Electronics Birth Registration (EBR)

Electronic Birth Registration has been installed in the second largest birthing facility in Florida, St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital in Tampa.

Jana Duffy, EBR Project lead, and Chris Mays, QA Field Representative and EBR expert, spent their time working with hospital staff to ensure the transition from the paper world to an electronic one would be a smooth one. They worked with the Healthy Start Coordinator and Coalition to ensure their process would continue to run efficiently. Luz Perez, Chief Deputy Registrar, Hillsborough County Health Department, was part of the training, working with Jana, Chris, and hospital staff on the Reconciliation Report and offering assurance that the county office would still be there for the hospital and state office staff. What a success story!!!

Electronic Death Registration (EDRS)

The state office continues with the development of the Electronic Death Registration System. EDRS test scripts have been written and equipment has been received and is awaiting installation by DOH IT staff in Tallahassee. Actual testing of the software should begin in the fall.

As we move forward with EDRS we will provide updates.

Vital News available in electronic format

Vital News subscribers who would like to receive their copy electronically should email Sharon Dover at: sharon_dover@doh.state.fl.us

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MEET ‘N GREET

The Micrographics Unit is under the direction of Kathy Stephens, Operation Services Manager. The day to day duties are under the supervision of Darlene Newmans and is comprised of Margary Johnson; Martha Shuman, OPS; Barbara Williams, OPS; and Michael Brown, Experienced Works.

The unit is responsible for the inspection and verification of all microfilm produced by our contract vendor. The frame by frame verification and inspection of each image ensures the microfilm image can be reproduced for certification purposes with the same clarity as the original paper document. The unit ensures one role of silver microfilm is sent to our designated off-sight storage facility, one roll of diazo film is sent to the Search Unit to produce certifications, and a second silver roll is maintained on sight in the event a replacement diazo is needed. They void out original records on our diazo film when replacement records are filed.

Staff assigned in this unit are also responsible for conducting a page by page countdown when records are being sent to the binders for permanent binding and verify that all records are in the correct order when returned from binders.

Their hard work and dedication in seeing that good copies can be made and are always available is most appreciated!
The saying, “what goes around comes around” is a cliché that can oftentimes be applied to government office names. Effective July 1, 2008 the Office of Vital Statistics became known as the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Over the years, the office has undergone many reorganizations, a common phenomenon in government when trying to realign and streamline services. For many years, under the State Board of Health, the office was known as the Bureau of Vital Statistics. With reorganization in the late 1960s, the State Board of Health became the Division of Health, and at that time, the bureau became the Office of Vital Statistics. The office maintained that name through the next reorganization in the late 1970s, which brings us up to date.

To be more in keeping with the current structure of the department and to be more consistent with the general organization of the department, “bureau” was felt to better reflect who we are. Our role and mission has not changed, however, and to coin another cliché, “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet”!

$ Cost of Doing Business $

Funeral directing does not limit itself to home county business; customers come from all over. With that can come “travel time” for delivering death certificates to and from doctor’s offices, and to and from county health departments. With the increasing cost of fuel, the need to be sure records are prepared correctly the first time becomes even more important. Preparing accurate and complete death certificates also reduces the cost of amendments, which offers better service to the family, and it’s just plain good business!

It’s a good idea for the funeral director to call the county office to find out if they offer “while you wait” service before traveling to the office and learning the record will not be available until the following day. County vitals staff are charged with reviewing the death record for accuracy and, depending on the structure of the office, same day service may not be possible.

Newest Member of QA Team

Quality Assurance welcomes its newest member, Cindy Russ. Cindy joins the team as no stranger to vitals; she has been in the Amendments Unit for about six years and its supervisor for the past three years. She brings systems experience from her years with Winn Dixie. We’re excited to have Cindy working with us and she will be concentrating her efforts on EBR implementation. Jana and Chris certainly welcome her assistance!

Welcome Aboard

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

Local Registrar:
Frank Kruppa .............. Okeechobee

Chief Deputy Registrar:
Jeanna Kelly .................. Jefferson
Gail Whitt ..................... Sarasota

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
Past issues of the Vital News can be found on the department’s website at the following address:
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