2012 NORTH CAROLINA POINT-IN-TIME COUNT TRAINING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

securing resources • encouraging public dialogue • advocating for public policy change
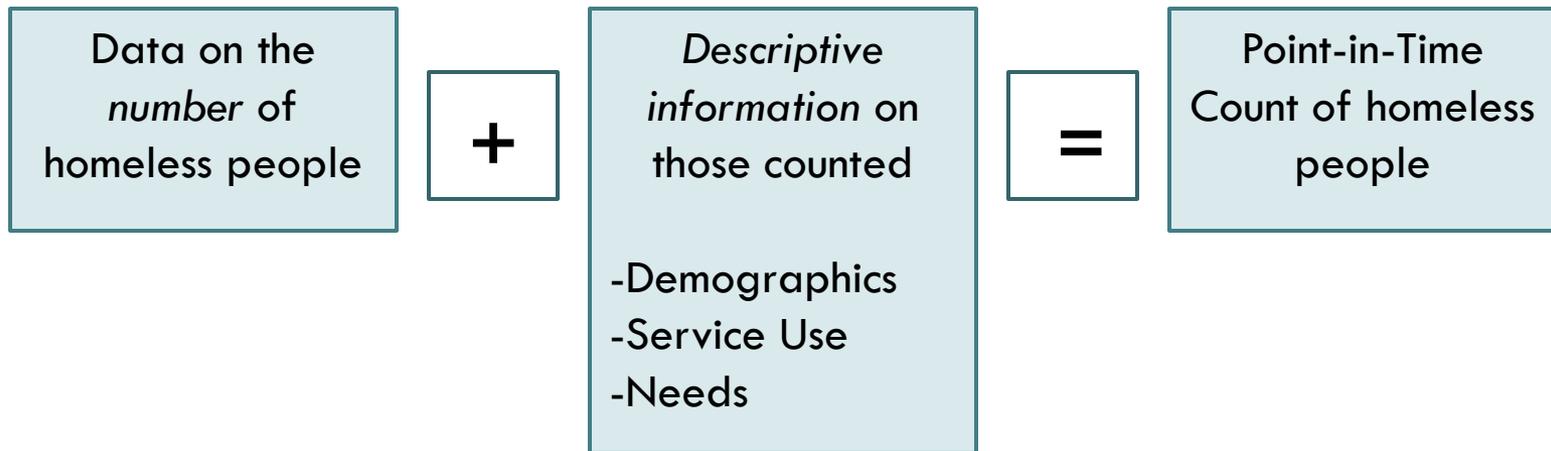
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Welcome

- Reminders:
    - *6 to mute/unmute line
    - *4 will increase/decrease volume
    - If your phone plays music while on hold, please do not put us on hold during the conference call.

- This presentation is posted on the NCCEH website at www.ncceh.org/pointintimehowto/

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What Is a Point-in-Time Count?

- A "count" = collecting information about the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in your community

Data on the *number* of homeless people	+	*Descriptive information* on those counted -Demographics -Service Use -Needs	=	Point-in-Time Count of homeless people

- "Point-in-Time" = a snapshot of the homeless population on a given night (January 25, 2012)

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Benefits of Accurate Data on Homelessness

- Communities need accurate data to:
    - Determine the size and scope of homelessness at the local level
    - Plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs
    - Measure progress in addressing homelessness
- HUD needs data to:
    - Understand the extent and nature of homelessness throughout the country
    - Provide Congress and OMB with information on services provided, gaps in service, and performance
    - Inform funding decisions

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HUD Point-in-Time Count Requirements

- <u>Sheltered</u> counts required annually (starting in 2012)

- <u>Unsheltered</u> counts required biennially
  - ***NC conducts annual sheltered & unsheltered counts***

- One-night count must occur during <u>last</u> <u>ten</u> <u>calendar days</u> in January

- Must collect subpopulation data on people counted
  - chronic homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse, veterans, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, unaccompanied children

- PIT counts must be based on reliable methods, not guesstimates

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Who Is Counted in the PIT?

- To be counted in the PIT, a person must be **literally homeless** according to HUD's definition.

- This means on the night of the PIT, they are residing in:
  - Emergency shelter, including:
    - Domestic violence shelter,
    - Seasonal shelter,
    - Hotel/motel vouchers paid for by an agency because the person is homeless (including HPRP-funded hotel vouchers);
  - Transitional housing designated for homeless persons;
  - A place not meant for human habitation, such as a car, park, abandoned building, sidewalk, or street (unsheltered)

The revised definition of homelessness under HEARTH does NOT change who is counted in the PIT

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Who Is NOT Counted?

- For HUD purposes, do <u>not</u> report:
  - People living in doubled-up situations
  - Children or youth who are temporarily residing in institutions due to a parent's homelessness or abandonment (i.e. emergency foster care, treatment facilities)
  - Adults in hospitals, mental health, chemical dependency, or criminal justice facilities on the night of the count
  - People in residential facilities not designated for homeless persons
  - People living in hotels/motels they pay for themselves
- Although not required for HUD, this information may be useful for local purposes

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When to Count Homeless Persons

Count people where they are sleeping on the night of **Wednesday, Jan. 25ᵗʰ, 2012**

Time period for data collection:

- Sheltered count: 6 pm Jan. 25ᵗʰ to 6 pm Jan. 26ᵗʰ
  - Count people in the program on the night of the count (emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing)
  - Collect bed inventory information for eHIC
- Unsheltered count
  - Street count – typically involves a 'blitz' on the night of the PIT
  - Services-based count – can be conducted up to 2 weeks after the night of the PIT

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When to Count Homeless Persons (con't.)

Unsheltered Count:

- The longer the time period for data collection, the greater the chance for duplicate counting
  - Information collected with interviews helps reduce the chance for counting people more than once
- <u>Always</u> ask about homelessness on the night designated for the Point-in-Time Count
  - If data collection lasts into the following day or later, ask the person "Where did you sleep the night of January 25th?"

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When to Count: Review

- Count will take place statewide the night of January 25th

- 24-hour count, beginning at 6 pm on January 25th and ending at 6 pm on January 26th
  - Sheltered count & unsheltered street counts take place on the night of the 25th
  - Unsheltered services-based counts up to 2 weeks after
  - All interviews of unsheltered persons on the 26th or later must ask:"Where did you sleep January 25th?"

- In addition to your community's manual count, CHIN will conduct a count using HMIS.

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Sheltered PIT Count

- Use the Sheltered Count Form to report data

- For HUD purposes, count and report:

  - People residing in emergency shelter (including domestic violence shelter, seasonal shelter, and hotel/motel vouchers)

  - People residing in transitional housing

  - Formerly homeless persons residing in permanent supportive housing

    - These residents are NOT counted as homeless, but we ARE taking a count of them. This is required by HUD for the eHIC.

    - SHP-PH, SRO, S+C, & HUD-VASH permanent housing

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Unsheltered PIT Count

- Use the Unsheltered Count Form to report data
- Count and report:
  - People residing in a place not meant for human habitation
- Report only the number of unsheltered people actually counted during the Point-in-Time Count
- **Do not** use unscientific adjustment factors or multipliers
- HUD allows statistical sampling to extrapolate unsheltered homeless population, but must use HUD-approved methods
  - Must consult a statistician or other expert
  - Consult with NCCEH before doing so

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Unsheltered PIT Count (con't.)

Methods of counting unsheltered homeless persons:

1. ## Simple street count with observation

   - No interviews – enumerators record observations of people

2. ## Street count plus interviews

3. ## Services-based count

   - Interviews at non-shelter service locations that unsheltered homeless people rely on – soup kitchens or food banks, drop-in centers, healthcare centers, emergency rooms, DSS, libraries

   - Use Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey to conduct interviews

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New in 2012

New Bed Inventory category: Beds for Households of Only Children

- Beds designated for households in which every person is under the age of 18 (unaccompanied children, teenage parents and their children, adolescent siblings without parents present, etc.)

- Other bed categories same as 2011 (Single Adults, Families w/ Children)

New Transitional Housing Bed Types: Facility vs. Voucher

- Facility-based: located in residential facilities that clients must vacate when they exit the program (traditional TH model)

- Voucher: provide time-limited subsidies in conventional rental housing that clients may continue to occupy after they exit the program (transition-in-place or rolling stock transitional housing)

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New in 2012

Emphasis on counting all VA-funded homeless programs

- Emergency Shelter:
  - VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans Community Contract Emergency Housing

- Transitional Housing:
  - VA Grant and Per Diem
  - VA Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans
  - VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans Community Contract Residential Treatment
  - VA Compensated Work Therapy-Transitional Residence

- Permanent Supportive Housing:
  - HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing)

Find your local VA Homeless Coordinator:

va.gov/homeless/hmls_vet_prog_coord.asp

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Forms for Reporting PIT Count Data

- ## Sheltered Count Form

  - For Emergency & Seasonal Shelters, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing programs

- ## Unsheltered Count Form

  - For street & services-based counts of unsheltered persons

- ## Demographic & Needs Survey

  - For conducting interviews with homeless persons being counted

- ## State Reporting Form

  - For CoC leadership to report totals to NCCEH

    Forms are posted at www.ncceh.org/2012PIT

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Sheltered Count Form

- Use for Emergency & Seasonal Shelters, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Fill out one form per program

- Balance of State agencies: return form to NCCEH
  - Due Friday, February 3rd

- All other CoC agencies: check with your CoC PIT coordinator

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Sheltered Count Form: Review

Bed Inventory Section

- Record the total number of beds in the program (not just those used on the night of the PIT)
  - Exceptions for hotel/motel beds and overflow beds – only count beds in use during PIT

- Bed Types:
  - Beds for singles, families, or households of only children
  - Hotel/motel: paid for by agency **because** person is homeless
  - Overflow: available on ad hoc basis when "regular" beds are full
  - Seasonal: open during high-demand months (indicate dates open)

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Sheltered Count Form: Review

Sheltered Count Section

- Record people in 3 household types – with children, without children, only children

- Record chronically homeless individuals AND persons in chronically homeless families

- Record subpopulation information (veterans, DV, mentally ill, substance abuse, unaccompanied children)

- Record discharge information from systems

- Definitions of key terms are on the 2nd and 3rd pages

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Unsheltered Count Form

- Use for street and services-based counts of unsheltered homeless people

- Balance of State communities: return form to NCCEH
  - Due Friday, February 3rd
- All other CoC communities: check with your CoC PIT coordinator

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Unsheltered Count Form: Review

Unsheltered Count Section

- Record people in 3 household types – with children, without children, only children

- Record chronically homeless individuals AND families

- Record subpopulation information (veterans, DV, mentally ill, substance abuse, unaccompanied children)

- Record discharge information from systems

- Definitions of key terms on the second page

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Homeless Demographic & Needs Survey

- Can be used for both Sheltered and Unsheltered Counts

- Gathers information for required subpopulation info and helps your community assess needs

- Should be compiled at local level

- You may edit the survey to suit your community's needs

- This form may be used for interviewing persons during your count. The information gathered by using this form will help you complete the CoC application as well as inform your community's planning process.

- These forms **do not** need to be turned in to NCCEH.

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CoC Reporting Form

- CoC leadership should use this form to report the total homeless count from their community.

  - Compile totals from all Sheltered Count & Unsheltered Count forms.

- Forms are due to NCCEH by Friday, February 17th.

  - NCCEH compiles the statewide PIT total from these forms.

- Reminder: Balance of State communities do NOT turn this form in to NCCEH.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- A woman in my shelter has children, but they are not at the shelter with her. Do I record the woman under households with children or households without children?

    - Households without children. The children must be present with the adult to count as a household with children.

- Can someone who is doubled-up (staying with friends or family) be counted as homeless?

    - No. People who are doubled-up are not literally homeless and can't be counted in the PIT.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- Should a person who is in an institution on the night of the PIT (jail, hospital, drug/alcohol facility) be counted?

  - No, this person is not literally homeless and should not be counted in the PIT. However, many communities find this type of information very important for program planning, particularly discharge and prevention planning.

- Should programs that are not dedicated to serving homeless persons, but sometimes serve homeless persons, be included in the PIT Count?

  - No. Only programs that are dedicated to serving homeless persons should be included in the PIT. Programs that happened to serve a homeless person on the night of the PIT (such as residential treatment programs) should not be included.

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Due Dates to Return Forms to NCCEH

- All Balance of State communities: Friday, February 3rd
  - Unsheltered Count Form - one per community
  - Sheltered Count Form - one per agency
- All other CoCs: Friday, February 17th
  - CoC Reporting Form

  - Email: data@ncceh.org
  - Fax: 888-742-3465

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Additional Resources

- PIT Count Guidance: www.ncceh.org/pointintimehowto
  - Slides from this presentation
  - HUD documents
    - A Guide to Counting Unsheltered Homeless People
    - A Guide to Counting Sheltered Homeless People
    - 2012 HIC and PIT Guidance

- 2012 PIT Forms: www.ncceh.org/2012PIT

- PIT Technical Assistance
  data@ncceh.org   (919) 755-4393

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