



## MD BoS HMIS Updates & Improvements – 3.9.25

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## OVERVIEW

As stated in previous HMIS Newsletters ([Click Here](#) to view past newsletters), the MD BoS HMIS is under review and many areas are being identified to be corrected and improved. Updates made by the MD BoS HMIS Team are in an effort to:

- 1) Bring MD BoS HMIS into compliance with HMIS Data Standards
- 2) Increase HMIS data quality
- 3) Collect data for agency & CoC report(s)

All of us working the homeless field understand it is the **person** experiencing homelessness, not the data, that is the primary focus of the CoC's homeless response system; *however, data is a vitally important tool* to be used by projects, agencies, and the CoC as a whole to show the picture of homelessness, and responses to it, in a community, agency, and project.

While HMIS data entry is not necessarily complicated, *it is precise*. To ensure that **all data entered** into MD BoS HMIS data creates an accurate picture of how individuals move through the homeless system and visualize system performance, both at the project & system level, it is **imperative** that the **correct data entry workflows** are being used.



Save the Date

The MD BoS HMIS Team will host a meeting **Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1pm EST** to review the information highlighted in this document.

A link to join the meeting will be sent out before 3/17.

The meeting will also be recorded & posted to the website.

Correcting all the various items in MD BoS HMIS is a major undertaking & we appreciate your partnership and patience!

**As changes take place, should you find any unexpected complications/errors – please notify the MD BoS HMIS Team via the Help Desk so that we can work with you to resolve the issue as soon as possible.**

# COMPLETED

## ➤ HMIS License Assignments

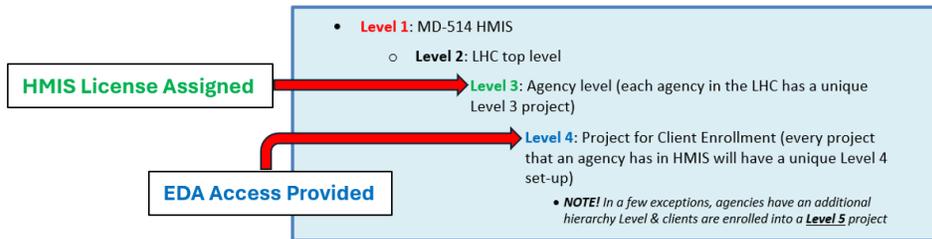
Historically many EU HMIS licenses were **assigned to incorrect projects** in and agencies hierarchy of HMIS projects.

- **Where** license are assigned is part of ensuring that the correct HMIS data entry workflows are being used
  - Correct workflows ensure the overall quality of data being entered into MD BoS HMIS
  - Which is vital if the CoC is to have accurate reports to reflect system performance, both at the project & system level

The correct process for assigning an End Users HMIS license is to:

- Have the license assigned to the agency in HMIS; and
- Provide Enter Data As (EDA) to each specific project in the agencies hierarchy that EU will be entering client data into

*\*\*In a few exceptions this will be a Level 5 - see below section 'Restructure of MD BoS HMIS Projects' for more information \*\**



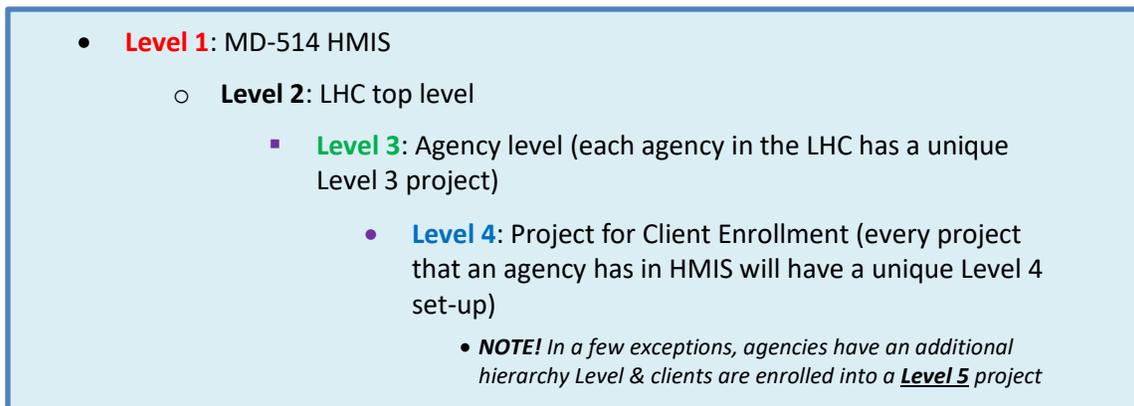
With the assistance of WellSky (HMIS vendor), EU's whose licenses had been incorrectly assigned to a **Level 4** project have been reassigned to the correct **Level 3** (agency) project.

- Should EDA access be needed for additional projects within your agency, please contact the Help Desk & provide the **Project Name** and **HMIS ID #**
- EDA access requested to projects not under the EU's main agency, will require written approval by the agency that the requested project falls under in the HMIS project hierarchy

## ➤ Restructure of MD BoS HMIS Projects

A significant area of improvement identified was the hierarchy of projects. The structure of the **hierarchy greatly impacts how HMIS functions**. As noted in the 11/4/24 HMIS Newsletter, the first step of review was completed with leadership in each LHC & on 11/6/24 the project hierarchy was updated.

The new MD BoS HMIS project hierarchy follows the below format:



## ➤ New HMIS End User Access & Training

New HMIS End User Training is now available in **TalentLMS!!** This will allow trainees to complete the required training at a time that works best with their schedule.

- **Agency Leadership** (director, supervisor, etc.) will first submit a New HMIS End User Request using this [this link](#)
- Once received, the MD BoS HMIS Team will provide the New HMIS End User with access to the course in TalentLMS & instructions for completing New HMIS End User Training
- **The New HMIS End User is responsible for:**
  - Following the instructions provided by the MD BoS HMIS Team, to complete the TalentLMS - HMIS New End User Training course
  - After completing the course in TalentLMS:
    - Demonstrate their knowledge/understanding of HMIS data entry by creating test client profiles in the HMIS Training site
    - Submit test client information to the MD BoS HMIS Team for review

[Click Here](#) for additional information located on the MD BoS HMIS website.

## ➤ Inactive HMIS End Users

The MD BoS CoC currently provides HMIS End User licenses to member agencies *at no cost to the agency*. To ensure HMIS licenses are assigned only to individuals whose job duties require HMIS access, all EU's must access their account at least 1x every 30-days to maintain an active HMIS account.

- Inactive EU's:
  - Will be notified by the MD BoS HMIS Team the first part of each month that their HMIS account has been deactivated due to non-use
  - EU **must respond** to the deactivation notice by the end of that month, requesting to be re-activated
  - EU's that do not contact the Help Desk before the end of that month, will have their account removed from the MD BoS HMIS
    - To regain access to the MD BoS HMIS, the [How to Request Access for a New HMIS End User](#) process will need to be completed

## ➤ MD BoS HMIS Website ([Click Here to View](#))

Has been updated with many new resources and articles, including:

- How to Request Access for a New HMIS End User
- HMIS Workflow Guides
- HMIS Newsletter Archive
- Past Monthly HMIS Refresher Training

Please be sure to check the website often as new resources and articles are added on a regular basis!

# IN PROGRESS

## ➤ PDDE Updates

Thank you to all the agencies that submitted HMIS project PDDE information! The MD BoS HMIS Team is working through all submissions to update PDDE's for each individual project.

**PIT / HIC 2025:** As projects (ES, TH, RRH, PSH, OPH) submit their 2025 PIT and HIC data to the MD BoS HMIS Team, the PDDE's and other items outlined below will also be updated

## ➤ HMIS Project Names

Another improvement being made to the MD BoS HMIS is implementing a [Naming Convention](#) for projects in HMIS. This will allow for quick identification of:

- Project Level
- Project Type (Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Street Outreach, etc.)
- Fund Source (CoC, ESG, HSP, etc.)

The HMIS Project ID # will not change, but you may notice that the name is updated to reflect the new standardized naming convention: **LHC initials\_Agency initials: Project Name (Project Type – Fund Source)**

- For example, a Rapid Re-Housing project called 'Coming Home' in the Garrett Co. LHC receiving ESG funds would be: *GC\_DSS: Coming Home (RRH – ESG)*

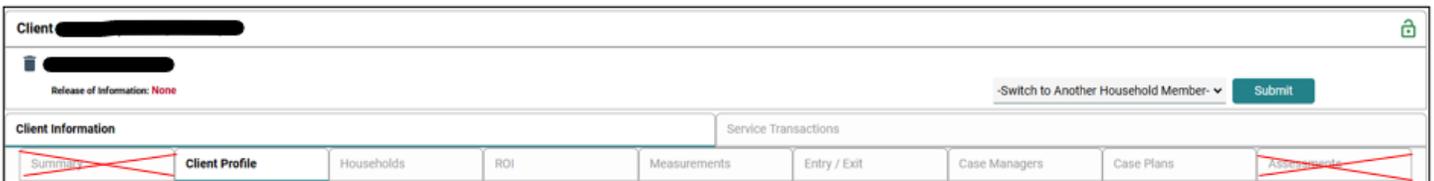
## ➤ Client Records

As noted in the New HMIS End User Training (and many of the other HMIS trainings and resources provided by the MD BoS HMIS Team) **HMIS data is location sensitive** (and date sensitive, i.e. Back Date Mode). The ability to accurately report out on HMIS data is greatly impacted by **WHERE** the data is located in HMIS.

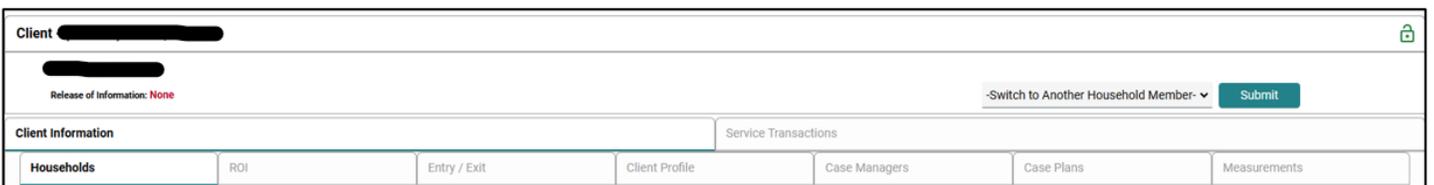
For this reason it is crucial that client data be entered into the correct assessment **AND** that the assessment is accessed in the correct section in HMIS

To reduce data entry errors related to this issue, the 'Summary' and 'Assessments' tabs are being removed from the Client Records page.

- Current view



- Updated view



## ➤ HMIS Assessments

HMIS data is location sensitive, and client data is **ONLY** to be entered into the HMIS **Level 4** project (**NOTE! In a few exceptions, agencies have an additional hierarchy Level & clients are enrolled into a Level 5 project – see below section 'Restructure of MD BoS HMIS Projects'**) that a client is enrolled in.

To ensure that correct data entry workflows are being used, EU's may see a change into where a projects HMIS assessments are located.

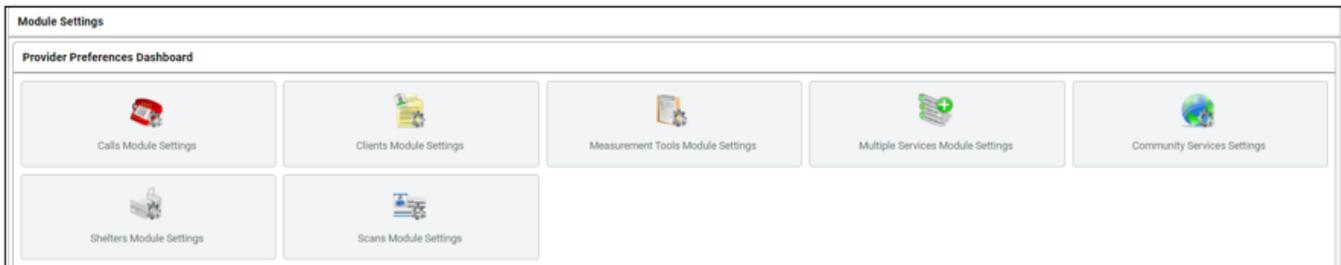
- Assessments that *were visible* on **Level 3** projects are *being removed* (see below section 'Restructure of MD BoS HMIS Projects' for more information)
  - This so that EUs **cannot** accidentally **enroll** a client **OR enter** client data into the agencies **Level 3** project

**End Users must use 'Enter Data As' to select the correct **Level 4** project they will be entering client data into**

Additionally, in an effort to increase HMIS data quality, End Users will begin to notice **prompts** that appear when closing an assessment that has missing data, as well as **section headers** and **guidance** on assessments in HMIS, including:

- **Who** in the household data collection is required
- **What** data collection is required by only specific Project Types

## ➤ HMIS Modules



- Modules that all HMIS projects will have:
  - Clients
  - Measurement
  - Community Services
- Modules that will be removed from projects that do not &/or should not use:
  - Shelters
  - Calls
  - Scans
  - Multiple Services

# COMING SOON

In the coming months MD BoS HMIS Team will work with CoC Stakeholders to review & update all current HMIS policies, procedures, and agreements. **Stay tuned for more information on the below items!**

➤ **Reconvene HMIS Committee**

➤ **Review / Update MD Bos HMIS Documents**

- Review / Update MD BoS HMIS policies and related procedures including, but not limited to:
  - Update: Policies & Procedures
  - Update: Data Quality Plan
  - Update: Privacy Policy

Current policies, procedures, and agreements can be found on the [MD BoS HMIS Website](#)

