

# HMIS Lead / Sys Admin – Q&A

## Questions from 5/19/21 Webinar

For any questions that were not addressed on the webinar, or if there are specific questions to your own systems, please submit an HMIS AAQ to receive a thorough answer: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

**Q:** How do we join the HMIS Lead Webinar distribution list?

**A:** If you are not a member of the hub please send an email to [hmis@cloudburstgroup.com](mailto:hmis@cloudburstgroup.com) to be added.

**Q:** Where can we submit our 2022 data standard comment or a FY2024 suggestion?

**A:** All data standard suggestions can be made through the HUD AAQ portal here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

**Q:** I didn't get my NHSDC certificate, how do I go about getting that?

**A:** Please contact [HUDcertificates@abtassoc.com](mailto:HUDcertificates@abtassoc.com) if you attended 4 of the 6 required sessions and you do not receive your Certificate of Completion in the next two weeks.

-Achieving a Quality and Stable HMIS Staffing Pattern

-Implementing Effective Contract Negotiation and Relationship Management Strategies 101

-HMIS Project Set-up 201

-HMIS Project Management and Annual Calendar of Expectations

-HMIS Governance 101

-Improving your Training Curriculum and Delivery

**Q:** Where can we find the NHSDC presentations?

**A:** All presentations are currently available through NHSDC at <https://nhsdc.org/sessions> and are also available on the HUD Exchange.

**Q:** What are the dates for the fall NHSDC conference?

**A:** The dates for the conference have not yet been set.

**Q:** Will the fall NHSDC conference be virtual?

**A:** The current plan is to have the fall conference be in-person this fall in Atlanta, potentially with live stream options for those not able to attend in person.

**Q:** Where can we find the VSP checklist, comparable database manual, and NHSDC presentation?

**A:**

- Manual: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6305/hmis-comparable-database-manual/>
- Checklist: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Comparable-Database-Vendor-Checklist.pdf>
- Presentation: [https://whova.com/portal/nhsdc\\_202104/videos/1QzMzgTN1YDM/](https://whova.com/portal/nhsdc_202104/videos/1QzMzgTN1YDM/)

**Q:** Won't the EHV referrals be tracked through the EHV Referral option that is being added to CES through the updated data standards?

**A:** Yes. The referral to the EHV can be recorded in HMIS under the CE data collection.

**Q:** Is there any guidance on how VASH HOMES data should be/shouldn't be shared once it's imported into HMIS?

**A:** There is nothing new that HUD is planning on releasing on the topic. You can review the 2004 HMIS Technical and Security Standards and the recent Coordinated Entry Data Management Guide.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1318/2004-hmis-data-and-technical-standards-final-notice/>

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/coordinated-entry-management-and-data-guide.pdf>

**Q:** If EHV is going to be on the 2022 HIC, would they be entered as PSH, and if not in HMIS how does that impact coverage scoring and if listed as PHS and someday they 'cease' would that impact NOFA scoring as loss of PSH?

**A:** There are questions that do not have answers at this time. More information will be shared when it is known, or else you can put in an HMIS AAQ to keep it on the radar. While a final decision has not been made, HUD anticipates including this as a requirement for the 2022 HIC. It is a good idea for CoCs to assume it will be required. We are aware that this has implications on HMIS bed coverage as well as other scoring elements. HUD has options with regard to how EHV projects should be counted towards a CoC's HMIS bed coverage and how to treat it in general. These are the things that are not resolved yet. But HUD will provide more information as it becomes available.

**Q:** Will we be able to embed Stella into our own websites?

**A:** This functionality is not currently under development, but we will pass the suggestion along to the Stella team.

**Q:** It doesn't appear Stella works correctly for individual projects. Is there functionality to Stellavise single project LSA's?

**A:** Stella is designed to measure performance at a system level. The Annual Performance Report (APR) may be better suited for project evaluation.

**Q:** Our Housing Authority does not want to use HMIS since they track the vouchers in another system. Is that common?

**A:** Most PHAs have their own required data collection under their funding sources. That is common.

**Q:** Does the CoC have the authority to require that EHV's be recorded in HMIS, if they wish for that to be done?

**A:** Given the reality that PHAs already have a data collection system we were not able to require them to enter the EHV data in HMIS as well. This means that CoCs cannot "require" it either. There are two ways we envision that EHV and HMIS will intersect. First, as it is tied to CES. PHAs will need to know about referrals to EHV. This means that CoCs should work with their CES data manager (likely HMIS for most) to create a report on referrals to EHV. Second, EHV services. CoCs can setup projects in HMIS and ask PHAs to contribute. If the PHAs can't or won't enter data into HMIS (because they are not actually required) then the CoC or HMIS Lead may want to do that themselves.

**Q:** Is there any work being considered to enable Stella or similar reporting based on HMIS CSV or XML exports where a link back to the source HMIS can be supported and referenced?

**A:** There are several conversations taking place around this tension point and we look forward to developing solutions for this.

**Q:** Working with our SSVF provider, can we set up their EHV as a simple ES motel voucher project.

**A:** The VA-funded EHA service is different than the PIH-funded EHV's. Also, the VA-funded EHA service should be recorded in HMIS under RRH or HP, not ES.

**Q:** Is there a way to see national data on Stella?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Is my understanding that the pathways do not take into consideration the order in which the households were enrolled in the project type. This would mean that if a household is under the ES+RRH pathway, they could have been enrolled either in the RRH or ES first. Is that correct?

**A:** That is accurate.

**Q:** Are these gender and ethnicity changes to be updated by the Vendor?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Would love to see a sexual orientation question in the data standards.

**A:** Element R3 is about sexual orientation – you may be able to incorporate that element into local data collection requirements as needed (working with the CoC Lead).

**Q:** Will the old Gender Non-Conforming option be mapped to one of these new response options, or will it just become an invalid response?

**A:** All previous response options will be mapped.

**Q:** The multiple choice gender data element change will break all sorts of custom reports and cause a lot of busy work when the standards roll out.

**A:** Yes, it is probably the most significant change for FY2022.

**Q:** Are the well-being questions required of all PSH, or just HUD-funded PSH?

**A:** HUD-CoC-funded PSH

**Q:** How will the multiple choice gender show up in APR's?

**A:** APR specifications are being worked on now, but there is no current release date set.

**Q:** I'm feeling concerned about the well-being question. I understand the desire to collect this kind of information. My concern is that this is not a trauma informed approach to the conversation and sets the case manager up for sort of a lose-lose outcome. Are there any considerations about removing this?

**A:** The well-being element is certainly a different element than most of the other elements. What we (HUD) are discovering is that we have not done an adequate job centering client voice in our data collection process. The well-being element is a way to get at their perspective on their quality of life. We definitely understand that the way this is administered is really important. We will create training materials with ideas on how to collect this data in a trauma-informed and culturally-sensitive way. We will also talk about why we are collecting it in the training.

**Q:** Has HUD thought about aligning the data collection and reporting requirements for CSBG with HUD requirements?

**A:** Community action agencies are a key to many homeless response systems. HUD is not currently coordinating with them on data. HUD has been partnering with CAP on rural issues. HUD can investigate this further.

**Q:** When will the new data standards be implemented in HMIS?

**A:** Vendors have been given the deadline of 10/1/21.

**Q:** For the new gender options, if someone chooses 6-Questioning, why would you choose any other options. If we choose others that means they aren't questioning right?

**A:** It is possible for someone to question a portion of their gender identity while maintaining a different part of their identity. For example, someone may identify as transgender but be questioning as to whether they may identify as a gender that is not singularly 'female' or 'male'.

**Q:** For the new gender options, does this mean a transgender male would have male and transgender specified?

**A:** Someone may choose to identify as male, transgender or both.

**Q:** What is the difference in Questioning and Client doesn't know?

**A:** A response of 'Client doesn't know' should not be used interchangeably with the response option 'Questioning.' 'Questioning' is about exploring one's gender identity. 'Client doesn't know' should only be selected when a client does not know their gender from the options available, including "Questioning".

**Q:** Will there be more inclusive choices for race and ethnicity as well for FY2024?

**A:** Race and Ethnicity are being looked at to be updated for FY24, yes.

**Q:** For the FY24 updates are identification of personal pronouns in consideration?

**A:** HUD is always open to hearing community needs about the data standards, and the best way to make that happen is to submit an AAQ: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>