CHRIS Turns 30

This year CHRIS celebrates its 30th anniversary! A brief history of how we came to be and how we have changed over the years is provided below.

In 1983, there was a huge waiting list in Dade County of children waiting to receive services. Dr. Keith Scott and Dr. Richard Urbano decided to create a tracking system to be used at FDLRS South, the first iteration of a child registry system in Florida.

Dr. Keith Scott   Dr. Richard Urbano

In 1986, the Handicap Prevention Act mandates the establishment of local registries for all FDLRS centers throughout Florida. At this point, many FDLRS centers create their own in-house systems. While many others join together creating a "digital Tower of Babel".

This prompted a wave of consolidation in 1990. A decision was made to have two systems that would track all of the FDLRS centers, located and maintained at the University of Miami. One system for five centers and another system for the remaining 13 centers. Anne Hymowitz Garber also joins the CHRIS team in 1990.

In 1991, a final wave of consolidation brings all FDLRS centers together under one database system. The desktop version of CHRIS is born using Informix.

Anne Hymowitz Garber

The 1991 version of the CHRIS Demographic screen

The 1994 version of the CHRIS Tracking screen

In 1995, our software engineer and eventual Program Manager, Olga Camacho arrives.

In 1997 we switch to a FileMaker Pro 3 platform. The back-end of CHRIS still uses FileMaker Pro, although it is up to version 19 now.

At this point in CHRIS history, each FDLRS site maintained its own copy of the CHRIS database. At one time there were 37 separate databases throughout the state of Florida. Each site had to maintain their copy with rudimentary, remote assistance from the CHRIS Help Desk. At the end of each quarter, FDLRS sites would mail a copy of their CHRIS database to the Help Desk where it would be painstakingly combined into a master database used to run statewide reports.

In 1999, Dr. Shihfen Tu becomes the CHRIS Project Director.

In 2001 Aimee Astte Echeverri joins the CHRIS Team. Development of CHRIS *Plus* is underway.

Aimee Astte Echeverri

in 2001, Dr. Christine Delgado becomes the new CHRIS Project Director.

Dr. Christine Delgado

In 2004, Cory Beermann arrives. This year also sees a seismic shift occur. All separate CHRIS databases are consolidated at the University of Miami to be accessed using Citrix via the World Wide Web. A permanent, live, state-wide database is born, CHRIS *Plus*.

CHRIS Team in 2005
(Cory, Olga, Aimee, Christine)

In 2008, a new version of CHRIS is released, CHRIS Gold. It includes redesigned reporting features, better graphical user interface and many more improvements. This version was improved continuously until 2021.

2020 was the year when COVID forced a new normal upon us all. During this time of tremendous upheaval, Olga tirelessly worked with a software engineering firm to create the first version of CHRIS to exist in the cloud.

After months of sleepless nights and endless Zoom based design meetings, at the end of June, 2021, Citrix was turned off for the final time, and Olga converted CHRIS Gold from its brick and mortar home in our server room at the University of Miami, into the web-based version of CHRIS that now lives in the cloud. CHRIS can now be used on any device that can access the internet.

The CHRIS Help Desk would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all our users and especially the TAWG (Technical Assistance Work Group) members who, throughout the last 30 years, have provided input, guidance, support and made CHRIS into what it is today. We look forward to improving with you for many years to come.

Happy Holidays!