

## ***Minnesota XML Data Integration Part II***

Currently, Minnesota's HMIS uploads successfully with Hearth Connection quarterly for their HUD data and data specific to a State of Minnesota permanent supportive housing program. This project is described in a separate document (Minnesota Community Profile I).

In addition, two other upload projects are in the works. One is with the Community Action Programs (CAP) of Minnesota and the other is with Catholic Charities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Area.

### ***Community Action Programs***

The Community Action Programs (CAP) had their own data system in development at the time of Minnesota's HMIS roll out. In Minnesota, the state funds a variety of different types of housing services and requires use of HMIS. Because the CAP data system wasn't ready yet, but a number of resources had been put into it, programs started using HMIS when that became available.

Currently, the CAP data system is up and running. Many of the same clients served in programs entered into HMIS also receive services from CAP programs so dual data entry is very common. The goal of data integration is to base much of the work on our roll out with Hearth Connection. The CAP system has many other state funding sources that haven't been a part of the upload process before, including prevention, transitional housing and shelter programs, so there will also be some new issues to explore.

Also, since programs have been entering data for a number of years into HMIS, work is currently going on trying to figure out how to possibly share that data back into the CAP system.

We are currently in a testing phase trying to figure out how the CAP software provider's system, Adsystem, and ServicePoint, which is used by the Minnesota HMIS, will work together. A lead user from a CAP agency that uses both systems along with our lead XML staff are working together on creating test data and providing feedback based on initial testing of both software vendors.

We hope to roll out uploading within the next state fiscal year starting July 1 2010. One of the main issues in meeting this deadline is the amount of resources available for this project so this timeline is uncertain.

### ***Catholic Charities***

Catholic Charities is another agency in Minnesota that has their own internal data system, but has been going through a process over the past few years to pick a new vendor for their system. Because of their pre-existing data system, Catholic Charities has been interested in data integration since HMIS implemented in Minnesota. Catholic Charities operates a variety of programs including shelters, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and prevention programs funded through HUD and the state of Minnesota.

Catholic Charities started off entering data into HMIS for their required programs to be in compliance with their funders and have been entering data into two systems for a number of years. They were

waiting on two things before pursuing data uploads, first for the Hearth Connection upload process to be successful. Second was for the implementation of their new data system with software provider Defran. Both are successfully implemented, so discussions will likely happen around March 2010 to start the planning process for uploading data between the two systems.

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