Data

1. **Is the County tracking positive COVID-19 tests and clusters among the homeless population? Is the peak in COVID-19 cases expected to be later in the homeless community compared to the general population?**

   The County tracks the number of persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) who test positive for COVID-19 as well as clusters, recognizing that the data for people who are homeless may only reflect the location where the individual was tested. Information on positive cases and other COVID-19 statistics can be found here. A summary of cases among PEH is released weekly and a link to these data is included in the homeless sector weekly email update. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is an expected delay in the reporting of COVID cases among people who are homeless because the data has not been uniformly collected at a national level.

2. **What is the vision for adding the COVID-19 universal screening tool into HMIS-Clarity and what information needs to be entered. What about medical information and what do we do with the screening tool once it's complete?**

   Current HMIS users should continue previous practices and collect bed information including the new hotel/motel programs and case management services. The Universal Screening Tool is entered in HMIS. Verbal consent is obtained to get the individual in the HMIS system and does not apply to medical data. No medical information is entered to comply with HIPAA. The tool is designed to assist outreach workers and shelter staff in determining when it is appropriate to make a referral to a healthcare provider. It does not need to be retained. More information can be found on the latest HMIS updates page of RTFH website.

3. **Would it be helpful for outreach workers to enter in notes in HMIS-Clarity, in addition to the location of the client, key areas that the client camps and/or frequents in the event an agency in the trust network needs to find them?**

   Yes, it's important to enter and update contact information and provide as much detail as possible to assist in locating an individual. Friends of the individual and their contact information can also be entered, with any notes to assist in locating someone.

4. **Is Regional Task Force on Homeless (RTFH) using Clarity to identify homeless clients to be seen by a service provider?**

   The RTFH has used the data in HMIS to identify individuals who met the high-risk categories of being 65 and older, 55+ with underlying health conditions. Enrolling someone in HMIS and continuing to update their information is critical. There is guidance and requirements from the State of California regarding HMIS data entry. RTFH will continue to communicate to the community and providers as guidance is issued and updates are provided at the Continuum of Care General Membership Meeting.

5. **What is the guidance to "move people" into permanent housing if we can?**

The same processes are in place to move people to permanent housing that were in place prior to the pandemic. Please ensure information is entered into HMIS-Clarity and the Coordinated Entry System, and work with housing navigators within your community.