Electronic Death Registration (EDR) - Here We Go!

Florida Vital Statistics made history once again in May 2011 with the entry of the first records into the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)! This project has been a work in progress for several years and no one could be any more excited than we are to see it become a reality.

As a point of fact, it was Medical Examiner District 4 staff that entered the very first record for a storage case where no funeral home had yet been assigned. This record was followed by death record entries from Corey Kerlin Funeral Home and Holmes Glover Solomon Funeral Directors Incorporated, both medical examiner cases.

Members of the EDRS Project Team, Kenny Higginbotham, Jana Duffy, and Mike Edwards have shuttled back and forth from the medical examiner’s office to the test funeral homes, assisting the new users, offering advice and their expertise on how the system operates and how to get the records entered. The online tutorials were taken by all users before they could have access to EDRS; the users indicated that the tutorial was comprehensive and covered the necessary information for them to be able to use the system. The funeral directors were even able to earn the three Continuing Education Units (CEUs) that are granted upon successful completion of the tutorial – not a bad deal!

The state office will continue the test phase of EDRS implementation with three other area funeral homes: Broadus Raines Funeral Home; Eternity Funeral Home; and Hardage Giddens Funeral Home, Hendricks Avenue. Once the test phase is completed, we will implement in the remainder of the funeral homes in the district. We expect phase two, the pilot phase, to last through July, with statewide implementation to follow with a staggered rollout by medical examiner district.

When one of the project team members comes to an area, they will provide EDRS Orientation for funeral directors. There will be several sessions offered so there will be plenty of opportunity to attend. While at the orientation, users will be asked to complete and sign the department’s Computer Use and Confidentiality Agreement, which is required before access to the system can be granted. The medical examiner’s office will be brought online the week after the orientation.

The state office asks all of those involved in the death registration process to pay close attention to any directives or information coming from the county vital statistics offices as they are our point of contact and means of communicating locally. You will be kept informed of what you need to do to be prepared when we arrive for the orientation. Watch your professional associations’ publications for EDRS related information, visit our website at: http://floridavitalstatisticsonline.com/ and please review what we have posted regarding EDRS. Scroll down the left column to Electronic Death Registration and click on that link. At the top of the page is continued on page 2.

Clerks Corner—Divorce Upload

The Bureau of Vital Statistics would like to announce that it has been working with Bay County and Miami-Dade County Clerks of Circuit Court in improving the method of reporting of Dissolution of Marriage. We are collecting the information that is reported on the paper form DH 513 as an electronic file. The number of Dissolution of Marriages between the two counties is about 17.5% of the total file reported for each year. This electronic process has allowed for the following reduction/savings: paper costs, postage, and cost for data entry. We will be working throughout the year with other county clerk offices that are using the same systems as Bay and Miami-Dade County Clerks of Circuit Court.

If you have any questions, contact Kenny Higginbotham at (904) 359-6900, ext 1171, or ken_higginbotham@doh.state.fl.us.
Since the completion of the Electronic Birth Registration System (EBRS) in December 2010, the state office quality assurance team is concentrating on bringing the best and most accurate data reported on the Florida birth record. We are fortunate our EBRS hospitals, not only care about their patients, but they are just as committed to supplying the required birth data to the state office.

Starting in mid-March, members of the quality assurance team and the hospital birth registrars, assisted by a few system generated reports, have worked together to assess the quality in selected data fields on the birth record.

Those areas include items such as: Child’s First Name, Names with Special Characters, Mother and Father’s Residence Address, Provinces when Canada is indicated in geographical fields, and Prenatal Care. While the hospitals’ staff is doing a fine job in collecting data, these items needed a little more attention and perhaps more clarification on what the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is looking for in these items.

As the old saying goes, a woman’s work is never done, or in this case, a quality assurance field representative’s work is never done. The Quality Assurance Team and our Registration Support Team will continue to be there for the hospitals. The state and county offices want to thank each and every one of you for taking pride in your job and making our system and the data it produces, top quality – together we are a winning team!

According to historians, it is believed that the name “St. Lucie” was first given to this area by the Spanish. The name was given after the Spanish began construction of a fort on December 13, the feast day of St. Lucia. On July 1, 1905, St. Lucie County was established with Fort Pierce serving as its county seat. The town was previously part of Broward County.

Today, the Port St Lucie Vital Statistics office has five employees. They include (pictured left to right) Deputy Registrar Wanda Vega, Chief Deputy Registrar Traci Fox, Deputy Registrars: Lori Carr, and Linda Cusso. With over 22 years of combined experience, the staff issued almost 9,000 birth certificates and over 16,000 death certificates, in which they served 12 local funeral homes. “We were certainly pleased when the EBRS reached our area and are looking forward to the EDRS coming”, states CDR, Tracy Fox. Keep up the good work, St. Lucie County!}

**Welcome Aboard**

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

**Local Registrar**
Sanford Zelnick, DO ........................................... Seminole County

**County Deputy Registrar**
Daleene Gainor ..................... Lake County
Lamont Riddick ...................... Orange County
Marcie Weaver ....................... Seminole County
Diane Lima .......................... Wakulla County

**EDR (Continued from page 1)**

are several links to EDRS information.

This re-engineering project streamlines the death registration process. Just imagine, no more paper records, no more courier delivery, no more waiting at the physician’s office, and online edits resulting in much fewer errors. Once a district comes online, death certifications will be available from the county vital statistics offices. With no paper to review, county offices will be able to concentrate their efforts on issuance and the tracking of safety papers.

Reaching this goal has been a collective effort by many, many people: from all of us at the state office, the EDRS workgroup, our support team in Tallahassee, the county offices, the list goes on. What is evident is that with this dedicated effort, we expect to have one of the best systems in the country.

**Spotlight on... St. Lucie County, Jewel of the Treasure Coast**

Deputy Registrar Traci Fox,

EDR Birth Registrars

When you are creating a birth record and the mother and/or father’s place of birth is Canada, remember you must enter a province. The only exception to override this edit is when the mother has been discharged and the information you have collected is incomplete on the worksheet. Be sure; the parents will know the province where they were born.

**Changes in Latitude**

Current Registration/Quality Assurance would like to announce that Ana Good has been selected as the new Quality Assurance Manager.

Ana has extensive management and supervisory background; she is well acquainted with both EBRS and EDRS. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with Ana in this new capacity.

**Putative Father Registry**

The state office recently implemented an on-line application process for attorneys in Florida to submit their request for a search of the Putative Father Registry, which is a statutory requirement before an adoption is finalized.

This link is available on our website as well as links to download forms and applications for the Putative Father Registry. If you have any questions, please call (904) 359-6900 ext. 1086, or 1068.

You can now find Florida Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics quicker and easier, at http://www.floridahealthstatisticsonline.com

Desire is the key to motivation, but it’s determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal – a commitment to excellence – that will enable you to attain the success you seek. ~ Mario Andretti

**Escrino, Florida**

** BITS ‘n PIECES**

**Coming Soon... Mark Your Calendars**

ATTENTION: States located in the NAPHSIS southern region

October 20 – 21, 2011
Jacksonville, Florida

Hosted by Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics

For more information, contact:
Cindy Russ, [904] 359-6900 x1136 or cindy_russ@doh.state.fl.us