

Question/Comment	Response
<p>What are the next steps for the board's racial equity and anti-racism work?</p>	<p>As a Board that has a lot to do with the everyday lives of the people that we support, we are obligated to racial equity and anti-racism work. First we can definitely research where the HMIS Board contributes to systemic racism and as a Board make change in those areas. So, I think that we should start by looking at the recommendations from C4 and working through them one by one figuring out how the HMIS Board can make those changes under the scope of what HMIS is intended to be used for and how we collect data. In order to do this I think that it is going to take the commitment of others to be able to form a committee so that we can work on these things and be intentional about them. If there is a committee then racial equity and anti-racism is going to be the center of attention and more intentional work around this area will be presented. That way it will not fall through the cracks like before.</p>
<p>Strategic Planning: Are we not setting priorities for the next year as we have in previous years? Why not?</p>	<p>The board may be creating a 2021 work plan which would provide clarity on the board's (and the committees') primary focus. There are also discussions on how the board can reaffirm its purpose and scope as well as establishing a clearer vision for the future.</p>
<p>What do you suggest we do when an LTH tenant doesn't engage with supportive services for their 6-month interim reviews? I've been advised to just update with same info as last time but I'd like a second opinion to be sure I'm doing the best I can.</p>	<p>That advice is correct. We encourage providers to continue to try to engage with tenants to the best of your ability, but in lieu of being able to adequately update the self-sufficiency matrix with tenant input, advise entering the same info as the previous matrix.</p>
<p>Who do we contact to propose new statewide questions for clients that are important to the clients?</p>	<p>Annually, the Policies and Prioritization (P&P) committee requests that CoCs, the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative, and state homeless programs complete a survey if there is interest in editing, adding, or removing statewide data elements from HMIS. These data element changes are then reviewed by P&P and responses to requests are given to partners that made the inquiry. If there is interest on behalf of clients or providers to make a change to statewide data elements, including questions, this should be communicated with the local Continuum of Care Coordinator or the state homeless program that funds your program for inclusion in the data elements survey.</p>

<p>Anxious to get the user groups going in our area again.</p>	<p>User groups are currently being revamped as part of our restructure. The hope is to make them better attended, to disseminate the same information across the CoCs simultaneously, and to allow users to attend other groups if they are unable to be at theirs. Currently, we anticipate that user groups will resume in January, with a model of monthly regional groups, and quarterly funder-related groups. More information should be forthcoming in December of 2020.</p>
<p>Where was MTC representation today? Is MTC an active participant in the board or committees otherwise?</p>	<p>The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative is in the process of requesting funding to help create and cover start-up expenses for a Continuum of Care Coordinator position. There are currently 10 Continuum of Care (CoC) regions across Minnesota that are formally recognized by State and Federal Government. These CoCs provide vital planning and coordination to the homeless response system, help to secure and distribute funding, participate in the HMIS Governance Board plus sub committees and conduct program and system level performance evaluation. In addition, these CoCs possess a unique ability to hire staff that can focus as a main part of their job to participate in committees and boards that focus on ending homelessness. The Minnesota Tribal Collaborative (MTC) formed in 2014 to provide largely the same functions noted above for participating Tribal Nations in Minnesota. It is difficult, however, for MTC to match other CoCs' planning, performance, and influence without having a funded CoC position whose sole attention is on this work. With the recent challenges of COVID-19—Many of the Tribes have had staff furloughs, and those not furloughed have taken on other duties in addition to the already assigned day to day duties of running tribal programming. My apologies for not being able to attend the Annual HMIS Meeting but I was currently dealing with departments quarantining and having to staff my offices with only one person in the building at time due to Covid - 19, and when a client comes to the office seeking assistance we must assist the client first, before attending any meetings.</p>
<p>More information on proposed changes to by-laws. That part was really quick and didn't include impact of what those changes mean for the board, partners, or users.</p>	<p>The HMIS bylaws work group will recommend to the Governing Board that there be more time dedicated to this section during the annual meetings. This will allow for more discussion on how the proposed changes will impact the Board, partners and end users. Proposed changes to the bylaws are posted on the HMIS Annual Meeting page prior to the meeting. The bylaws work group will also recommend that the Board include a written explanation of the reasoning for and potential impact of each proposed change with this document.</p>

<p>How do I access the HMIS Racial Equity Analysis resources website?</p>	<p>The form can be accessed here and the resource library can be accessed here. These links can also be found on the MN HMIS website on the Using the Data page.</p>
<p>Need more end-user Board positions. Need formerly-homeless Board positions.</p>	<p>The Board identified a need to further explore adding additional End User and At Large seats to bring more diverse voices to the table. We felt that this proposed change needed more discussion from the Board and our stakeholders, so we didn't feel prepared to move forward with these changes at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The Board will have more intentional discussions about these changes in 2021.</p> <p>All Board and committee meetings are open to the public, and we encourage folks to attend our Board and committee meetings to share their opinions and expertise.</p>
<p>A definition of "end user" and perhaps a more nuanced view of "end user" may be helpful, People enter data and use data for a lot of reasons, so responses and solutions may be different for those users.</p>	<p>The Implementation Committee - which provides input, feedback, and guidance to the Governing Board about the functionality and performance of the system - aims to represent a diverse group of users, including those who play a range of roles in HMIS. Read more information on the Committee, including how to join, here.</p> <p>Additionally, ICA's updated HMIS User Training has tracks for several User Types, with the goal of better tailoring training content to the various needs of users.</p>