



C O M M E N T S

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## *The Changing Face of Child Find*

by Rachael Spanjer

As the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Child Find services enters its third decade, new questions have arisen regarding the role of the FDLRS Child Find in working with the Early Intervention Regional Policy Councils (RPCs), the local school readiness coalitions, and other interagency councils. We now face new and emerging issues regarding transition, tracking inclusive childcare, screening and evaluation of subsidized childcare recipients, reporting private school referrals, and implementing school readiness simplified point of entry initiatives. As a result, new issues that have surfaced for CHRIS users need to be addressed.

Computer technology has advanced tremendously since CHRIS was first introduced. With the release of

FileMaker 5.0, options and flexibility that were impossible to implement back then, are now feasible. FileMaker 5.0 offers expanded opportunities for making CHRIS a better and more flexible service coordination and data management system. We feel now is the perfect time to review and evaluate the current CHRIS system with the objective of streamlining and refining the way it works.



At this time, the CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) would like to gather information from CHRIS users to assist us in decision making for the future. Many users have responded to prior requests for input, and now a special opportunity is being offered to all CHRIS users. You will shortly be receiving the first part in a series of questionnaires,

CHRIS Survey 2000, created to gather input on the design of the next version of CHRIS. Once all of the input has been gathered we will have a statewide meeting to build consensus on the issues. The projected timeline for the meeting is during the month of September 2000. If you have preferences in setting the date of the meeting please inform us ASAP. In addition, Child Find specialists, who are interested in participating in this process, should begin now to gather input from other users of CHRIS information in their area, including secretaries, other FDLRS staff, parents, exceptional student education staff, school administrators, and agency staff. The goal is to gather as much useful information as possible about how CHRIS is currently being used and what features or changes could be made for the program to be more useful.

If you are away during the summer months and have an interest in providing us with your suggestions, please contact the CHRIS Help Desk with a summer address (regular and E-mail) where you can be reached.

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# Ask Martha

Dear Martha,  
One of the Predetermined Activities for the Child Find Function for the school year 2000-2001 is the assistance to districts in the transition process for children leaving the Part C program and entering the School system's Part B program. We are to develop collaborative procedures with providers of birth to three services which will promote adequate notice to the school system of upcoming transition planning meetings. How will this be addressed in CHRIS?

from,  
"Want to do it right"

Dear Do it Right,  
The CHRIS program is ever changing and developing to meet the needs of Child Find Specialists throughout the State and to continue to be a tool that is invaluable in helping us to do our jobs. With this in mind, the following items have been added to assist us in tracking Transition Meetings and Transition Plans. In the *APPOINTMENT EVENT*, Transition has been added to assist in keeping track of transition plan meetings. In the *SERVICE PLAN EVENT*, Transition Plan has been added in the Plan Type field, in order for us to be able to track the plans that are developed as a result of the Transition Plan Meeting.

This is just one more example of how the CHRIS Team works diligently to keep up with the changing role of Child Find, and to maintain the CHRIS Tracking System, so that it is an invaluable tool for FDLRS now and into the future.

Keep tracking, Martha



Dear Martha,  
I am a FDLRS Child Find specialist. Can I get master inservice points (MIP) for CHRIS Training?

from,  
"Want the most from CHRIS Training"

Dear Most,  
One of the many benefits of any CHRIS Training is the opportunity to gain Master Inservice Points (MIP). MIP is used toward renewal of Teaching Certificates. In most districts, if the proper forms are completed and permission is granted prior to attending a CHRIS Training, points can be awarded for the hours that are spent in CHRIS Training. If the district requires follow-up, this can be arranged with the CHRIS Program office. Additionally, some form of documentation of attendance is usually required after completion of the training. Specific information can be obtained from your local Teacher Certification office. Please don't forget this valuable benefit when planning to attend a CHRIS Training.

Keep training, Martha

*Martha Cromwell is a Child Find specialist at FDLRS Springs in Reddick Florida. She is an executive board member of the CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group since 1995. If you have any questions about Child Find in relation to working with CHRIS, contact Martha at 1-800-533-0326 or email at comwell\_m1@firn.edu*



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# CHRIS Training On the Road Again....

Three centers hosted CHRIS training in March: FDLRS Miccosukee in Tallahassee, FDLRS Gulfcoast in Clearwater, and FDLRS Alpha in West Palm Beach. Each center hosted two sessions entitled New User Training and DBA Training. We would like to thank the center managers, DBAs, and staff that assisted in coordinating these successful sessions.



## CHRIS Shirts

Many of you have asked how you could order a CHRIS shirt, well now is your chance to get one of your own. If there is an adequate number of you interested, we will place an order. Please let Maria know by email [mmora@miami.edu](mailto:mmora@miami.edu) or call her at 1-800-231-5747.



## *TRAINING BY REQUEST*

Yes! We now offer Training by Request (combined past training options). Sessions can be set up three ways:

- 1) Host a session at your center.
- 2) Request a session at the University of Miami CHRIS site.
- 3) On-line Report Training Session.

Please notify the CHRIS Help desk of new users and you will be informed of training opportunities as they arise.

For more information on training, contact the us or visit our web page: <http://www.chris.miami.edu>

## What is New on Our Web Page

<http://www.chris.miami.edu>

Stop by and visit some of our new links:  
[All Sites Report](#)  
[Training Updates](#)

# CHRIS Points!

*We have started a CHRIS Point system. CHRIS points will be awarded to individuals and FDLRS centers for participating in CHRIS activities. Here is how it works:*

***Points for individual:***

- *Attend and complete training sessions*
- *Answer and return questionnaires/surveys administered by the CHRIS Help Desk*

***Points for center:***

- *Inform us of changes in CHRIS users*
- *Maintain proper functions of CHRIS modem and phone line*
- *Schedule and complete upgrades in a timely manner*
- *Return quarterly back-up media on time*

*Individuals and centers that have accumulated a certain number of points will be recognized in CHRIS Comments, and qualify for special opportunities. We are looking for more ideas for this program. Send us your original idea, if we use it you will be awarded with CHRIS points. Please E-mail [annie@miami.edu](mailto:annie@miami.edu) with your ideas or suggestions.*



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