

Electronic Birth Registration (EBR)



Electronic Birth Registration has been installed in the second largest birthing facility in Florida, St. Joseph's Women's Hospital in Tampa.

Jana Duffy, EBR Project lead, and Chris Mays, QA Field Representative and EBR expert, spent their time working with hospital staff to ensure the transition from the paper world to an electronic one would be a smooth one. They worked with the Healthy Start Coordinator and Coalition to ensure their process would continue to run efficiently. Luz Perez, Chief Deputy Registrar, Hillsborough County Health Department, was part of the training, working with Jana, Chris, and hospital staff on the Reconciliation Report and offering assurance that the county office would still be there for the hospital and state office staff. What a success story!!!

Electronic Death Registration (EDRS)

The state office continues with the development of the Electronic Death Registration System. EDRS test scripts have been written and equipment has been received and is awaiting installation by DOH IT staff in Tallahassee. Actual testing of the software should begin in the fall.

As we move forward with EDRS we will provide updates.



Vital News available in electronic format

Vital News subscribers who would like to receive their copy electronically should email Sharon Dover at: sharon_dover@doh.state.fl.us

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MEET 'N GREET



Front Row: Martha Shuman, Margary Johnson, Barbara Williams
Back Row: Michael Brown

The Micrographics Unit is under the direction of Kathy Stephens, Operation Services Manager. The day to day duties are under the supervision of Darlene Newmans and is comprised of Margary Johnson; Martha Shuman, OPS; Barbara Williams, OPS; and Michael Brown, Experienced Works.

The unit is responsible for the inspection and verification of all microfilm produced by our contract vendor. The frame by frame verification and inspection of each image ensures the microfilm image can be reproduced for certification purposes with the same clarity as the original paper document. The unit ensures one roll of silver microfilm is sent to our designated off-sight storage facility, one roll of diazo film is sent to the Search Unit to produce certifications, and a second silver roll is maintained on sight in the event a replacement diazo is needed. They void out original records on our diazo film when replacement records are filed.

Staff assigned in this unit are also responsible for conducting a page by page countdown when records are being sent to the binders for permanent binding and verify that all records are in the correct order when returned from binders.

Their hard work and dedication in seeing that good copies can be made and are always available is most appreciated!

Bureau of Vital Statistics, A History Lesson

The saying, “what goes around comes around” is a cliché that can oftentimes be applied to government office names. Effective July 1, 2008 the *Office* of Vital Statistics became known as the *Bureau* of Vital Statistics.

Over the years, the office has undergone many reorganizations, a common phenomenon in government when trying to realign and streamline services. For many years, under the State Board of Health, the office was known as the Bureau of Vital Statistics. With reorganization in the late 1960s, the State Board of Health became the Division of Health, and at that time, the bureau became the Office of Vital Statistics. The office maintained that name through the next reorganization in the late 1970s, which brings us up to date.

To be more in keeping with the current structure of the department and to be more consistent with the general organization of the department, “bureau” was felt to better reflect who we are. Our role and mission has not changed, however, and to coin another cliché, “ a rose by any other name would smell as sweet”!

Out & About

Florida Vital Statistics staff have participated in several professional organizations’ annual conferences. Jim Ballard, Program Administrator, spoke to the Florida Funeral Director’s Association (FFDA) on the status of Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and went over some of the new features they can expect once implementation begins. Jana Duffy, Electronic Birth Registration (EBR) Project Lead, did a demonstration for the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA) at their annual conference in mid July. These medical records professionals are the ones primarily responsible for completing Florida birth records, so the subject matter was certainly relevant to their day to day work processes.

Ken Jones, Deputy State Registrar gave an update on EDRS to the Florida Medical Examiner Commission at their annual conference in August. Ken sits on the commission as the representative of the Department of Health and has kept them informed of our progress and development of the system.

\$ Cost of Doing Business \$

Funeral directing does not limit itself to home county business; customers come from all over. With that can come “travel time” for delivering death certificates to and from doctor’s offices, and to and from county health departments. With the increasing cost of fuel, the need to be sure records are prepared correctly the *first* time becomes even more important. Preparing accurate and complete death certificates also reduces the cost of amendments, which offers better service to the family, and it’s just plain good business!

It’s a good idea for the funeral director to call the county office to find out if they offer “while you wait” service before traveling to the office and learning the record will not be available until the following day. County vitals staff are charged with reviewing the death record for accuracy and, depending on the structure of the office, same day service may not be possible.

Newest Member of QA Team

Quality Assurance welcomes its newest member, Cindy Russ. Cindy joins the team as no stranger to vitals; she has been in the Amendments Unit for about six years and its supervisor for the past three years. She brings systems experience from her years with Winn Dixie. We’re excited to have Cindy working with us and she will be concentrating her efforts on EBR implementation. Jana and Chris *certainly* welcome her assistance!



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

Local Registrar:

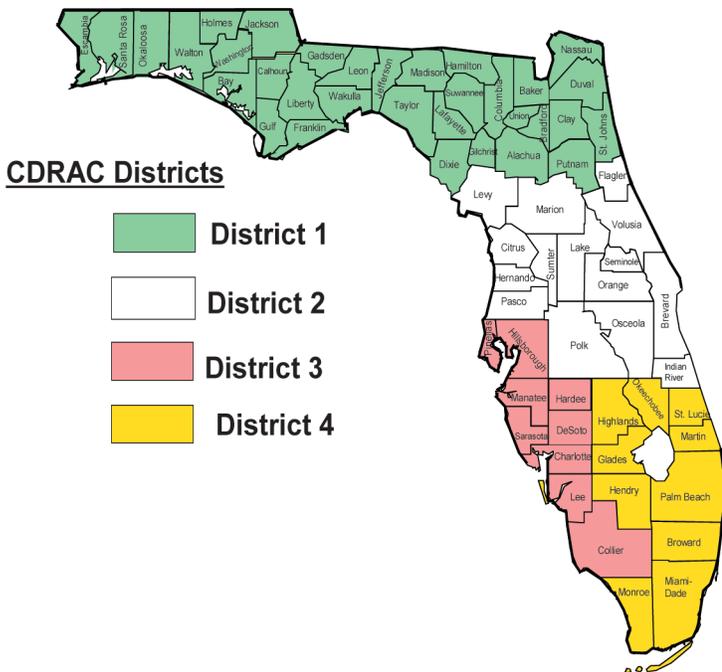
Frank Kruppa Okeechobee

Chief Deputy Registrar:

Jeanna Kelly Jefferson

Gail Whitt Sarasota

The Vital Records Registration Handbook 2007 Revision & the Birth & Death editions of the handbook can be downloaded from the website at:
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html



Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee

This map represents the four Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC) districts. The members are:

- District 1** Janie Carpenter, Escambia
Willie Dean Mayo, Columbia
- District 2** Darlene Ginrich, Lake
Pat Kennedy, Flagler
Gloria Norfleet-Robinson, Orange
- District 3** Luz Perez, Hillsborough, Chair
Chris Mashintonio, Charlotte
- Representing District 4** Victoria Brack, Osceola (no one available from District 4 at time of election)

From time to time, one of these members will contact CDRs in the district, asking for input for a survey or other such question. You can also contact them if you have questions on how they might handle a situation you have experienced. These are “vitals veterans” and have a wealth of knowledge, so take advantage of them!!!

The County Health Department phone list (with fees) is posted to the Internet at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.htm. The list is updated quarterly & can be downloaded at any time. Be sure to verify with the county if there are additional fees.

Quality Birth Data & Prenatal Visits

Data entered onto birth records plays an important role in public health planning for individual communities as well as for citizenry as a whole. The birth registrar is a key component in the gathering of birth data, as that is who is normally responsible for preparing the birth record at the hospital. The birth registrar must be sure that the source of the birth data is the medical record of both the mother and the newborn.

The state office, in conjunction with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), monitors data entered for inconsistencies and improbabilities. In one Florida hospital, for example, we have seen the same number of prenatal visits for the majority of the mothers. It is highly unlikely that most of the mothers had exactly 13 prenatal visits. What is more likely is that rather than verify the exact number from the mother’s medical record, the birth registrar estimates by asking the mother if she made the “regular” number of visits, and a calculation is made on that basis. Not very scientific and certainly not helpful if trying to determine if mothers are receiving the necessary care during their pregnancy to help ensure a healthy outcome.

Hospital administrators as well as Health Information Management directors should be mindful of the importance of obtaining quality birth data and should see to it that those under their direction are taking every step to include accurate and complete information for those births occurring in their facility.

BITS 'N PIECES

Proper recording of infant deaths is an important task in the vital statistics office. CDRs should be monitoring death and birth records, looking for infant deaths and low birthweight babies. When identified, they must ensure that a record is filed and that it is the correct record. If the death record indicates the child was born in your county, you must follow-up to be sure you have a birth record. Verify that the delivery was not a fetal death. When contacted by the state office on a suspected infant death, you must act promptly to reconcile the case. The COM contains detailed instructions on this process. The **funeral director** should verify the status of the infant when picking up the remains — was it a live birth or fetal death?

Past issues of the Vital News can be found on the department’s website at the following address: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/Vital_Statistics/VitalNews/vn-index.htm

