



# Vital News

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## Season's Greetings from the State Registrar



**A**s we embrace the joy of the holiday season, I look back on 2013 with admiration for the course we have set for ourselves. For the Bureau, I extend a welcome to Dr. Patricia Ryder who joins us as the new Director for the Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management (see article below). Dr. Ryder steps in as we continue our re-engineering journey.

On a national level, Florida is one of nine states fully compliant with the State and Territorial Exchange of Vital Events (STEVE) software process whereby we exchange death and birth data with states in the national registration system, which eliminates the manual process and allows the department to submit weekly birth and death files to the National Center for Health Statistics. We continue to work on various national committees, helping us to stay on top of the trends and reap the benefits of being in the midst of some pretty heady company!

We have seen the progression of the electronic transfer of the divorce file from the clerks of court and we continue working with the association to increase participation by bringing on the number of counties using their Clericus System. We are reviewing options for the electronic

marriage file transfer as that will follow the divorce implementation. Ninety-nine point seven percent of Florida death records are filed using the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and all Florida hospitals are online (and have been for some time) with the Electronic Birth Registration System (EBRS). Our goal is to be "paperless" for all Florida vital record events.

In a cooperative effort with the Tax Collectors Association, we have implemented tax collector issuance of birth certifications in 10 counties. This effort is a boon for citizens who are renewing their drivers' license and need their birth certificate – they can get it in the same office! Statewide implementation will begin in 2014, saving Florida citizens time and energy and expanding our mantra of customer service.

Managing these feats is a collective effort that not only includes our Tallahassee partners at the central office, but also our external partners in the field: county offices, hospitals, funeral homes, medical examiners, clerks of court, and now tax collectors.

*C. Meade Grigg*

## Newest Member of Vital Statistics Family

**W**elcome to Patricia Ryder, MD, MPH, as Director for the Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management under the Deputy Secretary for Statewide Services and State Registrar, C. Meade Grigg. In this role, Dr. Ryder will provide oversight for the Bureaus of Clinic Management and Informatics, Community Health Assessment, and Vital Statistics. She brings with her a strong public health background in epidemiology, quality management, strategic planning, program evaluation and data analysis.



Dr. Ryder recently served the Department as Interim Division Director for the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection. She worked as the Medical Epidemiologist at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County since 1994. In this capacity she also served as the Assistant County Health Department Director for the last two years.

Prior to her work in Pinellas County, Dr. Ryder attained her medical degree from Louisiana State University Medical College, and completed a Pediatrics residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and Los Angeles County Medical Center. She attended the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, where she graduated with a Masters of Public Health and a specialty in Epidemiology. While at Tulane, she completed a Preventive Medicine residency at the School of Medicine.

We are excited for the opportunity to work with Dr. Ryder and welcome her to the Vital Statistics family.

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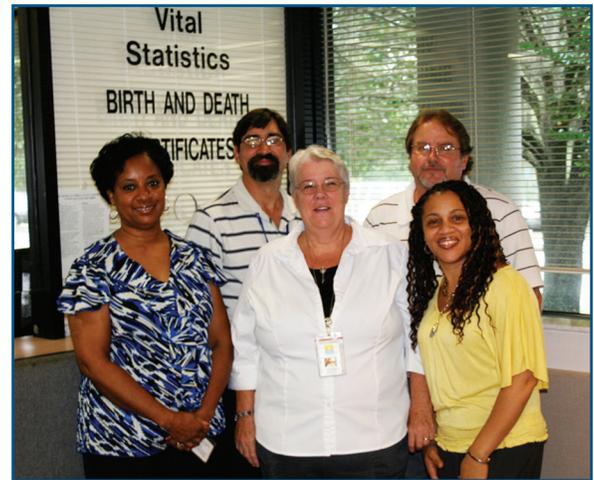
## Spotlight on... Marion County



**M**arion County, Florida was established in 1844 and was named after the Revolutionary War Hero General Francis Marion (the "Swamp Fox") of South Carolina. Marion County is known as the horse capital of the world with approximately 450 thoroughbred farms.

Today, Marion County has a population of more than 335 thousand. The county vitals office staff together has more than 26 years of experience and is led by Chief Deputy Registrar, Mary Ellen Enos. Her deputy registrars include: Angela Killins, Consuella Shaw, Keith Kohl, and James Albury Jr. The office issued almost 33,000 death certifications and more than 11,000 birth certifications in 2013; they have six tax collectors offices offering their clients an opportunity to purchase birth certifications (as of this publication, 1,823 certifications issued) and will be opening two more in 2014.

Keep up the great customer service, Marion County Vitals!



Front row: Angela Killins, Mary Ellen Enos, and Consuella Shaw

Second row: Keith Kohl and James Albury Jr.

### Funeral Directors' Corner

- **Changes to a Fax Attestation**

Date of Death  
Facility of Death  
County of Death  
City of Death  
Cause of Death

Any fax attestation change in the above fields *requires* a **new version fax attestation** signed by the certifier. The funeral director contact the certifier, have the certifier strike through the incorrect information, write or type in the correct information, and then acknowledge the change via signing the new fax attestation version.

- **Copy of fax attestation** - Funeral directors are *not* allowed to provide a copy of the fax attestation to anyone other than the medical examiner and only upon request. Fax attestations cannot be provided to other funeral establishments unless specifically authorized by the state office.
- **Change funeral home** - If a family decides to change funeral homes and an EDRS record has been created but not been completed, immediately contact the Vital Statistics Help Desk at 866-295-5902. We will make a notation on the record and will delete the first record once a second record is created by the other funeral home. This will help eliminate duplicate records from being filed and the possibility of families receiving incorrect death records.

If the record is Registered/Completed, then an amendment will be required to update the information. You should contact the Vital Statistics Amendment Unit, 904-359-6900 ext. 9005 for additional information.

### NAPHSIS Southern Regional Meeting 2013

**T**he Southern Regional National Association of Public Health Statistics Information Systems (NAPHSIS) meeting was held October 17-18, 2013 in Biloxi, Mississippi with 17 members attending from seven states. Florida was represented by Kathy Stephens, Mike Edwards, Felipe Lorenzo-Luaces and Betty Shannon.

A NAPHSIS update was provided by Trish Potrzebowski, the NAPHSIS Executive Director. The small group setting provided for frank and open discussions regarding current issues within states. Specific topics covered included: Commercial sponsoring of NAPHSIS events, EVVE fact of birth/death, STEVE system for data sharing with NCHS and other jurisdictions, and data quality.

Jane Catanese, the Fraud Program Manager, New Orleans Passport Agency presented a PowerPoint on detecting of fraud on documents. Resources, references and specific websites were provided to the group to assist in verifying and validating records/documents submitted to the various states.

Hot Topics were also discussed in a "round table" setting, allowing each state to provide an overview of "goings on" in their state.

A great meeting in such a small amount of time!

# Changes in Latitude

**W**e are pleased to announce that Kenny Higginbotham has accepted a promotion to the Operations Manager position in the Administrative Services Section. He brings more than 16 years experience in several areas of the Vital Statistics Program, 13 years as supervisor of the registration section and most recently was project lead for the implementation of the Electronic Death Registration System. His experience assures us that our finances, the safety paper, and the building facility are in capable hands. Join us in congratulating Mr. Higginbotham in his new role.



Michael Edwards has been selected as the project lead for Electronic Registration in the Quality Assurance Unit. Mike has been a QA field rep since 2009 and was an integral member in the statewide rollout of the birth and death electronic registration systems. He helped design the new Vital Statistics website and maintains it currently. Mike brings IT experience and a strong technical background which benefits us as we pursue “paperless” registration. Join us in congratulating him in his new role.



## 2014 Revised Death Certificate

**T**he Bureau of Vital Statistics has revised the Florida Certificate of Death, DH 512, for 2014, bringing the form and data collected in alignment with the National Standard form as prescribed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Most of the changes were aesthetic label changes and rearrangement of some of the demographic and medical data elements; however, item 11b, the Inside City Limits field was removed and replaced with a new data element, the Zip Code of Death field.

A document highlighting the changes and a sample of the revised form will be sent to funeral homes, hospitals and county health

departments. An enterable version of the DH 512 death certificate form will be made available for those funeral homes not filing their records electronically through the Bureau of Vital Statistics Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

EDRS input screens and the Fax Attestation has also been revised with the 2014 changes and a separate email to EDRS funeral homes, medical examiner offices and online physicians will be sent with a detailed explanation of those changes.

The changes will be effective February 2014. All old forms should be shredded after January 2014, as they will be obsolete.



### Welcome Aboard

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

**Chief Deputy Registrar**

Donna Griggs ..... Bay County  
 Sandra Oglesby ..... Bradford/Union County  
 Kathy Greene..... Washington County

**Local Registrars**

Ulyee Choe, DO ..... Polk County

### The Chief Deputy Registrar Operations Manual (COM) available January 2014

This manual is intended for department use only and is available for downloading at the Department of Health intranet site. CDRs should be sure all staff have a current copy for reference.

“Each time someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”  
—Robert F. Kennedy

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address as shown on current newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

New Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL NAME CHANGE OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:**  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT  
P.O. BOX 210  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32231-0042

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