The holidays are once again upon us and it’s time to evaluate the past year. Before doing that, however, I looked back over the last few years’ seasonal articles of the *Vital News*, just to get an idea of where we’ve been. The list of events is quite impressive: Y2K, and we thought *that* was going to be a big deal; re-formation of the Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC), an integral component of what has happened these last few years; September 11, 2001 and the anthrax scare right here in our own Palm Beach County—classic examples of why a strong public health system is so important; Charlie, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne, not names found on the most popular baby names list, but opportunities to see our own people rise to the occasion more than once; implementation of e-Vitals, providing us a more efficient and comprehensive system to issue, track and account for vital record events; Katrina and Rita, catastrophes that brought us closer to our Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama neighbors; revision of the birth, death, and fetal death certificates—need I say more? The list goes on and on, but I won’t!

This brings us to 2007. Surely it was just yesterday when we were so excited about launching the Electronic Birth Registration (EBR) system. Our 2008 EBR schedule is an ambitious one, but we embrace it knowing it brings us closer to our goal of full implementation. We are not satisfied to stop with EBR, no, we have assembled a workgroup for the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). Funeral directors, physicians, medical examiners, and a hospice physician, as well as representatives from the Florida Hospital and Medical Associations make up this workgroup and are fine-tuning EDRS for its debut in late 2008.

Such monumental tasks could not have been accomplished without the concentrated effort made by our outstanding team — that’s the county and state vitals statistics staff, Healthy Start staff, and other county health department individuals; funeral directors, morticians, subregistrars, and other funeral home staff; medical examiners and their staff; physicians and their staff; hospitals and staff, midwives; Clerks of Court and their staff; NAPHSIS and NCHS staff; public health and vitals statistics folks all over the country. Wow, that’s some team; dedicated, conscientious, service oriented - the list of accolades is seemingly endless!! I feel honored to work with such exemplary individuals to serve the needs of our citizenry.

May this holiday season bring all of you joy, peace, and prosperity.

C. Meade Grigg, State Registrar
The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health department:

Local Registrar:
Miranda Swanson............Indian River

Chief Deputy Registrar:
Sandra Lupton.........................Putnam

The funeral directors, medical examiners, and vital statistics members of the EDRS workgroup held a conference call in November to review the proposed electronic burial transit permit/report. A subsequent call that also included the physicians on the workgroup, was held in December, where the remote fax attestation process was the subject under discussion. Both calls brought forth good suggestions and recommendations. Illinois is also in the midst of their EDRS, utilizing the same vendor as Florida. We will be speaking with them on what they see and experience, as well as sharing our own experiences. This collaboration between states helps us achieve a higher success rate with the best possible outcome.

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

The State Office of Vital Statistics will be sending out the annual Self Assessment Tool (SAT) to the chief deputy registrars in January 2008. Remember, the completion of the SAT is done through a Sharepoint website and requires:
- The county file be checked out
- Entries made within the site
- The file subsequently checked back in
- Please do not do a “file/save” as this will have you working on your desktop in an Excel file, and entries will not be made to the actual Sharepoint site.

Business managers and local registrars each have a role in reviewing the SAT, entering any comments, and signing off on the file. Offices will be allowed a couple of weeks to complete, review, and sign.

The SAT is a valuable resource in the day to day operations of a local vital statistics office. It assists staff in determining if they are on task and following the laws, guidelines, and procedures laid out in the Chief Deputy Registrar Operations Manual (COM). The monthly review and sign-off by the business manager helps ensure that the office maintains compliance.

If there are questions on the SAT, contact your Quality Assurance Field Representative at the state office.

Electronic Death Registration (EDRS)

The purpose of the Putative Father Registry is to permit a man alleging to be the biological father of a child to assert his parentage, independent of the mother, and preserve his rights as a parent.

A Florida Putative Father Registry Claim, per statute, is done without the consent or involvement of the mother. The registry, maintained by vital statistics, is where the putative father claim is filed and recorded. The putative father’s name is not added to the birth record. Should the child be placed for adoption, the putative father must be named a party to the adoption proceedings.

The county office must keep a supply of putative father related forms. Brochures are available in English, Spanish and Creole. Questions on the Putative Father Registry should be referred to the Adoption Unit, Lorraine Kratz at (904) 359-6900 ext. 1081, call group 9001, or refer to the website at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/putative.htm

Putative Father Registry

2008 Self Assessment Tool (SAT)

Putative Father Registry

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

Local Registrar:
Miranda Swanson............Indian River

Chief Deputy Registrar:
Sandra Lupton.........................Putnam
**Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC) Update**

The Chief Deputy Registrar Committee (CDRAC) members have been busy with trendsetting this year. We know about Orange County’s satellite office within a hospital as being the first of its kind statewide, and they have recently added another satellite office in Winnie Palmer Hospital, the largest birthing facility in the state — way to go, Gloria!! Well, not to be outdone, a couple of other CDRAC members have followed suit. Luz Perez, CDR, Hillsborough County and CDRAC chair has opened a satellite vital statistics office in St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital in Tampa, the second largest birthing facility in the state. Victoria Brack, CDR, Osceola County, plans to open their first satellite at Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee, on January 1, 2008. This is an innovative group, the CDRAC; they are constantly thinking of new ways to better serve their clients. CDRs, if you want to do some brainstorming, contact your CDRAC representative for a good sounding board.

Luz Perez represents CDRAC and CDRs statewide on the EDRS Workgroup. Luz has indicated her excitement with the direction EDRS is going, “electronic registration of deaths will be beneficial to all of us and make for a more efficient way of doing business”.

The entire CDRAC wishes a happy holiday season to their “sister” CDRs throughout the state, and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the new year!

---

**Certificate Of Birth Resulting In Stillbirth**

Florida’s 2006 legislation allows for the creation and issuance of a Certificate of Birth Resulting in a Stillbirth. Section 382.0085, Florida Statutes, allows for the issuance of this special certification from the state office only and there must already be a fetal death certificate on file.

The certificate is created and issued upon the parent’s request. Subsequent to the initial request, the Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth becomes available as a public record. The certification is not considered proof of a live birth and copies are available from 1947 to the present. An informational brochure, “How to Apply for a Florida Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth”, is available to the funeral director when meeting with families; contact your CDR for a supply. There is also a specific application intended for this purpose, the Application for Florida Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth, which is available on the website at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/phstats/index.html

Questions on the issuance of this certificate should be directed to Kevin Wright, at (904) 359-6922.
CHANCE OF ADDRESS FORM

Date:_______________________

Address as shown on current newsletter____________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

New Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Please mail change of address to:
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT
P.O. BOX 210
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  32231-0042

PRESORT STANDARD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JACKSONVILLE FL 32203
PERMIT NO. 4611