



# Vital News

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## CITRIX Upgrade

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics is in the process of implementing a department required upgrade of the Citrix environment on which the e-Vitals electronic birth and death registration system applications run (EBRS and EDRS). This is the electronic system used by hospitals birth registrars to register births and by funeral home staff to register deaths. The Bureau expects the Citrix upgrade to be effective as of September 30, 2014.

Some facilities may be using the latest Citrix client, version 4.1 and if that is the case

for the facility, this upgrade does not pertain to the facility or its ability to register birth or death records.

**Users that *do not* have an updated Citrix product installed will not be able to connect to EBRS or EDRS after the Citrix environment upgrade.**

EBRS and EDRS users have received an informational email along with simple instructions as to how to proceed in upgrading their free Citrix Receiver.

The Bureau helpdesk, 1-866-295-5902, is available for questions regarding the installation.



## Getting Healthy One Step at a Time



The Bureau of Public Health Laboratories, along with The Bureau of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville has assembled a team of walkers called

“TREKKIES” who are participating in their third 10,000 Daily Steps Challenge.

The 42 member team is well into their third week of the eight week challenge with an impressive daily step count average of 11,000.

The goal of the challenge is to increase activity and positive energy which leads to an increase in work activity and efficiency in all areas of one’s life.

We are the people of Florida and we aim to be healthier.

## Tax Collector Update

The Bureau continues its partnership with the state tax collectors and the county health departments in the issuance of birth certifications in the tax collector offices that issue drivers’ licenses and who wish to participate. The partnership has provided an opportunity for the two community agencies to work together for the common good of its citizens. The following is the current status:

- 19 CHDs with Tax Collectors Issuing
- 64 Tax Collector Offices issuing birth certificates
- 14 additional counties on the interested list
- 14,085 birth certifications issued so far
- 254 active tax collector birth issuance users

Any county health department and/or tax collector who would like to be on the list and has not yet contacted the state office should call or email Ken Jones at 904-359-6982, [Ken.Jones@flhealth.gov](mailto:Ken.Jones@flhealth.gov), or Sharon Dover at 904-359-6951, [Sharon.Dover@flhealth.gov](mailto:Sharon.Dover@flhealth.gov).

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## Spotlight on... Levy County

Levy County was created in 1845, after the Seminole Wars, becoming Florida's 27<sup>th</sup> county. It was named for David Levy Yulee, a planter elected in 1841 as the state's territorial delegate to the US House of Representatives, where he served two terms.

Today, with a population over 40,000, the Levy County Vital Statistics team, Local Registrar Barbara Locke, Chief Deputy Registrar Lori Spadavecchia, Deputy Registrars Toni Poole and Charlene Sheffield keeps up the pace with their clients. With more than 25 years of combined experience, last year their office issued 2,427 birth certifications and 1,110 death certifications. They serve 4 funeral homes.

Small but mighty, Levy County Vital Statistics! Keep up the great customer service!



*Pictured from left to right: Local Registrar Barbara Locke, Chief Deputy Registrar Lori Spadavecchia, Deputy Registrars Toni Poole and Charlene Sheffield*

### NAPHSIS Annual Meeting

The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) is the professional association of state vital records and public health statistic offices in the United States. Members come from all 50 US States and 5 US territories once a year to discuss various topics related to vital records and information systems.

The 2014 annual meeting was held June 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> in Seattle, WA. Subject matter experts from several states discussed topics such as innovations on their electronic registration systems, improvement processes for data quality and disease reporting, security issues, safety paper, accreditation, same-sex marriages and informatics. One of the hottest topics discussed was moving forward after electronic registration to the integration of electronic medical records with vital records.

Florida was well represented at this year's meeting with attendance by Meade Grigg, State Registrar/Deputy Secretary for Statewide Services; Ken Jones, Deputy State Registrar; Marie Bailey, Health Statistics Analyst; Ana Goold, Quality Assurance Manager; and Kenny Higginbotham, Program Administrator for Administrative Services. Ana conducted forums on Florida's partnership with the Tax Collector birth certificate issuance program; and Kenny spoke on how the Bureau of Vital Statistics uses a courier service instead of FedEx or UPS to deliver safety paper from the state office directly to all 67 Florida counties.

The meeting was informative, relevant and promoted the goal and mission of NAPHSIS to ensure accurate, timely and secure reporting of all vital records in the nation; and to improve the overall health of the population.

### July 2014 CDR~DR Training

The third quarter CDR-DR training for 2014 was held at the state office in Jacksonville, July 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. We received positive feedback, as well as suggestions from the wonderful group of participants in the training.

Obtaining valuable knowledge is the goal, but being able to network with your peers is an opportunity that should not be passed up. A number of attendees have stated they are keeping in contact with one another. What a great benefit!

We'd like to congratulate the graduating class from our Quarter 3 training session: Alachua, Bradford, Broward, Citrus, Gadsden, Gulf, Orange, and Union counties.

One of the advantages of the trainings being held at the state office is the ability to draw from a variety of subject experts. We'd like to gratefully acknowledge our in-house experts for their contributions: Vital Records team Jim Ballard and Theresa Gazaleh, QA team Ana Goold, Mary Boutte', Mike Edwards, Lorraine Kratz, Kathleen Patton, and Michele Watterson, e-Vitals training guru Ray Herz, Amendments team, Betty Shannon, Gwen McNeil, Sheila Perez, Tina Crawford, and Rhonda Deese.

We have tentatively scheduled the next quarterly CDR-DR Training for October 23-24, 2014 and will likely fill up fast, so if you have an interest in coming to our next CDR-DR Training in Jacksonville, contact Kathleen Patton at (904) 359-6900 ext. 1171, or email [Kathleen.Patton@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Patton@FLHealth.gov).

Please note that the training is developed for Vitals Statistics staff only, and access to e-Vitals is essential to the training.

# Changes in Our Vitals Family

The Vital Records Section is pleased to announce Theresa Gazaleh as the new Health Services Manager. Theresa has 23 years' experience, 19 of which have been in a supervisory capacity in the Vital Records Section. She brings much knowledge and experience to the position.

Theresa manages the BVS Call Center and Walk-In Lobby Customer Service as well as Eligibility Determination, creation of requests into the tracking system, computer issuance and safety paper tracking.

Please join us in congratulating Theresa on a well-deserved promotional opportunity.



The Records Registration Section is excited to welcome Rebecca Bird as the new Registration Health Services Manager. Rebecca is responsible for all paper records submitted to the state office; this includes not only the few paper births, deaths, and fetal deaths, but also the entire marriage and divorce files from the clerks of court. She and Mike Edwards are working with the clerks in the automation of the divorce file and will be working on the automation of the marriage file in 2015.

Rebecca comes to us from DeSoto County where she was the Chief Deputy Registrar for more than 8 years and comes with a strong customer service background as well as extensive vitals knowledge.

Please join us in giving Rebecca a warm state office welcome.

The Vital Records Section is pleased to announce Vickie Marr as the new Records Center Manager. Vickie has worked for the Florida Department of Health for more than 29 years beginning her tenure with Laboratory Services. She has been with the Bureau of Vital Statistics for more than 25 years. She is well versed in all areas of Vitals. Vickie will directly supervise the Eligibility Determination and Computer Issuance Unit under Theresa Gazaleh.

Please join us in congratulating Vickie on her promotion.



## Funeral Directors' Corner

- As an enhancement to EDRS, the Time of Death on the ME/ COD tab will open for entry for both the certifying physician, as well as for the funeral director.

“True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.”

~Arthur Ashe

## Welcome Aboard

The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health departments:

### Chief Deputy Registrars

- Sharon Harris.....Escambia County
- Bertha Hall.....Madison County

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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