CHILDREN'S REGISTRY & INFORMATION SYSTEM
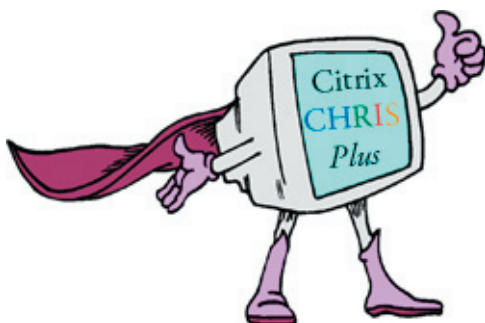
C·H·R·I·S

COMMENTS

New Master Database!
Aimee A. Echeverri

The CHRIS Statewide Master Database is officially here! We are excited to annouce that all 36 Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS) sites have been converted to the latest version of our program, Citrix CHRIS *Plus*. The process of converting site data began earlier this year in March and ended in October. The conversion process consisted of: 1) installing and setting up the Citrix client software on each computer that would be accessing CHRIS, 2) merging all site data into one large database, and 3) conducting online training for data facilitators and users on how to utilize new functions in CHRIS.

Localized Maintanance
Citrix CHRIS *Plus* enables the Help Desk to centrally manage site data and server operations. As such, data facilitators can now focus on more important issues like the quality and quantity of their CHRIS data. The Help Desk will now oversee the following tasks:

- Server access
- Nightly update
- Data backup
- Program and server operating system upgrades
- Server hardware upgrades
- User account and session management
- Records deletion
- Report generation (including Allsites and aggregate reports)

No More Down Time
An off-site data backup system is in the process of being established at the Polk County Schools technology building. This backup system will provide a secure backup copy of the CHRIS statewide master database that can be accessed by authorized users when the main site in Miami is down. In response to an extended power outage or hurricane warning, access to CHRIS will be transferred to this backup system providing virtually uninterrupted access to users throughout the State. The Polk County Schools technology building currently provides secure storage for public school records for the Florida Department of Education and, as such, represents an ideal location for the CHRIS database backup. *Thank you to Polk County Schools for your collaboration and continued assistance in establishing this system.*

After six months of stressful days and sleepless nights, our Project Manager/Programmer, Olga Camacho was able to produce the first *live* CHRIS Master Database. *Thank you Olga, the rest of the CHRIS Team, and all the CHRIS users for all your hard work and patience.*

Citrix
CHRIS
Plus

CHRIS Points Program

Aimee A. Echeverri

The CHRIS Points Program was created to heighten awareness of CHRIS and to encourage users to provide feedback about the program. All users are welcome to participate and new users are immediately registered in the program. In return for their involvement, sites and users who earn the most CHRIS points are recognized in the CHRIS Comments Newsletter. Top points activities this past year included: attending and completing training, returning site documentation, returning backup materials, and providing complete labs for training. Thank you to all those who participated.

Top Site Winners
- FDLRS/Sunrise Associate Center, Polk County
- FDLRS/Suncoast Associate Center, Manatee County
- FDLRS/East Associate Center, Brevard County
- FDLRS/Suncoast Associate Center, Charlotte County

Top Individual Winners
- Lisa Sears
  FDLRS/Hillsborough Associate Center
- Kathy Werner
  FDLRS/Hillsborough Associate Center
- Virginia Kantro
  FDLRS/Gateway Associate Center
- Martha Cromwell
  FDLRS/Springs Associate Center

Need to Install the Citrix Client?

Aimee A. Echeverri

Please visit our new Citrix Support web page at www.chris.miami.edu/technical_support/citrix.htm to view installation instructions and configuration requirements for the Citrix client. Any CHRIS user (or the CHRIS Data Facilitator) who has experience downloading software can follow the steps documented in the Citrix Install and Setup Guide. If additional assistance is required, please contact the Help Desk.

Screening Final Result (SFR) and Referral for Evaluation (RE) Comparison for the 2002/2003, 2003/2004, and 2004/2005 Academic Years

Christine F. Delgado, Ph.D. and Olga Camacho

Screening Final Result (SFR) counts were based on the number of records with an F (fail) or an A (at-risk) in the Screening Final Result field and a value in the Screening Final Result Date field. Referral for Evaluation (RE) counts were based on the number of records with a value in the Referral for Evaluation Date field. Using the SFR and RE date fields, results were grouped by academic year (July 1 through June 30) for the years indicated.
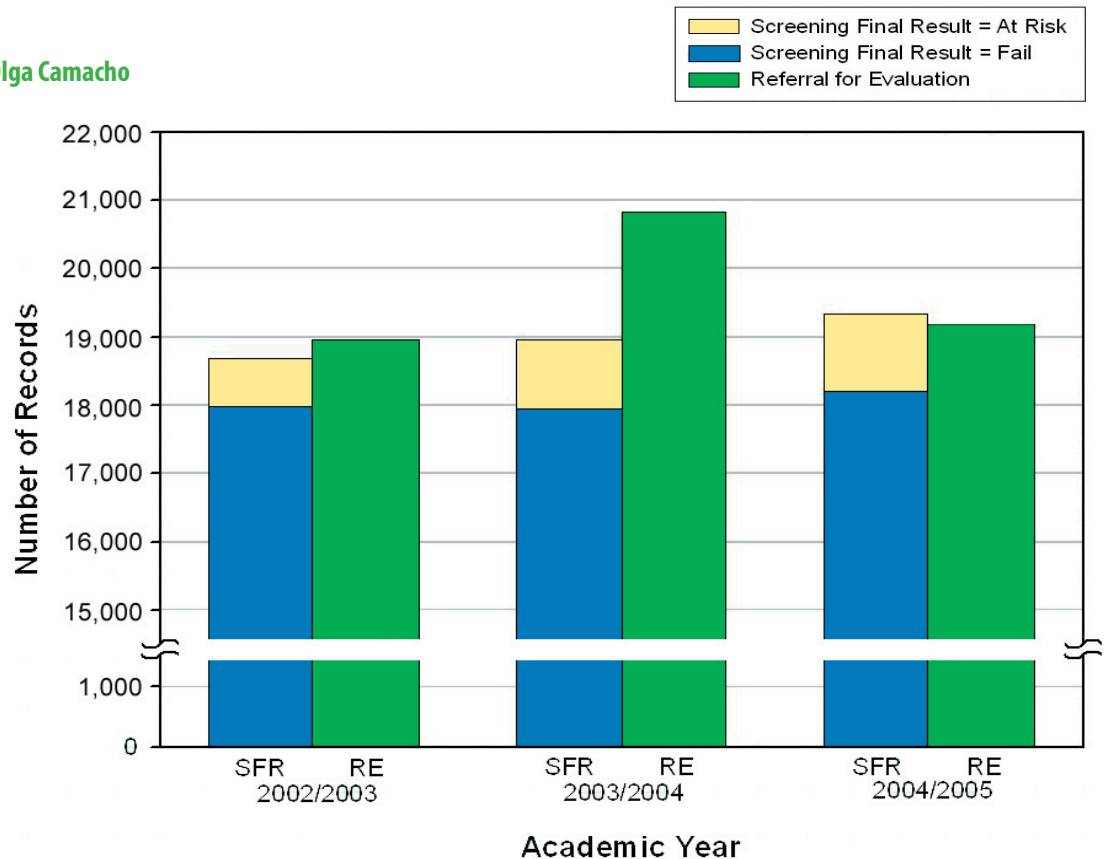
Note: Data for the 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 academic years were based on timelines created for conversion to CHRIS Plus. Converted timeline data may not be an accurate reflection of data entered directly into CHRIS Plus. 2004/2005 will be used as the baseline for all future timeline event reports.

Statewide Reports

The implementation of Citrix CHRIS *Plus* has greatly enhanced reporting capabilities. Reports using statewide data can be run on the live master database at anytime, providing immediate, up-to-date reports. The figure above illustrates one of the statewide reports that can be run in Citrix CHRIS *Plus*.

CHRIS Research Published

A research study examining the early risk factors for speech and language impairments was published in a recent issue of the journal *Exceptionality*. This study utilized integrated data from both the CHRIS and State of Florida birth certificate records databases. Results indicated that factors such as multiple birth, presence of a newborn condition, presence of a congenital abnormality, maternal age older than 35 years, and presence of a maternal medical history factor were consistently associated with speech and/or language impairments in preschool-aged children. Differences in the factors that place children at increased risk for speech versus language impairment were also identified. Most notably, prematurity and low birth weight increased risk for language but not speech impairment. The full article can be accessed from the CHRIS website www.chris.miami.edu – Publications - Research.

NEWS BRIEFS

New CHRIS Staff Member
Callie Tomasso

Hi Everyone! My name is Callie Tomasso and I am a sophomore student at the University of Miami where I plan to major in Business Administration. I have been hired by the CHRIS Project as a work-study assistant and will be involved in such tasks as inputting data, organizing mail outs, and preparing manuals for training sessions. From time to time you may catch me on the phone at the CHRIS Help Desk. While I have had experience in office and database work, this

will be my first time working for a program like CHRIS. I look forward to learning more about the CHRIS Project throughout the year and hope to be a helpful addition to the CHRIS team.

Web Update

• A Quick Links button was added to the home page to navigate to popular web pages.
• The TAWG web page was added to the main menu and updated to include new board members and information from recent meetings.

Remember to check the CHRIS Web site for the latest information on upcoming trainings, meetings, program changes, and more.

ANNOUCEMENTS

Upcoming CHRIS Training
If you would like to attend one of our scheduled trainings, please send an e-mail to Cory Beermann at cory@miami.edu or visit the Training web page at www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm for more information.

New User Training
November 18th, 2005
FDLRS/Island Coast Associate Center, Lee County

December 7th, 2005
FDLRS/NEFEC Associate Center

Data Facilitator Training
December 2nd, 2005
FDLRS/Gulfcoast Associate Center, Pinellas County

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences
The TAWG Advisory Board Meeting will be held on December 8 - 9, 2005 at the Embassy Suites Orlando Airport Hotel. Visit the TAWG web page at www.chris.miami.edu/tawg/meetingschedule.htm for more information.

Share a CHRIS story and earn CHRIS Points!
Do you have an interesting CHRIS story that you would like to share with everyone? If so, please email Aimee Echeverri at aimee@miami.edu.

Do you want to be on the CHRIS mailing list?
If you are interested in receiving a copy of the CHRIS Comments Newsletter via email, send us your email address at chris.um@miami.edu. Newsletters are distributed in Adobe PDF format and can be downloaded and saved on your local computer. If you cannot open PDF files, go to www.adobe.com and download a copy of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader today!