EBR UPDATE

The Electronic Birth Registration (EBR) System pilot is going smoothly. We are in our second facility, Baptist Medical Center-Downtown Jacksonville, and are expecting to be active in several more by the end of the second quarter.

We have filed over 900 birth records for 2007 via the electronic system. Several reports have been developed for both hospital and CDR use. More reports will be added as we move along in the process.

Hospitals

Brookins Communications, Inc. has updated their Birthtype software to include edits, increasing the accuracy and completion of birth certificate forms. The updated system should help reduce the number of unacceptable and returned records to the hospital by the local vital statistics office.

The updated system will still print the hardcopy birth certificates which will be forwarded to the county office of Vital Statistics. Any questions regarding this process, please contact Jim Ballard at (904) 359-6951.

CDRAC Update

CDRAC Welcomes It’s Newest Member:
Gloria Norfleet-Robinson

Gloria Norfleet-Robinson, Orange County Chief Deputy Registrar, was elected as the newest member of the Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee. Gloria replaces departing member, Doris Owens, Broward County CDR, who leaves after serving countless years as an original member of the CDRAC. Thank you Doris for your many years of service.

CDRAC will hold a meet in Jacksonville on March 28th and 29th. The agenda will consist of training on the Electronic Birth Registration (EBR) system, and the role of the CDR.

CDRAC and Current Registration are now currently testing a new email method of reconciling transmittals. The new method provides instant feedback of a shipments arrival, instead of the current weekly batch mail system. Discussions on how the testing is going will be held with CDRAC at their March meeting in Jacksonville.

During the February CDRAC conference call, Gloria gave a report on how she established the satellite vital statistics office in Winter Park Hospital in Orange County. This gave members a blue print on how to approach a project such as this for their counties.

MEET ’N GREET

With this issue we would like to introduce you to our Birth Registration staff. These terrific employees are part of the Current Registration Unit. Paula Mundy is the Health Services Manager, Arlene Presley and Chris Mays are the Records Specialist. The Record Technicians are Nona Braud, Barbara Robey, Mimi Ellenwood, Yvonne Whitfield, and Sandy Holloway, plus Lucille Battle their OPS staff member.

This staff continues the diligent work of the doctors, hospital staff, midwives, and local vital statistics staff ensuring future generations are secure in their identity, and that the correct statistics are gathered for planning and evaluating the future. There are 9,000 births processed bi-weekly. For 2006, they processed a total of 237,540 birth records, which 153 were submitted during the initial pilot of the new Electronic Birth Registration system.
The following appointments have been made to the position of Local Registrar:

- Mark Chittam, Okeechobee CHD
- David R. Johnson, M.D., Pasco CHD

ONLINE INTERACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Well, CDRs and customers have asked for it and now they’re here! The online state applications are becoming interactive!

Customers may now complete the English version of the application for:
- Birth, Death, Birth Resulting in Stillbirth
- Marriage, Divorce and Commemorative Marriage and Birth

No more printing out the applications and completing them by hand. The county office and state office staff will be able to clearly read each application. No more guess work, no more reading hieroglyphics, no more eye strain!

The interactive applications for the other languages will be converted once all of the English versions have been completed.

FACILITY NAME CHANGE

As we are well aware, things change over time, including the names of facilities (i.e. hospitals, hospice centers, nursing homes, etc.). These facilities are reminded that when they have a name change to please notify in writing, the local county vital statistics office and the local funeral directors.

When a name change occurs, everyone counts on each facility to make all parties concerned aware of this change. The funeral directors can also help themselves by inquiring as to the current name of the facility when removing a body. If there is a name change, they should notify the local chief deputy registrar, who will follow-up with the facility for an official notification.

The state office received an email from an unmarried mother with a concern about information she was provided relating to giving her newborn the father’s last name (surname). To add to this situation, the father was out of town at the time of delivery and unable to sign the paternity affidavit. While this scenario may be “old hat” for most CDRs, and the answer quite obvious, there are still a few CDRs who are not clear on how to correctly address this type of situation. The customer was incorrectly informed that the unmarried father had to sign the paternity affidavit and have his name on the birth certificate before the mother could give the child his surname.

Just so everyone is on the same page, pursuant to s. 382.013 (3), F.S., there is no restriction on naming a child. The mother may name her child any name she chooses. If the unmarried mother chooses to give the child the father’s last name, she may do so. The child’s name has no bearing on paternity. Establishing paternity and giving a surname to a child are “apples” and “oranges” - two different things.

Please ensure that CDRs and deputy registrars are providing correct and accurate information when presented with this question. If unsure, please check the aforementioned statutory reference or the Vital Records Registration Handbook, Chapter 3, Child’s Name.

If a father would like to add his name to the birth certificate, he may do so by completing a Paternity Acknowledgment form to amend the birth record. This form is available at any local vital statistics office or on our website at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html. There is a $20 fee for this amendment.

The revised Vital Records Registration Handbook & 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

Welcome Aboard

The following appointments have been made to the position of Local Registrar:

- Mark Chittam, Okeechobee CHD
- David R. Johnson, M.D., Pasco CHD
The following hospitals/birthing centers have maintained a compliance rate of 95% or better for filing birth records on time for 2006. There were four facilities that maintained a PERFECT compliance rate for three quarters. Sixty-five facilities achieved 95% - 99%, based on a facility having a minimum of two audited quarters. These facilities are to be congratulated on their outstanding performance.

100%
- Baptist Medical Center Nassau
- Community Hospital of Port St. Richey
- Monroe Regional Medical Center
- Pasco Regional Medical Center

95% - 99%
- 96 Medical Group
- Baptist Hospital of Pensacola
- Baptist Hospital of Miami
- Baptist Medical Center at the Beaches
- Baptist Medical Center at Jacksonville
- Bartow Regional Medical Center
- Bethesda Memorial Hospital
- Boca Raton Community Hospital
- Brandon Regional Hospital
- Cape Canaveral Hospital
- Cape Coral Hospital
- Capital Regional Medical Center
- Flagler Hospital
- Florida Hospital Altamonte
- Florida Hospital Celebration Health
- Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center
- Florida Hospital Zephyrhills
- Gulf Coast Hospital
- Gulf Coast Medical Center
- Halifax Medical Center
- Indian River Medical Center
- Jackson Hospital
- Jackson Hospital at Tallahassee Memorial
- Jackson Memorial Hospital
- Jackson South Community Hospital
- Jupiter Medical Center
- Lakeland Regional Medical Center
- Lakewood Ranch Medical Center
- Lawnwood Regional Medical Center
- Lower Keys Medical Center
- Martin Memorial Medical Center
- Manatee Memorial Hospital
- Mease Countryside Hospital
- Memorial Regional Hospital
- Memorial Hospital Jacksonville
- Memorial Hospital Miramar
- Memorial Hospital West
- Mercy Hospital
- North Collier Hospital
- Northwest Medical Center
- Orange Park Medical Center
- Orlando Regional Lucerne Hospital
- Orlando Regional Medical Center
- Osceola Regional Medical Center
- Palms West Hospital
- Parkway Regional Medical Center
- Peace River Regional Medical Center
- Plantation General Hospital
- Regency Medical Center
- Santa Rosa Medical Center
- Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center
- Shands at Lake Shore
- Shands Jacksonville Medical Center
- South Seminole Hospital
- Spring Hill Regional Hospital
- St. Luke’s Hospital
- St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital
- St. Vincent’s Medical Center
- Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare
- University Community Hospital
- US Naval Hospital at Pensacola
- US Naval Regional Medical Center at Jax
- Wellington Regional Medical Center
- West Florida Regional Medical Center
- Winnie Palmer Hospital
- Wuesthoff Memorial Hospital Rockledge

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.html
The list is updated quarterly & can be downloaded at any time. Be sure to verify with county should there be any additional fees.

IN MEMORIAM

The State Office of Vital Statistics has lost a valuable team member in Dave Sanford who died on Wednesday, February 7th, 2007. Dave had worked for vital statistics in the Administrative Services department as the Purchasing Agent for over 8 years and for the state over 16 years.

In addition to his many years of state service, Dave was also a retired Navy Chief with over 18 years of service, active and reserve. Dave will have a traditional Naval Burial-at-Sea. The traditional Navy blessing of “Fair winds and following seas” is prayed for in honor of Chief Dave Sanford. He will be missed.

Upcoming Events

March
28th-29th — CDRAC Meeting in Jacksonville

April
6th—Good Friday
25th—Admin Professional Day

May
13th—Mother’s Day
28th—Memorial Day

BITS ’N PIECES

- The Death Search rollout is planned for March.
- The Low Birth Weight Babies cover letter is working GREAT!
- The state office is now issuing certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. See our website below for further details.

The statistical tables, & past issues of the Vital News, are found on the department’s website at the following address:
Please mail change of address to:

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT
P.O. BOX 210
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  32231-0042

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