

EBRS Data Quality

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!

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

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 the Roman Catholic Saint Lucia. On July 1, 1905, St. Lucie County was established with Fort Pierce serving as its county seat. The town was previously part of Brevard 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 Cruso. 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 please 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!

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 paper.

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.

Welcome Aboard

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

Local Registrar
Sanford Zelnick, DO Sumter County

County Deputy Registrar
Darlene Ginrich Lake County
Lamont Riddick Orange County
Margie Weaver Seminole County
Diane Lima Wakulla County

Vital Statistics 2011 Self-Assessment Tool

The annual Self Assessment Tool (SAT) was recently completed by all 67 counties. The SAT was developed to assist the local Vital Statistics' office in ongoing process improvement activities. After completing sections required by the Chief Deputy Registrar (CDR) via SharePoint, the Business Manager and Local Registrar, also complete, sign and date their assigned sections.

There were a few changes made to the 2011 SAT. This year's SAT was modified to include monitoring of county Vital Statistics satellite offices. A couple of questions were added to the fiscal activity page as a result of a DOH Revenue Management Cash Handling policy. This policy provided new guidelines for handling cash within the state office and the county Vital Statistics' offices. Another item added to the current SAT, was the submission of a delete form for any employee that no longer worked in vitals. The new criteria were

developed to keep all Vital Statistics offices in compliance with existing DOH policies.

Due to the fiscal nature of some of the vitals' activity and the accompanying security issues, the Business Manager is charged with the responsibility of monitoring select items/tasks listed in the SAT. The Business Manager is to perform quarterly reviews of their county Vital Statistics' office throughout the year to ensure adherence to established guidelines and to monitor fiscal responsibilities.

By the time this article is published, all 67 county offices will have finished the SAT. However, Ms. Eleanor Duval from Leon County deserves a special recognition as the first CDR to complete her 2011 SAT without any discrepancies being noted. Thanks to everyone for their diligent and timely responses.

BITS 'n PIECES

EBR 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 Goid 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.floridavitalstatistics.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

Coming Soon... Mark Your Calendars

ATTENTION: States located in the NAPHSIS southern region
Southern Region NAPHSIS Meeting
October 20 – 21, 2011
Jacksonville, Florida
Hosted by Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics

For more information, contact:
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