically

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now. But COVID happened because this was 2018, but yes. So, one, that you would be using

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your data to optimize systems of care through making ongoing system performance improvements

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00:08:24,680 --> 00:08:30,760

and determining optimal resource allocation, what we were just talking about. Number two,

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00:08:30,760 --> 00:08:36,920

that communities would operate data systems that allow for accurate comprehensive, timely data

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00:08:36,920 --> 00:08:41,360
collection usage and reporting. So, this one's
more on data quality. The other one's more on

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00:08:41,360 --> 00:08:47,200
system performance. And then three that federal
government coordinates to receive and use data to

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make informed decisions in coordination with other
data sets across and within the agency. So, this

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is more along the lines of now we have good data.
We're using it-- that good data. Now it's about

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00:08:58,520 --> 00:09:04,120
how do we tell a complete story. And you're going
to need other data sources to do that. HMIS is a

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00:09:04,120 --> 00:09:11,920
big data source, but how do you coordinate with
others to do that? And so, HUD laid down three

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strategies to get to achieving those three goals.
And these are those three overarching strategies.

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If you look at the document, it has a lot of
strategies within. But these are the big ones.

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So, one, improving your capacity, the community's
capacity to set up, operate, and benefit from data

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00:09:29,200 --> 00:09:35,320
systems. So, you're here in NHSDC. That's one of
the ways that we do that is through having these

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conferences. Who has read some documents from the HMIS lead series? Yes, hands raised. That one's

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getting popular. So that was-- another strategy is putting out documents. I've heard a few people say

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00:09:51,360 --> 00:09:58,120

that every time they have a question, they get a 40-page HUD manual. You're lucky. When I started,

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there was nothing. I started implementing coordinated entry. And they were like, just

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00:10:02,160 --> 00:10:06,760

go around and see what other people are doing. I had to travel and see what people were doing. So,

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00:10:08,040 --> 00:10:13,320

it's challenging because you have to read a lot, but it definitely is helpful. So,

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00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:19,600

another of the strategies is that data systems collect accurate comprehensive and timely data.

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And that's where all of the strategies related to data quality. The HMIS lead series has the

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DQMP guide, which is really good. It has a lot of good examples and so forth. And then the third

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strategy is that continuums and interested parties use data to improve efforts to end homelessness.

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So those are all strategies that are either we're doing through NHSDC, we're doing through products,

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we're doing through just the-- who participates in the HMIS lead calls. A lot of people-- so

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those are TA strategies to help you all improve on those. So that was a level setting. And now

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we're going to dive into the actual nuts and bolts of project monitoring. Pass it to you. Do

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00:11:04,960 --> 00:11:10,200

you want me to click, or do you want to click? [Jessica Lurz] Let's see. You can click if you

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00:11:10,200 --> 00:11:23,400

don't mind. But let me get in here. Oh, my God. You didn't need your slide deck, and I do. So,

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we're going to talk a little bit about what do you actually have to do in your communities to

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monitor projects using HMIS. We talked a bit about what is HUD's strategy on what TA providers should

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be doing to ultimately help you all get to a place where you're using data to make informed

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decisions. And so, what we're going to talk about now is the parts that you'll be working on.

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So, when you're looking at your components of HMIS project monitoring, you're really looking

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at three things, the compliance piece, your data quality piece, and then your performance. So,

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your compliance is really when you're looking at your privacy standards, what are the laws

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and regulations that you have to make sure that you're following? It's those kind of like, yes,

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00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:16,320

are you doing these things because if you're not, you're in trouble, not really. But you're out of

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00:12:16,320 --> 00:12:22,320

compliance. And the next piece is probably where a lot of you are spending your time when you're

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doing this sort of thing. So, it's your data quality. Are your project putting in timely?

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Are they doing accurate data? Is it consistent? And how complete is the data quality? But really,

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00:12:36,560 --> 00:12:43,160

what we want to get to is like all of those things to help us start to improve performance. So, are

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we really meeting the outcomes that we originally said we would do in the grant agreements? So

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again, we keep talking about how HMIS data is helping us improve the lives of people who are

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experiencing homelessness. And that's when we start to get to this performance piece.

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What is happening at that project level? Are there things that need to change so that people who are

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experiencing homelessness are either exiting to permanent housing faster or maintaining permanent

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housing? And so, we want to really just have you start to think about those performance pieces.

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So, some of you said you are currently doing some monitoring. There are a few of you that said no,

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and you don't want to. That's OK. But just to get a sense of who is currently involved in your

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monitoring. How many of you-- and we keep talking about how CoC lead is not really a thing. But your

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Coc lead, your collaborative applicant, how many of you have that entity involved in the monitoring

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process? What about the HMIS lead? What about

the participating homeless service providers?

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Local funders and then any other HMIS stakeholders or CoC stakeholders. So HMIS is really like doing

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the bulk of this for many of your communities. If you don't know who's involved, you should go

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to your local policies and procedures to make sure that it's written down. We want to make

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sure that all of that is very clear to all of the programs that are going to be monitored. But also,

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for yourselves as HMIS leads, what are you actually responsible for? What are some of

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these other entities responsible for? But we'll talk a little bit about what the HUD regulations

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are so that you know. But what we talk about today, there'll be some baseline things that

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are required. But ultimately, at the local level, you have to make some additional decisions. And

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you know your communities best. You really have to make sure that you have the right people involved,

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00:15:00,560 --> 00:15:04,080

the right amount of times that you're going

out monitoring, all of those things. But we'll

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talk about sort of what's the minimum standard.
So, who is involved in project monitoring? Really,

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any project that uses HMIS regardless of the
funding source. So, I know that can be sometimes

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challenging. If you have agencies that are not
receiving CoC program funds or ESG funds, they're

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receiving some other homeless service money or
they're getting fundraising and they're in HMIS,

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you really should be monitoring them and holding
them to the same standards that you are all of the

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programs in HMIS. While HMIS participating
organizations and you all, as HMIS leads,

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are really the biggest players in all of this,
the continuum of care really should be an active

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00:15:54,320 --> 00:16:00,120

participant. You should be sharing with them
what the results of monitoring might look like,

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00:16:00,120 --> 00:16:07,040

what are some of the plans for improvement that
you're doing with community members or agencies,

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00:16:07,040 --> 00:16:12,280

and telling them the good and the not so good,

like, what are the things that need to improve

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00:16:12,280 --> 00:16:18,720

at the project level so that you can continue to improve your system. And the CoC should also

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be involved in approving what your monitoring checklist or tool looks like. They need to be

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involved in that helping in the development of it, making sure that there's written documentation of

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00:16:30,840 --> 00:16:39,480

what that's going to look like, and then how are you going to monitor your projects. Oh,

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I forgot the last one. Hold on, let me go back. And then also, who within the project needs to be

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in there. So, you may have a couple of different people at the project that need to be a part of

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the monitoring process. Some communities have case managers who are entering data right into

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HMIS. Some of them have other staff who are then taking written documents down and then entering

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00:17:00,040 --> 00:17:05,440

it for them. Project management staff might be involved. You need to connect with those

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00:17:05,440 --> 00:17:10,400

local agencies to figure out who's putting

information into the system, who has access,

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00:17:10,400 --> 00:17:14,840

who has a login so that you can do all of those security measures all of that data

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00:17:14,840 --> 00:17:21,840

quality and all of those performance checks for everyone that might be involved in the process.

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00:17:22,760 --> 00:17:31,120

So where should project monitoring take place? Well, on site, remotely, and a combination of

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the two. There are a couple of things that you can only do on-site. Things like making

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sure that people have firewalls on the computer or logins to certain things. But there are some

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data quality components that you can do remotely. And you can think about that combination of it.

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Some of you probably serve a very large geographic area. And doing an on-site monitoring every single

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year for every single project really does not make the most sense. And so, you need to be thinking

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about those kinds of things. Like, how many staff do you have that can be involved in this? Are you

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00:18:07,560 --> 00:18:12,760

going to do a full monitoring on-site every year?
Maybe you're going to do a staggered approach,

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where you're going to do like annually the data
quality piece, where you can do that remotely.

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00:18:17,960 --> 00:18:24,080

But then maybe every other year, you're going out
in person. You're looking at those on-site kinds

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00:18:24,080 --> 00:18:32,520

of activities. Anybody doing that currently, that
combination of or are you all trying to just be

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everywhere all the time? All right, so a couple
of you are doing combination. Did you know that

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you could do that kind of a combination approach?
Perfect. And then how often should you do it?

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So, your regulation is at least annually, you
should be monitoring. But there are going to be

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times where you may need to do it more frequently.
Maybe you have a particular program or an end user

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that's just really struggling, and you're
providing technical assistance to them. It

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00:19:03,600 --> 00:19:08,080

makes sense to maybe do it more frequently. But
again, you want to make sure that whoever's being

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00:19:08,080 --> 00:19:14,280
monitored is aware of what your plan is, how often
you're going to do it. Yesterday when we talked

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about-- I don't know if some of you were here.
But when we talked about HMIS lead monitoring,

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so when you're getting monitored, we don't want
it to be a gotcha moment. It's the same for your

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service providers, communicating with them when
you're going to come and then thinking about the

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times of year when you're doing it. Maybe you
try to coincide the HMIS monitoring with some

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00:19:36,560 --> 00:19:42,160
of the other CoC monitoring that's going on. Maybe
you do it when people are starting to think about

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00:19:42,160 --> 00:19:49,480
doing CAPERs and close-outs of programs. And then
maybe there are times that you choose not to do it

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00:19:49,480 --> 00:19:55,040
because your service providers are very busy with
other things. Like, holidays are probably hard for

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00:19:55,040 --> 00:19:59,480
some of your emergency shelter programs because
they're thinking about donations and all of the

187
00:19:59,480 --> 00:20:06,960
things that are coming in. An additional stress
of being monitored might be challenging. And then

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00:20:06,960 --> 00:20:11,520

also when, you all are very busy, you don't want to be doing that. Maybe when the LSA is due or

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00:20:11,520 --> 00:20:17,480

when there's some application due, make sure that you're thinking about it. But the minimum that

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00:20:17,480 --> 00:20:21,465

you need to do is at least annually.

[Joan Domenech] Can I add something?

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00:20:21,465 --> 00:20:23,920

[Jessica Lurz] Yes.

[Joan Domenech] I wouldn't call

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00:20:23,920 --> 00:20:30,960

it necessarily monitoring. But when you train new agencies, you definitely want to be looking at the

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00:20:30,960 --> 00:20:37,720

data that they're entering because they need some extra hand holding and extra support. Usually,

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00:20:37,720 --> 00:20:42,640

we train folks. We give them the keys to the kingdom, go have your thing. APR is due. We're

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00:20:42,640 --> 00:20:47,600

like, what? They're not even doing entries.

They're just entering. So, I think that that

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00:20:47,600 --> 00:20:54,600

definitely requires some planning to prevent you going in and having to clean up a lot. So that

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00:20:54,600 --> 00:20:59,120

is another instance where it's not technically monitoring, but you're keeping an eye out and

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00:20:59,120 --> 00:21:02,840

providing a little bit extra support.

[Jessica Lurz] Perfect. Eric's going to

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00:21:02,840 --> 00:21:10,120

walk us through what should be included.

[Eric Gammons] My standard way. Can I have

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00:21:10,120 --> 00:21:30,520

that back? That one-handed-- sorry.

Sorry about that, folks. This arm has

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00:21:30,520 --> 00:21:37,960

stopped working for whatever reason. So, I'm

doing the one-handed presentation today. So,

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00:21:37,960 --> 00:21:44,200

what is included in HMIS project monitoring

visit? Well, first, let's go back to what

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00:21:44,200 --> 00:21:51,720

Jessica said and Joan said. We should be talking

to the CoC. So, the CoC should have governance

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00:21:51,720 --> 00:22:00,240

around the expectations of its providers or its

CoC recipients. Those documents or that governance

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00:22:00,240 --> 00:22:07,280

can include data quality plan, can include HMIS

policies and procedures, the privacy policy,

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00:22:07,280 --> 00:22:14,880

privacy plan, and any other local policies and

procedures that the CoC has or that the community

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00:22:14,880 --> 00:22:23,400

has. You should have those documentation-- that

information when you're preparing a visit or a

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00:22:23,400 --> 00:22:29,160

monitoring. And I say-- I'm going to say, visit a lot. But I know there can be a virtual visit,

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00:22:29,160 --> 00:22:35,560

or it's going to be an on-site in-person visit. So, some of the things you're going to look for

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00:22:35,560 --> 00:22:43,680

or prepare for is, are all the forms between the HMIS lead and the participating agency

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00:22:43,680 --> 00:22:50,120

in place? Meaning, have you done your job, and have they done their job? Certainly, you need

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00:22:50,120 --> 00:22:55,840

user agreements. Anybody that's using a system should have signed a user agreement. But you may

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00:22:55,840 --> 00:23:02,680

also have participating agency agreements. You may also have some other agreements between the agency

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00:23:02,680 --> 00:23:09,920

and the CoC. You want to know what the roles and responsibilities are of that participating agency

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00:23:09,920 --> 00:23:15,200

prior to doing a monitoring visit. And that includes your expectations, but also includes

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00:23:15,200 --> 00:23:24,480

the expectations of the CoC. Do you have the clicker? Oh, hey, watch out, it's magic.

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00:23:25,680 --> 00:23:36,200

So, the HMIS policies and procedures, you should have them. So how many folks have seen or have

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00:23:36,200 --> 00:23:43,720

HMIS policies and procedures? All hands go up, hopefully. Most hands go up. If you don't have

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00:23:43,720 --> 00:23:49,360

policies and procedures, that's something to begin working on immediately with your CoC

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00:23:49,360 --> 00:23:54,560

and your providers and your HMIS data committee or whatever you have working in your CoC toward

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00:23:54,560 --> 00:23:59,200

improving your data and telling your story through your HMIS system. So those policies

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00:23:59,200 --> 00:24:06,760

and procedures should indicate how monitoring is performed, who's involved, how often it occurs,

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00:24:06,760 --> 00:24:12,560

and what happens after the monitoring. And everything should be transparent. Those

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00:24:12,560 --> 00:24:19,640

policies and procedures should not be sitting on a shelf collecting dust since 10 years ago when you

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00:24:19,640 --> 00:24:25,760

wrote them. They should be active. They should be reviewed annually. And they should be transparent,

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00:24:25,760 --> 00:24:34,080

a website, however you relay information to your providers. Within those policies and procedures,

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00:24:34,080 --> 00:24:42,240

they should indicate at least who's involved and how often you're going to monitor projects.

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00:24:42,240 --> 00:24:49,000

Remember that when you're monitoring, this is what you think about. This is not checking off

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00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:56,640

a box. You're not saying I'm monitoring. You're saying, I'm going in there to help my providers

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00:24:56,640 --> 00:25:02,720

improve all aspects of their HMIS data collection. That's the idea behind monitoring. Not going in

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00:25:02,720 --> 00:25:12,680

there going, gotcha. You're bad. Fix your stuff. You're going in there to create an actionable,

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00:25:12,680 --> 00:25:22,280

measurable, and time-bound event that's going to increase the capacity of your providers. So,

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00:25:22,280 --> 00:25:30,640

in addition, I know everybody has a privacy plan, right? Hands up privacy plan, security plan,

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00:25:30,640 --> 00:25:38,280

people that don't know if they have a plan. Those plans are the CoC's responsibility to

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00:25:38,280 --> 00:25:44,520

have in place for every CoC. So not HMIS leads responsibility, the CoC's responsibility.

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00:25:44,520 --> 00:25:49,640

Certainly, you're going to play a part in those. But those plans are your guidelines,

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00:25:49,640 --> 00:25:55,480

your backbone of your monitoring. You want to ensure that your providers are following those

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00:25:55,480 --> 00:26:03,160

plans. And if they're not, this is—monitoring is a perfect time to bring them up to that standard. In

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00:26:03,160 --> 00:26:10,360

addition, data quality plan. Everybody has one of those. That's the frustrating thing. Most times,

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00:26:10,360 --> 00:26:16,600

it's getting data quality up. But remember, monitoring should be not about targets,

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00:26:16,600 --> 00:26:22,000

but about baselines. So, whatever your baseline is, as far as data quality, that's what you're

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00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:29,480

going in to monitor for, not hey, we're shooting for 99%. And you're at 95%. Well,

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00:26:29,480 --> 00:26:34,640

if the baseline is 95%, then that's a good monitoring. Certainly, you want to improve,

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00:26:34,640 --> 00:26:47,640

but again, not the gotcha. Oh, I didn't-- that was too quick. You have the clicker, Joan? Yeah, OK.

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00:26:48,280 --> 00:26:54,600

So, transparency is really key in monitoring. And what does that mean? It means you want to

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00:26:54,600 --> 00:27:02,200

let whoever you're monitoring know everything you're going to be doing during that monitoring,

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00:27:02,200 --> 00:27:06,960

all the people you're going to want to talk to,

all the documents you're going to want to see.

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00:27:06,960 --> 00:27:14,280

And whatever guidelines, baselines, governance, requirements, responsibilities that you're going

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00:27:14,280 --> 00:27:21,000

to be monitoring for, they need to know ahead of time. And prepare for that monitoring. I mean,

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00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:25,960

it makes sense. But a lot of times, monitoring is just something you do. You go in, you do

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00:27:25,960 --> 00:27:30,480

the thing, you check the box, and you leave. That's not what it's about. If you bring that

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00:27:30,480 --> 00:27:36,960

transparency to your providers, then internally, they may start having the expectation of getting

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00:27:36,960 --> 00:27:42,760

up to those standards. If you just go in and hey, you're not doing this and leave, then are they

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00:27:42,760 --> 00:27:48,720

really self-improving in all areas? Probably not. But if you provide them with all the expectations,

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00:27:48,720 --> 00:27:54,480

then they may improve in areas that you might not even monitor in. I know Jessica mentioned

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00:27:54,480 --> 00:27:58,960

monitoring doesn't have to be all inclusive. You may just be going in there for one thing,

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00:27:58,960 --> 00:28:05,200

data quality. But bring the entire monitoring

expectations to them. These are all the

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00:28:05,200 --> 00:28:10,680

things that we have expectations for. This is the thing we're going to be looking at today. It make

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00:28:10,680 --> 00:28:21,160

sense to everybody? Good to go? And then, of course, this is a big one, findings.

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00:28:21,160 --> 00:28:27,720

Like, let them know ahead of time, hey, if we have findings, this is what's going to occur.

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00:28:27,720 --> 00:28:32,960

We're going to set up a plan. We're going to have a deadline. This is the expectations of

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00:28:32,960 --> 00:28:38,120

change we're going to have. But before you even have findings, just let them know it's going

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00:28:38,120 --> 00:28:44,200

to ease them up a little bit. Make them relax. Maybe pull the curtain back a little bit further,

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00:28:44,200 --> 00:28:49,680

so you can see what's going on and maybe detect what actually is affecting their data quality

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00:28:49,680 --> 00:28:55,160

or their privacy concerns. Monitoring is not easy. I've done a lot of monitoring.

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00:28:55,160 --> 00:29:00,360

And people tend to pull the curtains, nothing to see here, and only provide you with what

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00:29:00,360 --> 00:29:05,520

you ask. But if you're very transparent about what's going to happen afterwards,

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00:29:05,520 --> 00:29:18,400

then they may be a little more open to letting you know about the issues they're having.

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00:29:18,400 --> 00:29:25,520

So, examples of what can be reviewed in a visit, the real key. So, when I talk about

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00:29:25,520 --> 00:29:32,160

visit in this case, typically, it's going to be on-site. When you go on-site, what's the first

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00:29:32,160 --> 00:29:39,120

thing you're going to look for? Where are users entering data? That's so incredibly important,

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00:29:39,120 --> 00:29:46,600

especially around privacy and security. So that's what you need to know, who's accessing the system

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00:29:46,600 --> 00:29:52,680

and where are they accessing that system at. Let me see the computers. What kind of internet

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00:29:52,680 --> 00:30:00,440

connections do you have? Are you Wi-Fi? Are you landline? How secure is it? Are there firewalls,

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00:30:00,440 --> 00:30:12,600

all those things. Also, as you hopefully know, you should have a public notice above or around in

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00:30:12,600 --> 00:30:20,280

plain sight of any computer where a client level data is being collected. So that's important. But

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00:30:20,280 --> 00:30:25,080

what does that public notice say? Typically, it's going to say, hey, if you need to see the privacy

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00:30:25,080 --> 00:30:30,640

notice, we have one available. So, what else are you going to look for? Where are those privacy

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00:30:30,640 --> 00:30:36,920

notices? Are they available? Can you hand me one right now from this computer you're entering

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00:30:36,920 --> 00:30:44,080

data? That's key because just saying there is a privacy notice means nothing if you don't have

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00:30:44,080 --> 00:30:54,280

one available for somebody that wants to look at it. And then this is-- this one, I run into a lot,

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00:30:54,280 --> 00:31:02,040

users that are no longer employees. So, as you as HMIS lead, if you're part of a monitoring,

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00:31:02,040 --> 00:31:08,160

and you're going in, have that list of users for that participating agency and go through

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00:31:08,160 --> 00:31:15,720

one by one. Does John still work here? Does John work with clients, and do they enter data? Do

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00:31:15,720 --> 00:31:22,160

they have a reason to have a user license, right? Because I have seen so many times where just list

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00:31:22,160 --> 00:31:30,120

and list of users who haven't touched the system in six weeks, six months, sometimes a year. A lot

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00:31:30,120 --> 00:31:35,400
of times, they don't even work for the agency
anymore. And they have an open user license,

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00:31:35,400 --> 00:31:54,520
so big privacy, big security concern. Next.
So, this is a great time to improve data quality

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00:31:54,520 --> 00:31:59,600
on your end, especially. And when you're thinking
about monitoring, always think about, when am I

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00:31:59,600 --> 00:32:05,960
going to do this? This is like a horrible time to
do it. It's the LSA. It's the SPMs. It's the HIC,

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00:32:05,960 --> 00:32:12,480
the PIT. All the other reports are due. Summer's
a great time to do monitoring. I'm not saying you

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00:32:12,480 --> 00:32:18,000
have to do it in the summer, but it's a great time
because part of that monitoring can be making sure

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00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:25,080
your project descriptor elements are correct
because as you know, sometimes participating

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00:32:25,080 --> 00:32:30,320
agencies don't actually know what they do. They
know how to do the things. But they don't know

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00:32:30,320 --> 00:32:37,720
what it's called in HMIS speak. So, the perfect
time to start asking about their unit inventory,

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00:32:37,720 --> 00:32:44,840
about their components, are you an emergency
shelter because I only see folks coming in and

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00:32:44,840 --> 00:32:50,840

leaving here? So, they may have indicated the wrong project type to you, perfect time to do

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00:32:50,840 --> 00:32:58,000

that. In addition, your federal funding sources, they may have picked up new federal funding

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00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:03,480

sources, or some may have ended. It's a great time to update that information, too, while you're

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00:33:03,480 --> 00:33:10,120

sitting down with the folks during your on-site visit. Here's a key, and it's perfect timing,

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00:33:10,120 --> 00:33:18,800

data elements have changed. A lot of people use hard copy intake forms. So, ask them for their

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00:33:18,800 --> 00:33:26,360

intake forms. Have they updated them to the new data element standards-- data standards? Because

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00:33:26,360 --> 00:33:32,400

if they have it, then their users are going to be trying to figure out how to make that hard copy

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00:33:32,400 --> 00:33:39,440

fit into the new data standards. So again, we're monitoring, but really, we're also improving at

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00:33:39,440 --> 00:33:52,120

the same time. That's the whole idea behind this. I don't know if I was done. Did she go back?

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00:33:54,880 --> 00:34:02,480

So, in addition, while you're monitoring-- and this is important to me, has data quality gone

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00:34:02,480 --> 00:34:10,560

up or down? And if it's gone down, this is a great time to ask why, what's going on. Maybe

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00:34:10,560 --> 00:34:19,640

it is that old paper copy intake form. But if data quality is improved for the participating agency,

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00:34:19,640 --> 00:34:27,440

it's a great time to give them a hurrah, like, pat them on the back. Let them know how much better

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00:34:27,440 --> 00:34:31,760

they're doing than last year because they may not have an idea. They just know they have to do

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00:34:31,760 --> 00:34:36,920

HMIS. So, this is a great time to, wow, things are really improved. We don't know what you're doing,

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00:34:36,920 --> 00:34:41,880

or maybe some changes that we recommended are working. But let them know that they're

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00:34:41,880 --> 00:34:47,320

improving. So, monitoring can be, let them know where their faults are. But it also can

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00:34:47,320 --> 00:34:53,794

be let them know where they've really made improvements. Now-- where is she? I can't

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00:34:53,794 --> 00:34:55,960

even see her. I don't know where she is. So, we're providing just a couple sample

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00:34:55,960 --> 00:35:02,880

checklists. And really all this is is things that you might want to collect. I know Jessica

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00:35:02,880 --> 00:35:08,120

mentioned difference between compliance and data quality. So, here's an idea of things you

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00:35:08,120 --> 00:35:15,400

might want to look or collect for compliance, user agreements, agency agreements. What's an

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00:35:15,400 --> 00:35:21,760

agency agreement you want to look at? Roles and responsibilities. What are the expectations of

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00:35:21,760 --> 00:35:31,920

the participating agency? Meeting attendance. A lot of CoCs have HMIS user meetings. And

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00:35:31,920 --> 00:35:36,800

there's an expectation of attendance, so-- or it could be a data committee attendance,

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00:35:36,800 --> 00:35:43,240

but-- or training attendance. So, if you have those available, then you're able to indicate

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00:35:43,240 --> 00:35:48,720

to the participating agency, hey, so, your folks haven't been attending this training

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00:35:48,720 --> 00:35:56,800

or haven't been attending the user group. Of course, the privacy notice, the public notice,

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00:35:57,560 --> 00:36:05,240

ROIs, if your CoC requires release of information to enter client level data or not to enter but to

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00:36:05,240 --> 00:36:13,760

share client level data, then are those ROIs being completed? Are they dated? Are they up to date, or

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00:36:13,760 --> 00:36:20,080

have they expired? So, things to look at, things to ask for from that participating agency. Again,

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00:36:20,080 --> 00:36:26,080

if you technically are proficient, you can check their firewalls, make sure that their systems

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00:36:26,080 --> 00:36:36,280

have antivirus software. Big one is, is your screen blanking out, and does it take a password

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00:36:36,280 --> 00:36:44,200

to get back on? That's hard to do virtually, definitely hard to do if you're just calling

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00:36:44,200 --> 00:36:49,240

them and asking them. So, when you're on-site, take advantage. Go to every computer and test

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00:36:49,240 --> 00:36:55,560

it. Make sure that's happening because it's our clients that we're trying to protect with that.

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00:36:55,560 --> 00:37:02,400

We don't want screens with people's information on forever, so anybody can look at it.

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00:37:02,400 --> 00:37:06,840

And of course, audit logs, that's the back-end stuff that you can do as HMIS lead, as system

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00:37:06,840 --> 00:37:14,160

administrator, checking how often they're logging in, what they're doing while they're logging in.

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00:37:14,160 --> 00:37:18,560

Most software vendors have audit logs. I think it's a requirement. So, you're able to go in

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00:37:18,560 --> 00:37:25,360

there and see what's going on with the users that are accessing the system. And then data quality,

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00:37:25,360 --> 00:37:31,920

again, looking at those forms. Of course, the APR, the CAPER is a great place to look at data

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00:37:31,920 --> 00:37:41,520

quality. It's part of the report. And most times, the participating agency can run the same report

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00:37:41,520 --> 00:37:47,040

and look at that same data. So, you can actually have them run the reports. When you come to do the

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00:37:47,040 --> 00:37:53,480

monitoring, you'll look at it together, talk about where their deficiencies are in data quality,

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00:37:53,480 --> 00:38:01,200

and where their improvements are. Timeliness, everybody-- look, raise your hand. Every provider

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00:38:01,200 --> 00:38:09,160

is timely in their data entry, right? No? Oh, well, that's a hard one. So, it's continual

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00:38:09,160 --> 00:38:15,520

work. And that's a great time during monitoring to examine why their timeliness is not where it needs

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00:38:15,520 --> 00:38:24,840

to be. What is the process for collecting data and entering it into the system?

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00:38:24,840 --> 00:38:31,320

List of participants, so list of participants

is great for monitoring what? Can anybody tell

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00:38:31,320 --> 00:38:42,000

me? It's part of the data quality. Go ahead. Duplication. Duplication is good.

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00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:51,120

But the real key-- go ahead in the back. So why do you want a list of participants

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00:38:51,120 --> 00:38:58,120

is to ensure that they're entering everybody that they're working with into the system,

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00:38:58,120 --> 00:39:04,160

the completeness piece. So, it's really hard for you to-- you can't look at a CAPER and tell if

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00:39:04,160 --> 00:39:11,360

everybody is in there. So, you have-- you need that list to compare with who they're entering

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00:39:11,360 --> 00:39:19,800

into the system. In the back? What do they use to collect hard data? Can you-- I didn't hear

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00:39:19,800 --> 00:39:25,840

it. What do they use to collect hard data? [Audience Member] What if they use HMIS as

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00:39:25,840 --> 00:39:29,880

their main mode of collecting data, like, they don't have hard copies?

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00:39:29,880 --> 00:39:36,680

[Eric Gammons] I would recommend just for risk management, for controls to have a secondary

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00:39:36,680 --> 00:39:41,640

list of participants I would recommend that to the participating agency. You need an additional

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00:39:41,640 --> 00:39:48,640

list somewhere that had-- that keeps track of who you're actually working with because typically,

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00:39:48,640 --> 00:39:56,800

you want some control, which means dual list, one in HMIS, and one somewhere else.

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00:39:56,800 --> 00:40:03,840

[Audience Member] I can recommend stuff. But if we have a large agency that processes a

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00:40:03,840 --> 00:40:09,360

lot of people, I'm thinking of like a large emergency shelter, like night by

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00:40:09,360 --> 00:40:17,600

night. And I don't control their funding. [Eric Gammons] I would think you would-- for

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00:40:17,600 --> 00:40:23,160

shelter, it's a little bit easier because you can look at capacity. You have 99 people out

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00:40:23,160 --> 00:40:28,840

of 100. So, there should be 99 people in the system. That would be a little bit easier,

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00:40:28,840 --> 00:40:33,440

especially for large numbers. I realize that when it comes to maybe the day shelter,

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00:40:33,440 --> 00:40:40,040

this becomes a very difficult process. But certainly, for shelter, for housing projects,

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00:40:40,040 --> 00:40:47,160

which were incredibly important around LSA-- I'm running late? I keep thinking I'm running late.

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00:40:47,160 --> 00:40:54,080

But for the housing projects, definitely, you want to know that what their bed capacity is and what

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00:40:54,080 --> 00:40:59,400

their-- who's in their beds is accurate. You don't want people lingering in beds when they've left

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00:40:59,400 --> 00:41:10,840

the program two months ago. And again, if you've been monitoring and you monitored last year,

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00:41:10,840 --> 00:41:16,640

did they resolve some of those concerns? They should have resolved findings. But maybe concerns

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00:41:16,640 --> 00:41:20,560

that you made or recommendations you made, did they take those recommendations from the

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00:41:20,560 --> 00:41:29,480

last time you monitored? Oh, you can go. So, this is just another example. Again,

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00:41:29,480 --> 00:41:34,800

this one is broken down into off-site, on-site. These slides are going to be available to you all

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00:41:34,800 --> 00:41:40,600

through the Whova app. So, you're welcome to use this. But don't think it's all inclusive. Don't

375

00:41:40,600 --> 00:41:46,680

think it's HUD recommended. It's just an example of potential checklists that you can use to

376

00:41:46,680 --> 00:41:55,480

prepare for your monitoring. And now we're going to have a test-- a quiz. So, we're handing out--

377

00:41:55,480 --> 00:42:01,160

what you can do because you're scattered out. Just pair up or threesome up. We're just going to have

378

00:42:01,160 --> 00:42:13,480

you-- get your number 2 pencils out, too. Can you go one more? Yep. Oh, did I-- did I miss a slide?

379

00:42:13,480 --> 00:42:23,000

I missed a slide. I'll go back to it. So, here's the thing, guys, you're preparing to monitor

380

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:30,360

for an emergency shelter. I want you to think about-- and you don't have to write these down,

381

00:42:30,360 --> 00:42:48,840

but you certainly can. I want you to think about-- let me see. Actually, leave one.

382

00:42:48,840 --> 00:42:55,440

So, I want you to think about what you're going to be requesting from the continuum of care,

383

00:42:55,440 --> 00:43:01,680

from the HMIS system administrator, from the agency. So, what do I need from each of those

384

00:43:01,680 --> 00:43:11,120

three? And then what am I going to be looking at on-site? And who do I need to talk to on-site?

385

00:43:11,120 --> 00:43:18,720

And as you think about this list, this is the same list you're going to provide to your agency

386

00:43:18,720 --> 00:43:24,680

you're monitoring. It's the same thing. Here's the things I'm going to look for and talk to.

387

00:43:24,680 --> 00:43:33,280

And want? You're providing it to them. So, I'll give you-- how much time do we have? Five? Five

388

00:43:33,280 --> 00:43:35,933

minutes-- three minutes. Five minutes. I think I skipped this slide. Yeah, I skipped this one.

389

00:43:35,933 --> 00:43:35,988

>> They're here.[a]

>> But I think I skipped this one.

390

00:43:35,988 --> 00:43:36,056

>> I think it's all right.

>> How much time do you need at the end?

391

00:43:36,056 --> 00:43:36,120

>> Probably not much. Can I start here? That's a nice one, too.

392

00:43:36,120 --> 00:43:36,183

>> Yeah, listen to them. Listen to them.

>> I know. It's good.

393

00:43:36,183 --> 00:43:36,244

[SIDE CONVERSATION]

>> Two more minutes. Y'all running? Yep.

394

00:43:36,244 --> 00:43:36,318

>>[b] All right, one minute. It's this one? You have one minute left. Oh,

395

00:43:36,318 --> 00:43:36,880

I don't think it matters.

[Eric Gammons] All right,

396

00:43:36,880 --> 00:43:40,960

all right, all right, let's wrap it up.

We're going to do a little bit of report out,

397

00:43:40,960 --> 00:43:50,560

so if we could finalize our list. And so, I don't need you to report out the entire list,

398

00:43:50,560 --> 00:43:55,360

just certain parts. We're going to call out different areas. The first one's going to be

399

00:43:55,360 --> 00:44:01,200

what would you ask from the continuum of care.

Who wants to report out on that section? Raise

400

00:44:01,200 --> 00:44:09,440

your hand, and we'll get a mic to you.

[Audience Member] You should look for your

401

00:44:09,440 --> 00:44:14,800

policies and procedures, and make sure that it's updated to the year,

402

00:44:14,800 --> 00:44:20,760

and that the agency that you're going to has a copy of this updated version of it.

403

00:44:20,760 --> 00:44:23,640

[Eric Gammons] That's awesome. So, you want to make sure that the CoC's

404

00:44:23,640 --> 00:44:29,640

most updated version of the P&P is the one

that the service provider has, outstanding.

405

00:44:29,640 --> 00:44:36,080

Good one. Anybody else with the CoC?

[Audience Member] With a history of involvement

406

00:44:36,080 --> 00:44:42,880

with the CoC, then you're saying the meetings and how involved is this shelter in, it's in with the

407

00:44:42,880 --> 00:44:45,760

CoC what kind of history do they have.

[Eric Gammons] Absolutely, so engagement

408

00:44:45,760 --> 00:44:51,600

with the CoC, how much are they participating, including data committees, stuff like that, yeah,

409

00:44:51,600 --> 00:44:58,720

beautiful, beautiful. What about the HMIS system administrator, what do we need from those fine

410

00:44:58,720 --> 00:45:11,622

folks? Don't be shy. I heard all y'all talking. Hopefully, it wasn't about what's for lunch.

411

00:45:11,622 --> 00:45:15,240

[Audience Member] A lot, like the training, data quality, I mean,

412

00:45:15,240 --> 00:45:18,022

what are they doing for data quality management—
[Eric Gammons] Go slow. Sorry, go slow.

413

00:45:18,022 --> 00:45:21,560

[Audience Member] Data quality management, what are they doing, systems that they have in place

414

00:45:21,560 --> 00:45:26,942
for program evaluation, user audits.
[Eric Gammons] What is it?

415
00:45:26,942 --> 00:45:29,120
[Audience Member] User audits.
[Eric Gammons] User audits, perfect,

416
00:45:29,120 --> 00:45:35,400
perfect. Anybody else? Somebody in the
back? Joan's back there with a mic just

417
00:45:35,400 --> 00:45:41,360
waiting. Anybody in the front? Go ahead.
[Audience Member] I think everything this

418
00:45:41,360 --> 00:45:46,880
gentleman said. But I added the monitoring
notification would come from the HMIS. Are we

419
00:45:46,880 --> 00:45:52,040
talking about the program or the HMIS lead here?
[Eric Gammons] So in this case, the system

420
00:45:52,040 --> 00:45:57,080
administrator would be like, what do I need
from the system? What do I need from the HMIS

421
00:45:57,080 --> 00:46:00,360
database as part of the monitoring?
[Audience Member] So then everything

422
00:46:00,360 --> 00:46:04,800
this woman said, meeting attendance, of
course, to reconcile that in any trainings

423
00:46:04,800 --> 00:46:07,600
that have been completed, any user--
[Eric Gammons] Beautiful, trainings you've

424

00:46:07,600 --> 00:46:16,144

been completed. Attendance, who attended? Do they still work for your agency? Beautiful.

425

00:46:16,144 --> 00:46:21,465

[Joan Domenech] Let's go, Team Back. Let's go team in the back. We can do it. Let's go.

426

00:46:21,465 --> 00:46:23,920

[Eric Gammons] What are you going to be asking from the agency you're

427

00:46:23,920 --> 00:46:27,480

monitoring? Team Back is not--

[Audience Member] I have a

428

00:46:27,480 --> 00:46:32,960

self-completed self-evaluation, a place to work, a sampling of files or rosters,

429

00:46:32,960 --> 00:46:38,000

making sure the HMIS rep is available, access to workstations, and a data quality report.

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00:46:38,000 --> 00:46:43,545

[Eric Gammons] Outstanding, nice. Well, who else--

[Audience Member] I can help out Team Back.

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00:46:43,545 --> 00:46:46,200

[Eric Gammons] Nice.

[Audience Member] So on-site,

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00:46:46,200 --> 00:46:50,040

we're on-site. God, I'm going to fail. I hope I don't fail. So, if we're on-site, we just want to

433

00:46:50,040 --> 00:46:55,120
check out the firewalls and the user agreements.
You probably just said all this while I was moving

434
00:46:55,120 --> 00:46:59,960
that they have things that the passwords time
out, that they don't have their passwords posted,

435
00:46:59,960 --> 00:47:05,560
stuff like that. And then I guess while you're
there, you're going to check out that all the

436
00:47:05,560 --> 00:47:10,720
users are current and stuff like that.
[Eric Gammons] Perfect, perfect. So,

437
00:47:10,720 --> 00:47:16,400
when you say users are current, the great
thing is, provide me a list of your employees

438
00:47:16,400 --> 00:47:21,520
that are accessing the system, and I'm going
to compare it to my user list in the system.

439
00:47:21,520 --> 00:47:28,120
So, the system admin, you get the user list from
them. Agency, you get the user list from them.

440
00:47:28,120 --> 00:47:34,080
And then you compare the two. So again, you're
monitoring, but you're also improving at the

441
00:47:34,080 --> 00:47:40,160
same time. It's all about capacity building.
So, what would you look at on-site? I already

442
00:47:40,160 --> 00:47:47,300
heard a couple of things. Anybody else come
up with something you want to see on-site?

443

00:47:47,300 --> 00:47:59,360

[Audience Member] Not just on site but reviewing remotely. But like data completeness, timeliness,

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00:47:59,360 --> 00:48:06,640

exits to permanent housing, utilization, clients with non-cash benefits, employment,

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00:48:06,640 --> 00:48:12,200

health insurance, time from enrolled to move in. [Eric Gammons] So I hear a lot about accuracy.

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00:48:12,200 --> 00:48:18,200

That's what I'm hearing. So, I want to know who has-- whose has non-cash benefits because

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00:48:18,200 --> 00:48:23,160

there's no way for me to tell if that's accurate in the system by just looking at the system. So,

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00:48:23,160 --> 00:48:28,480

asking an agency to provide me a list of those folks is a way that I can check data

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00:48:28,480 --> 00:48:35,200

quality accuracy. We have-- oh, in the back. [Audience Member] So if this is an emergency

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00:48:35,200 --> 00:48:39,640

shelter, then you need to check their beds. [Eric Gammons] Yes, the number of beds,

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00:48:39,640 --> 00:48:44,760

thank you. How many times have I walked into place that said they had 44 beds. And then when

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00:48:44,760 --> 00:48:56,880

you count them, there's 32. I'm a back. [Audience Member] I would say you'd want

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00:48:56,880 --> 00:48:59,880

to check out the space where they're
doing the client interviewing, making

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00:48:59,880 --> 00:49:05,840

sure that it's private, away from everyone.
[Eric Gammons] Right. Which way is that Monitor

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00:49:05,840 --> 00:49:21,142

facing, that's the real key. Is it facing
the public, or is it facing a private area?

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00:49:21,142 --> 00:49:24,080

[Audience Member] So, I have a question because
I really like what you're saying about checking

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00:49:24,080 --> 00:49:31,240

on the accuracy and checking on who's got
non-cash benefits and stuff like that. But

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00:49:31,240 --> 00:49:35,960

we have someone who goes out from our compliance
department and-- because she's already going out

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00:49:35,960 --> 00:49:42,240

to check on all kinds of other financial issues.
And for us, she checks out-- she works in another

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00:49:42,240 --> 00:49:46,880

department. But she checks out. She's going
anyways, so she checks out our stuff for like,

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00:49:46,880 --> 00:49:51,880

are they posting passwords? I don't know
that we could unload on her all of the--

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00:49:51,880 --> 00:50:01,120

now check out all of this stuff about more HMIS
stuff. And I don't know how we would check that

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00:50:01,120 --> 00:50:12,400

remote because I'm-- this is the question, how--
because they can't send us PII over an email. So,

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00:50:12,400 --> 00:50:21,120

any input? Because I do wonder about how do we
know that what's going in the system. It's got

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00:50:21,120 --> 00:50:27,600

no reconciliation to know that it's accurate.
[Eric Gammons] And what I'm thinking when I

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00:50:27,600 --> 00:50:33,280

hear you, and maybe this is not possible
where you are, but your HMIS monitoring,

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00:50:33,280 --> 00:50:40,000

I think Jessica mentioned, doesn't have to be a
solo event. It could be part of a monitoring--

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00:50:40,000 --> 00:50:45,480

a CoC monitoring because you're poor providers,
they have enough to do all the things they have to

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00:50:45,480 --> 00:50:52,520

do. They don't want to be monitored twice, one by
HMIS, one by the CoC. Just combine those. So when

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00:50:52,520 --> 00:50:59,000

you mentioned that, I would think, maybe I'd want
to send somebody with that person to take some of

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00:50:59,000 --> 00:51:05,280

that load off, or do that section, but make it
part of the monitoring that she's doing or that

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00:51:05,280 --> 00:51:09,840

person is doing. I think we need to move--
[Joan Domenech] I have a quick suggestion on

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00:51:09,840 --> 00:51:17,720

the accuracy stuff. Because it is hard to monitor absolutely everybody on accuracy,

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00:51:17,720 --> 00:51:22,160

using your reporting period, when you look at your system performance measures,

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00:51:22,160 --> 00:51:27,680

when you look at other, there's certain outliers that just don't make sense. Like, this person is

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00:51:27,680 --> 00:51:33,680

making five grand. This person has been in the system five years. And so those are all kind of

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00:51:33,680 --> 00:51:40,600

outliers that you can look at. And if they're recurring outliers within a specific agency,

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00:51:40,600 --> 00:51:47,360

that flags, OK, I need to pay a little bit more attention to this particular project or agency.

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00:51:47,360 --> 00:51:54,520

So those are just things that you can look out. It's like investigation mode that can help you

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00:51:54,520 --> 00:51:58,560

look at accuracy a little bit better.

[Eric Gammons] That's a great point. And

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00:51:58,560 --> 00:52:02,640

we don't really have time to cover the last one. But the idea of who is it you want to

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00:52:02,640 --> 00:52:08,480

talk to at the agency during your visit, it doesn't need to only be the supervisor or

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00:52:08,480 --> 00:52:16,200

the project manager. Talk to the users, get an idea of what's going on, how they check things,

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00:52:16,200 --> 00:52:22,840

how they check for accuracy. So don't limit it because that's-- what's going to happen normally

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00:52:22,840 --> 00:52:28,360

is a project manager is going to try to put you in a room, give you stuff, and try not to let you go

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00:52:28,360 --> 00:52:34,280

anywhere. So just make sure ahead of time, again, being completely transparent, we want to talk to

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00:52:34,280 --> 00:52:40,920

these people. Can you have them available? Is it possible? Is there a time in their day for us to

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00:52:40,920 --> 00:52:49,360

visit with them and have a conversation? I think we-- so after the project monitoring, everything

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00:52:49,360 --> 00:52:54,800

went perfect. You go home, wipe your hands, hey, that was a great job. That never happens. You're

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00:52:54,800 --> 00:52:59,880

always going to find something. So, I've never been to a monitoring where everything was perfect,

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00:52:59,880 --> 00:53:07,000

I'm just saying. I've done a ton of monitoring. So, the idea of it is you just want to improve

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00:53:07,000 --> 00:53:12,960

on those areas where they were weak. But you want to make it a project or a plan,

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00:53:12,960 --> 00:53:18,680

meaning it's got to be timely. There needs to be action steps. It needs to be measurable. That's

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00:53:18,680 --> 00:53:28,920

the real key. Can you measure it? Can you measure an improvement? If there's data quality issues,

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00:53:28,920 --> 00:53:38,720

then what's the data quality improvement plan? And then who's involved? So, when you-- after the

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00:53:38,720 --> 00:53:44,760

monitoring, when you come out with the findings or concerns, you need to make sure the CoC knows

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00:53:44,760 --> 00:53:51,480

about them also or whatever that means. The CoC is different for all of you, whoever that

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00:53:51,480 --> 00:53:58,120

is. It could be the collaborative applicant. It could be the CoC board. Maybe it's the data

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00:53:58,120 --> 00:54:04,120

committee that you're going to be reporting these results to. How do you know which one to report

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00:54:04,120 --> 00:54:10,520

to? It should be somewhere in your governance or in your HMIS policies and procedures. What do I do

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00:54:10,520 --> 00:54:18,240

with my findings? Who do I report them to? Again, all that needs to be transparent with the agency.

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00:54:18,240 --> 00:54:26,640

And I mentioned this earlier but acknowledge the good along with the bad. It's so important because

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00:54:26,640 --> 00:54:31,520

providers are there to help folks experiencing homelessness. They're not there to enter data into

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00:54:31,520 --> 00:54:36,840

the system. So, you're asking them to do something that's not really within their mission. But it's

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00:54:36,840 --> 00:54:43,000

so important to be able to tell their story that you have to encourage them to use the system. I'm

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00:54:43,000 --> 00:54:49,240

not telling y'all anything you don't know already. And then, again, who is informed by the results?

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00:54:49,240 --> 00:54:55,480

Remember, the results need to be timed. There needs to be an endpoint. By this date,

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00:54:55,480 --> 00:55:11,800

we need you to do this. And it needs to be measurable. And lastly, so all in one, what that

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00:55:11,800 --> 00:55:17,560

basically means is you're monitoring—you want to plan you're monitoring the same time ESG plans are

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00:55:17,560 --> 00:55:23,960

monitoring or CoC plans are monitoring. Do it all at one time. It's so much easier. Specify what's

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00:55:23,960 --> 00:55:31,120

important with on-site and remote. So one of the keys here, again, mentioned earlier by Jessica,

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00:55:31,120 --> 00:55:37,320

you don't have to monitor everything all the time. But be selective. I'm going to monitor

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00:55:37,320 --> 00:55:43,640

these things virtually. And I'm going to monitor these things on-site. So just have a plan ahead

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00:55:43,640 --> 00:55:50,040

of time. Don't go in there random. It's going to be a waste of time for you and especially a waste

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00:55:50,040 --> 00:55:57,080

of time for the participating agency. Again, actionable and measurable steps, if they're

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00:55:57,080 --> 00:56:03,520

needed, if there are findings, and acknowledge the good. And if you're transparent and you share

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00:56:03,520 --> 00:56:07,680

everything you're going to be doing with them, you share the stuff you're going to be looking at,

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00:56:07,680 --> 00:56:12,480

you share who you're going to be talking to, you're going to eventually, hopefully build

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00:56:12,480 --> 00:56:18,680

some trust with this agency. And what that means is improvement all the way around in your system.

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00:56:18,680 --> 00:56:29,360

So, I believe you're next, Jessica.
[Jessica Lurz] Yep. He's so tall. Wow,

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00:56:29,360 --> 00:56:34,760

I'm really a bit shorter than you. So possible challenges with monitoring, this is not going

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00:56:34,760 --> 00:56:40,360

to be new to any of you. We just want you to think about when you're developing your plan,

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00:56:40,360 --> 00:56:45,160

when you go back from this great session today and you sit down and you write your to-do list, some

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00:56:45,160 --> 00:56:52,200

of the things that you might want to consider. So, logistics, do you have limited staff to do

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00:56:52,200 --> 00:56:56,680

this? Who all is involved in it? Do you have a compliance officer that goes out? Do you have

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00:56:56,680 --> 00:57:04,720

the CoC committee that goes out? Do you yourself go out? What are those logistics? How much area

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00:57:04,720 --> 00:57:10,360

do you have to cover? How many agencies are there? All of that logistics is really going

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00:57:10,360 --> 00:57:14,680

to be something that you need to think about-- think through so that you can make sure that you

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00:57:14,680 --> 00:57:20,600

have a really well-developed monitoring plan and that you write it all down in those policies and

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00:57:20,600 --> 00:57:27,360

procedures. Setting those clear expectations and roles, I mean, I think that this has sort been the

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00:57:27,360 --> 00:57:34,640

theme of most of what we've been hearing today is just who's doing what, who's responsible for it,

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00:57:34,640 --> 00:57:39,240

how are they going to do it, and then who's going to be accountable for following up with

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00:57:39,240 --> 00:57:44,520

it. Who is going to go back out once you've developed that plan that's actionable and has

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00:57:44,520 --> 00:57:51,120

a timeline? Are you going to make sure that the person is actually sticking to that plan,

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00:57:51,120 --> 00:57:54,800

or is it going to be a committee? Who's going to be involved in that process?

536

00:57:57,040 --> 00:58:01,400

Victim service providers, one of the things that we really want to make sure we've been

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00:58:01,400 --> 00:58:06,600

talking about all along is that monitoring isn't just a onetime thing. You should be having these

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00:58:06,600 --> 00:58:12,400

relationships with all of your providers, including your victim service providers. So,

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00:58:12,400 --> 00:58:17,520

when you go out and you're doing monitoring and looking at those comparable databases,

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00:58:17,520 --> 00:58:23,400

making sure that they also are involved in what are the expectations, what are the roles,

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00:58:23,400 --> 00:58:30,360

what are you looking for, how are you making sure that that monitoring of that database is similar

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00:58:30,360 --> 00:58:38,120

to what you're doing for your HMIS users. And then

programs that aren't required or programs that are

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00:58:38,120 --> 00:58:42,880

in HMIS, but aren't required to be, so we talked a little bit about those who maybe don't receive

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00:58:42,880 --> 00:58:49,600

the funding sources that require it, one program that I'm thinking about, as some of you might be

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00:58:49,600 --> 00:58:56,480

moving into HOME-ARP, if you're starting to think about expanded coordinated entry, maybe you're

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00:58:56,480 --> 00:59:03,480

going to ask your HOME-ARP people to put things in HMIS. How are you ensuring that everyone who

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00:59:03,480 --> 00:59:09,280

is putting data in the system, regardless of the funding that they're receiving, is understanding

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00:59:09,280 --> 00:59:14,000

what the expectation is in all of the different things that we talked about, the compliance,

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00:59:14,000 --> 00:59:21,840

the data quality, and the performance. And again, reviewing your local standards, Eric said, at

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00:59:21,840 --> 00:59:28,920

least annually taking a look at what things are. At the end of monitoring, it's a nice post-mortem

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00:59:28,920 --> 00:59:35,720

activity to do, like, here's what we've learned. Do we need to make changes? Has everybody exceeded

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00:59:35,720 --> 00:59:40,680

the baseline by a lot? And maybe now we need

to increase the baseline. We want everybody to

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00:59:40,680 --> 00:59:46,960

stay here. Instead of 95, everybody did
99. So the new baseline is 99 But just

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00:59:46,960 --> 00:59:56,440

thinking about those local standards as well.
And then just some privacy policy specifics,

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00:59:56,440 --> 01:00:01,520

are there any local funding requirements that
you know you need to make sure that you have,

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01:00:01,520 --> 01:00:06,880

those nuanced workflows that maybe some agencies--
we talked about site of the day shelter side of

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01:00:06,880 --> 01:00:13,640

thing compared to emergency shelters. And then
I don't know-- I know a couple of you said that

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01:00:13,640 --> 01:00:23,160

you were looking at the HMIS lead page on the HUD
Exchange. But there's the data quality management,

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01:00:23,160 --> 01:00:30,360

I think, policy baselines? I wrote it down, and
then I forgot to bring it over here. But that DQMP

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01:00:30,360 --> 01:00:38,680

plan-- thank you, baseline requirements by project
types, again, thinking about your CoC buy-in, do

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01:00:38,680 --> 01:00:46,240

you have incentives available? And then how do you
enforce non-compliance with things, or if someone

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01:00:46,240 --> 01:00:52,120

isn't improving, what does that process look like

within your community? And then we keep talking

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01:00:52,120 --> 01:00:57,960

about this. But you going to do monitoring, it shouldn't just sit at your desk. People need to

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01:00:57,960 --> 01:01:05,280

know who's going to be informed of what that looks like. And then if you're doing annual monitoring

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01:01:05,280 --> 01:01:11,360

for all of them, what we talked about, if that's just not feasible, if you cannot get out to every

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01:01:11,360 --> 01:01:19,880

agency every single year, what are you doing to look at this past monitoring results to do some

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01:01:19,880 --> 01:01:27,720

risk? So, was someone not really doing well? Maybe you do bump them up to the annual. And your high

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01:01:27,720 --> 01:01:37,000

performers, you do a little less frequently. So, there's a few tools that you can access. A

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01:01:37,000 --> 01:01:46,120

lot of these are on the HMIS HUD Exchange. But you have all of your-- there's a monitoring tool

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01:01:46,120 --> 01:01:52,440

that's an Excel file. There's some PDFs for monitoring plan. But all kinds of things that

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01:01:52,440 --> 01:01:56,920

you can use to help you in your process, and again, Eric said you'll have these slides if

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01:01:56,920 --> 01:02:01,640

you liked any of the things that were in that

checklist, something for you to think about

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01:02:01,640 --> 01:02:09,760

as you're developing with your CoC, what your monitoring checklists and things will look like.

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01:02:09,760 --> 01:02:13,160

[Joan Domenech] And another really important resource is look to your right,

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01:02:13,160 --> 01:02:18,400

look to your left. Ask others what they're doing, how they're monitoring,

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01:02:18,400 --> 01:02:25,200

and share those experiences. So, we have a couple of minutes left. We're happy to take questions.

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01:02:25,200 --> 01:02:27,880

And then we might have some on the app.
[Eric Gammons] So we have a couple of questions

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01:02:27,880 --> 01:02:33,265

on the Whova app. The first one is, what is the most important thing to monitor?

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01:02:33,265 --> 01:02:36,560

[Jessica Lurz] Go ahead.
[Eric Gammons] I mean, I—so look,

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01:02:36,560 --> 01:02:43,560

y'all, you're HMIS leads, most of you. You know where the weaknesses are. That's what

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01:02:43,560 --> 01:02:49,360

you're going to monitor, the weaknesses. Like, what are the areas that you feel are weak,

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01:02:49,360 --> 01:02:56,760
or maybe you have a rotating monitor plan.
I'm going to address privacy really in depth

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01:02:56,760 --> 01:03:02,000
this year or this quarter. And I'm going
to monitor for data quality next quarter,

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01:03:02,000 --> 01:03:09,440
for compliance the following quarter. But there's
no specific, most important thing to monitor. It's

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01:03:09,440 --> 01:03:14,800
just where are the weaknesses in your system.
[Joan Domenech] And ideally, you want to tie that

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01:03:14,800 --> 01:03:21,520
to your training plan. So, you found out that this
exists. And there's certain things that people are

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01:03:21,520 --> 01:03:26,520
just not doing good. You found that in your data
quality. So, you know that. What are you going to

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01:03:26,520 --> 01:03:31,600
do about it? So, monitoring itself is not going to
improve necessarily. It's just going to highlight

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01:03:31,600 --> 01:03:36,520
the need. It's like a dashboard in your car that
says, bing-bing, engine, you look-- so you need

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01:03:36,520 --> 01:03:42,120
to fix that. And so, you need to do that through
training and through ongoing other things. So,

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01:03:42,120 --> 01:03:46,640
I think eventually, next year, you probably
won't have the same issues because you adapted

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01:03:46,640 --> 01:03:51,320
your training hopefully. Just turn over, a lot of
factors. But anyways, there's more questions.

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01:03:51,320 --> 01:03:57,440
[Eric Gammons] Oh, wait,
sorry. So, we're streaming. So,

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01:03:57,440 --> 01:04:04,022
we're trying to capture everything on mics.
[Joan Domenech] Or I can repeat it. Sure.

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01:04:04,022 --> 01:04:07,560
[Audience Member] Can you discuss the
challenges of data quality monitoring

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01:04:07,560 --> 01:04:16,280
and comparable databases? I said that
with a big question mark at the end.

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01:04:16,280 --> 01:04:24,520
[Eric Gammons] I mean, if you're comparable
database, if your VSP is receiving ESG or CoC

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01:04:24,520 --> 01:04:30,040
money, then there's going to be a CAPER or an APR
you're going to be able to look at. And then you

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01:04:30,040 --> 01:04:36,560
can have that discussion by looking at that CAPER,
at least on the completeness. You might not be

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01:04:36,560 --> 01:04:43,800
able to address the accuracy. Again, it's-- I had
that build trust bolded. You have to build trust

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01:04:43,800 --> 01:04:51,040
with your VSPs. They're not going to want you to

see everything for obvious reasons. But you want

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01:04:51,040 --> 01:04:56,520

them to share what they can with you. And a lot of times, that may be an aggregate form. But at least

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01:04:56,520 --> 01:05:00,360

you can have those discussions with them.

[Audience Member] So they put their CAPER in

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01:05:00,360 --> 01:05:05,680

their Sage print themselves so that, I mean--

[Eric Gammons] But they could print a CAPER

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01:05:05,680 --> 01:05:11,480

for you. Oh, yeah. They should be able

to. If not, go to your ESG recipient,

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01:05:11,480 --> 01:05:19,320

either state or local, and ask them for access to Sage. They can provide you access to Sage,

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01:05:19,320 --> 01:05:27,800

where you can look at those CAPERs. Thank you.

[Joan Domenech] And I also-- that would be

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01:05:27,800 --> 01:05:32,520

helpful. But also talking, a lot of the times,

they can say, hey, I'm having issues understanding

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01:05:32,520 --> 01:05:37,080

this, or I think just by building the

relationships, it's not the data. You won't see

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01:05:37,080 --> 01:05:40,200

it. But I think that building those relationships,

you can get a lot of that information and help

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01:05:40,200 --> 01:05:46,000

target that and help them in that way.

[Audience Member] If you are monitoring

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01:05:46,000 --> 01:05:50,800

specifically program performance, project performance, could you give some examples

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01:05:50,800 --> 01:05:53,942

of what you would be monitoring?

[Joan Domenech] For performance?

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01:05:53,942 --> 01:05:56,800

[Audience Member] Yeah.

[Joan Domenech] Yeah. So,

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01:05:56,800 --> 01:06:03,000

I think that you need to create a plan-- a performance improvement plan. There's a really

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01:06:03,000 --> 01:06:07,280

good toolkit. I'm not sure if you're familiar with the performance improvement toolkit. And

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01:06:07,280 --> 01:06:13,200

it's all about setting baselines. It's a community process. So, I think that monitoring is important

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01:06:13,200 --> 01:06:17,360

because you can look at your APR. You can look at the system performance reports. You can look at

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01:06:17,360 --> 01:06:22,400

client level. I love looking at system performance reports. I could take the client level and do it

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01:06:22,400 --> 01:06:30,680

by projects and see the length of time and see the other areas. But I think that beyond that,

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01:06:30,680 --> 01:06:37,040

you first have to have a community plan. And so that involves having a performance workgroup and

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01:06:37,040 --> 01:06:41,600

creating that and creating that literacy in your community so that people understand what they

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01:06:41,600 --> 01:06:47,000

should be looking at, and they understand, you're going to monitor me. But you haven't given me the

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01:06:47,000 --> 01:06:51,840

resources. So, I think the monitoring aspect is the easy aspect because you pull the SPM. You sort

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01:06:51,840 --> 01:06:56,040

it by project. You look at outliers. Who's doing better? Who's doing worse? You look at your length

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01:06:56,040 --> 01:07:00,800

of homelessness, who has the highest average or you look at all these things. But the difficult

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01:07:00,800 --> 01:07:06,200

part is creating that community process, where you're actually having those meetings, explaining

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01:07:06,200 --> 01:07:11,840

to people what is the length of homelessness, how do you increase your permanent housing,

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01:07:11,840 --> 01:07:16,560

how do you look at that in your-- because system level is related to project level. So how do

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01:07:16,560 --> 01:07:22,400

you look at your APR? And instead of looking at this huge table, how do you actually understand,

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01:07:22,400 --> 01:07:28,040

how do you zoom in and look at that length
of homelessness field or that exists? And so,

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01:07:28,040 --> 01:07:32,080

I think it's creating that--
so I know we're out of time.

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01:07:32,640 --> 01:07:35,520

[Eric Gammons] Getting a little late.

[Jessica Lurz] In that community plan,

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01:07:35,520 --> 01:07:39,560

though, the other thing I would just add is
making sure that some of those expectations

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01:07:39,560 --> 01:07:45,680

are realistic. I mean, I think I've heard
a million times, our average length of stay

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01:07:45,680 --> 01:07:52,360

goal is 30 days. And we have nowhere for people
to move. We have no affordable housing. So have

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01:07:52,360 --> 01:07:58,200

those conversations and those meetings. Like,
what is realistic? What are you seeing? And

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01:07:58,200 --> 01:08:03,080

then how are you going to try to get to those
lofty goals of 30 days and how are you going

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01:08:03,080 --> 01:08:08,560

to help people move there? But don't set people
up for failure just because you're trying to set

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01:08:08,560 --> 01:08:12,320

a standard of-- that may not be attainable.
[Joan Domenech] And don't set them yourself.

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01:08:12,320 --> 01:08:16,120

Have the community set those goals. You don't want to be the HMS person that said,

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01:08:16,120 --> 01:08:22,945

30 days. No, it's a community process, and you want them to be involved in that.

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01:08:22,945 --> 01:08:27,680

[Eric Gammons] We just had one more new Whova app. It was around ROI and what's the best

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01:08:27,680 --> 01:08:33,960

practice around length of time an ROI should-- but really, that's going to be and whoever that

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01:08:33,960 --> 01:08:40,600

was on the Zoom call, that's really going to be up to your community. In your privacy plan,

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01:08:40,600 --> 01:08:46,160

you should have indicate whether you're going to use an ROI and how often it needs to be updated.

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01:08:46,160 --> 01:08:53,640

Also understand that those agencies may be falling under some funding that requires more strict ROIs.

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01:08:53,640 --> 01:09:00,584

And then your state or your local government may have some policies around ROIs and sharing data.

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01:09:00,584 --> 01:09:06,480

[Joan Domenech] So we will wrap up for the recording. But if you all have questions,

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01:09:06,480 --> 01:09:09,122

we can stay back for a few minutes and answer those. Thank you for being here.

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01:09:09,122 --> 01:09:15,901

And go, project monitor! Let's go.