

PROJECT – Children and Youth Cabinet Data Sharing

In April 2009, the Children and Youth Cabinet initiated a data sharing project. Their vision was to create a Children and Youth Inquiry System by which the health and human services state agencies can exchange pertinent information about children with real time data allowing us to better serve the children and families of Florida. The goal was to identify and improve access to children's services through electronic sharing of necessary data from participant agencies, which include: Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), Department of Children & Families (DCF), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), and Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

The initial data source requested by the other agencies from DOH was the vital statistics (VS) birth data. The participating agencies in the first phase included: Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Department of Children & Families (DCF), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

The governor's office had asked for a working prototype of the data sharing system to be completed by March 2010 for use in demonstrating the project to the legislature. Joint Application Development (JAD) meetings were scheduled in January/February 2010 to discuss the need for DCF FSFN (Home Safe Net) data as well as the DOH VS data. A software vendor is developing the interface based on these sessions.

In completing the project it will include two essential benefits: (1) To provide agencies with access to better, more relevant information when it is needed the most to provide the right services to the children and families of Florida; and (2) Allow users to share and access real-time information from multiple branches of government, multiple agencies, and multiple data sources through a single log-in, using a single query and a single data set.



Spotlight On..... Nassau County

Located in the northeast corner of Florida along the Atlantic Ocean and Interstate 95, you'll find a quaint little county called Nassau proudly serving as the eastern gateway to the Sunshine State. From their historic island, sandy beaches, and championship golf courses to their scenic rivers, green pastures, and majestic timberlands, they truly offer "Something for Everyone".

Nassau County was established from St. Johns County in 1824 and named for the Nassau Sound, which separates Nassau and Duval counties. The name comes from the capital of the Bahamas, which was named for the Duchy of Nassau, a former German state. A private tract of land known as White Oak Plantation was once owned by a wealthy family who ran the area as a private zoo, complete with exotic animals such as giraffes and large albino cats.

With combined years of service over 45, Nassau County has five vital statistics employees. They are Local Registrar, Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel: Chief Deputy Registrar, Kathy Adams; Deputy Registrars: Marquita Showers, Sherri Sayre, and Vicki Roberts (pictured below). Last year, the team issued 1670 birth certificates and 3168 copies of death certificates. "With the new DMV laws, Nassau CHD Vital Statistics has already issued in 3 months half of what we issued all year in 2009", states Kathy Adams. Nassau's vitals staff work with five local funeral homes, but also serve several funeral homes in South Georgia and Duval County. Baptist Hospital Nassau is located in Fernandina Beach. With a population just over 65 thousand in the county, Kathy's crew will continue giving their community the best customer service. Keep up the good work, Nassau County Vital Statistics!



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BITS ' n PIECES

EBR Birth Registrars – Remember when completing a record do not to use any special characters, such as periods or number signs. These are invalid values. Collecting quality information is important; avoid using "Unknowns" as a way out.



Electronic Birth Registration (EBRS)

It's getting kind of quiet for EBRS; no one clamoring to get online, no one asking, "When will you be in my county?" There's good reason for this as we have just about reached full implementation. By June 30, 2010, we expect to have all but three or four hospitals processing their birth records electronically. Stay tuned for the September issue as that will be the swan song for EBRS rollout!

Congratulations to the 2010 Prudential-Davis Productivity Award Winners!

This year's competition attracted 587 nominations for innovations and productivity improvements worth \$415 million in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue for state government. Since 1989, award winners have produced more than \$6.7 billion worth of added value.

 **WAY TO GO**, Margie Parker, CDR of Santa Rosa County! Margie won a Certification of Commendation for creating an informational newsletter for new parents and hospitals.

 **TERRIFIC TEAMWORK**, the Bureau of Vital Statistics' team won a plaque for implementing the scanning and linking of documents to the state database.

Printers/Copiers Using Solid Ink

The Bureau of Vital Statistics is charged with the responsibility of accepting for filing and archiving the Florida Certificate of Death. It has come to the attention of the state office that there is a certain print technology that uses a solid ink product in several printer/copiers. While we realize there may be advantages to this product for the funeral industry, there are also distinct disadvantages when used in the generation of the Florida Certificate of Death or Fetal Death. Because ink is of a wax nature, it can be removed easily, regardless of the print setting. Its melting point is 220 degrees and the ink will become soft and smear on the document when processed through laser copiers applying the state file number. The ink is sensitive to the sun's ultraviolet light causing the color of ink to fade. Not all of these things make for the archival quality that is required by statute for death certificates.

Statute charges the state office to approve all forms used for vital records. Upon approval of a software to generate the form, it is required that the end product be exactly like the pre-printed form. Forms generated with this type of ink do not meet this requirement.

The state office would like to ask all funeral establishments that might use such a printer to cease using it when generating or completing the death certificate or fetal death certificate. This also applies to using solid ink products to print the data onto pre-printed forms furnished by the department. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter, and by working together, we can maintain the quality of the record for Florida families.

Electronic Death Registration (EDRS) UPDATE



There has been quite a bit of activity related to EDRS.

- The system has been updated from a 2-pass fax to the physician, to a single pass, making for greater efficiency for all. Testing has begun on that change.
- Draft tutorials are being constructed – one for the funeral director, which is the primary method of training for the funeral director; and one for the online physician.
- An informational brochure has been constructed as an introduction/overview of EDRS. It will be mailed to all physicians in Florida once we are close to implementation.
- A COD (cause of death) Tutorial for Physicians has been constructed and should be available online by the end of June. This product is a collaborative effort with the Florida Medical Association and the Florida Association of Medical Examiners. The tutorial is not directly related to EDRS, but will assist physicians in their understanding of the death registration process, the role they play, and the importance of signing the death record; they will earn one continuing education credit for successful completion of the course.
- An informational brochure has been designed to announce the COD tutorial and it will be mailed to all Florida physicians once the tutorial has been loaded to the website.
- In the fall, testing is planned with a few funeral establishments and the medical examiner in Jacksonville. We will then expand to include several more establishments & a handful of online physicians. Once we finish with the true pilot of Medical Examiner District 4 and the areas it services, EDRS will be implemented statewide by ME district, based on scheduling arrangements, training room availability, etc.

Change in Latitude

After 39 yrs of service, Paula Mundy, Health Services Manager, retired in late February. The state office staff, as well as our county registrars and hospitals, will certainly miss Paula and all she brought to the position. We wish her well.

As always, someone's leaving brings a new face into the picture. Lorraine Kratz, formerly of the Adoptions/Delay Unit, brings many years of experience related to the job and staff in Current Registration welcome her return to the unit where she began her Vital Statistics career.

Welcome Aboard

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

Chief Deputy Registrar

Wyndolyn "Sissy" Smith..... Franklin County

Local Registrars

Douglas M Kent.....Bay County
William C Lawther.....Duval County
Donna Gregory.....Lake County

2009 Hospital Birth Compliance List of CHAMPIONS

Florida currently has 118 hospitals that offer regular obstetric services to pregnant women. In filing timely birth records with the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 23 hospitals maintained a **PERFECT** compliance rate for 2009. Kudos and high honors go out to those 23 listed below!! Fifty-five hospitals maintained a monthly compliance rate of **95-99%**. Another 16 hospitals succeeded in reaching a **90-94%** compliance rate. These facilities are to be congratulated on their outstanding performance!

Currently there are over 100 hospitals filing records electronically with more being added each week. The EBR hospitals are listed below in *italics*.

100%

Brevard	<i>Cape Canaveral Hospital</i>
Broward	<i>Holy Cross Hospital</i>
Citrus	<i>Seven Rivers Community Hospital</i>
Clay	<i>Orange Park Medical Center</i>
Columbia	<i>Shands @ Lake Shore</i>
Miami Dade	<i>Mercy Hospital</i>
	<i>South Miami Hospital</i>
Duval	<i>Baptist Medical Center @ Jacksonville</i>
	<i>St Vincent's Medical Center</i>
	<i>Shands-Jacksonville Medical Center</i>
Escambia	<i>US Navy Hospital @ Pensacola</i>
Highlands	<i>Florida Hospital Heartland</i>
Hillsborough	<i>St Joseph's Women's Hospital</i>
Martin	<i>Martin Memorial Hospital</i>
Nassau	<i>Baptist Medical Center Nassau</i>
Orange	<i>Winter Park Memorial Hospital</i>
Palm Beach	<i>Jupiter Medical Center</i>
	<i>Boca Raton Community Hospital</i>
Pasco	<i>Florida Hospital Zephyrhills</i>
	<i>Pasco Regional Medical Center</i>
Pinellas	<i>Mease Countryside Hospital</i>
Putnam	<i>Putnam Community Medical Center</i>
Santa Rosa	<i>Santa Rosa Medical Center</i>

95-99%

Alachua	<i>Shands at UF</i>
	<i>The Women's Ctr of N FL Reg Med Ctr</i>
Brevard	<i>Parrish Med Center</i>
	<i>Wuesthoff Medical Center Rockledge</i>
	<i>James E. Holmes Regional Medical Ctr</i>
Broward	<i>Broward General Medical Center</i>
	<i>Memorial Regional Hospital</i>
	<i>Memorial Hospital Miramar</i>
	<i>Coral Springs Medical Center</i>
	<i>Plantation General Hospital</i>
	<i>Northwest Medical Center</i>
	<i>Memorial Hospital West</i>
Charlotte	<i>Peace River Regional Medical Center</i>
Collier	<i>North Collier Hospital</i>
Miami Dade	<i>Jackson So Community Hospital</i>
	<i>Jackson Memorial Hospital</i>
	<i>Homestead Hospital</i>
	<i>Baptist Hospital of Miami</i>
	<i>Kendall Medical Center</i>
	<i>Mt Sinai Medical Center</i>

Duval	<i>Baptist Medical Center South</i>
	<i>US Navy Regional Medical Center</i>
	<i>Baptist Medical Center @ Beaches</i>
	<i>Memorial Hospital Jacksonville</i>
	<i>St Luke's Hospital</i>
Escambia	<i>Baptist Hospital</i>
	<i>Sacred Heart Hospital of Pensacola</i>
Hillsborough	<i>University Community Hospital</i>
Jackson	<i>Jackson Hospital</i>
Lake	<i>South Lake Hospital</i>
Leon	<i>Capital Regional Medical Center</i>
	<i>Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare</i>
Manatee	<i>Manatee Memorial Hospital</i>
	<i>Lakewood Ranch Medical Center</i>
Marion	<i>Munroe Regional Medical Center</i>
Orange	<i>Health Central</i>
	<i>Florida Hospital Orlando</i>
	<i>Winnie Palmer Memorial Hospital</i>
Osceola	<i>Florida Hospital Celebration Health</i>
Palm Beach	<i>St Mary's Hospital</i>
	<i>West Boca Medical Center</i>
	<i>Palms West Hospital</i>
Pasco	<i>Community Hospital of N Port Richey</i>
Pinellas	<i>Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital</i>
	<i>Morton Plant Hospital</i>
Polk	<i>Lakeland Regional Medical Center</i>
	<i>Regency Medical Center</i>
St John's	<i>Flagler Hospital</i>
Seminole	<i>South Seminole Community Hospital</i>
	<i>Florida Hospital Altamonte Springs</i>
Volusia	<i>Halifax Health Medical Center</i>
	<i>Florida Hospital Deland</i>
	<i>Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Ctr</i>
Walton	<i>Sacred Heart Hosp/Emerald Coast</i>

90-94%

Bay	<i>Bay Medical Center</i>
Brevard	<i>Wuesthoff Medical Center Melbourne</i>
Citrus	<i>Citrus Memorial Hospital</i>
Miami-Dade	<i>Jackson North Medical Center</i>
Desoto	<i>Desoto Memorial Hospital</i>
Escambia	<i>West Florida Regional Medical Center</i>
Highlands	<i>Highlands Regional Medical Center</i>
Hillsborough	<i>Brandon Regional Hospital</i>
Jackson	<i>Jackson Memorial Hospital</i>
Osceola	<i>Osceola Regional Medical Center</i>
Palm Beach	<i>Good Samaritan Hospital</i>
	<i>Wellington Regional Medical Center</i>
Pinellas	<i>St Petersburg General Hospital</i>
St Lucie	<i>Lawnwood Regional Medical Center</i>
	<i>St Lucie Medical Center</i>
Sarasota	<i>Sarasota Memorial Hospital</i>
Seminole	<i>Central Florida Regional Hospital</i>

We salute the hospital birth registrars, their managers, and county vital statistics staff, and praise you for a job well done. Keep up the good work!! By the time this article is printed we hope that all hospitals are filing their records electronically. If that is the case this could be the last publishing of the List of Champions.

If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write something worth reading or do things worth the writing. ~ Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)