



CHRIS
Newsletter

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C O M M E N T S

ON THE ROAD TO A STATEWIDE AGGREGATED DATABASE

CHRIS has come a long way in the development of a single statewide aggregated database. Quarterly aggregates are created by importing all of the data from the individual local or regional databases into a single database from which data can be extracted for reporting statewide data. The process is time consuming and cumbersome, though, and does not provide the capability of dynamic, up-to-the-minute-reporting of statewide data. Data reports are, at the very best, based on data that is three months old.

Data driven decision-making and accountability continues to be a strategic imperative statewide. Creating aggregate data reports on a quarterly basis is not the most efficient way to facilitate the data reporting process.

The CHRIS project is exploring ways to develop a single database accessible by all of the individual local and regional sites currently using CHRIS. Many considerations have to be taken into account as we plan toward the development of the single database. Primary in the decision making process is the need to maintain the local case management functionality of the database. Local sites must be able to have customized data entry capability in creation of data entry drop-down lists, locally used reports, agency and provider lists, and other case management features currently available in the database.

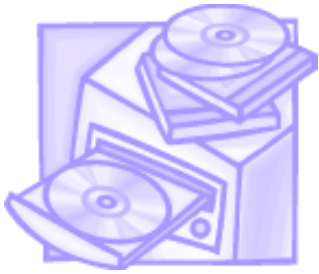
Equally vital, however, at the local level is the capability of accessing the database from multiple local sites. This issue has long been one of the weakest features in the system. Sites have been requesting for years the ability to access their CHRIS records from school sites, local provider agencies, home, or any other location where they may be working and need to have access to CHRIS. And, of course, confidentiality of information and controlled access to data are also essential considerations.

With the support of the Department of Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, the CHRIS project will be conducting a pilot project to test the capability of the CHRIS database to operate as a single database accessed through the internet. Depending on the outcome of the pilot, movement to a single database accessible from multiple local sites may soon become a reality. Stay tuned and hang on to your hats. True remote access to a single statewide database may finally be on its way.

-Rachael Spanjer

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ALL-SITES UPDATE

At the end of March 2002 we started the *All-Sites Program Upgrade*. It has been by far the most problem free upgrade yet. For the most part all centers were ready on the scheduled date with working modems, phone lines and computers. For those very few centers that still had some problems, please remember to check your equipment regularly so as to eliminate future stumbling blocks when the time comes for further upgrades. In fact, it is a good practice for all centers to check all CHRIS hardware and inform us of any problems as soon as they happen. If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call the Help Desk at 800-231-5747.

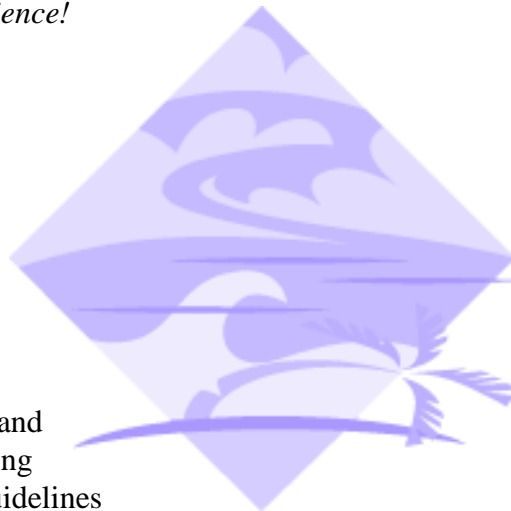
Thanks for a great upgrade experience!

STORM TIPS

Hurricane season starts June 1, 2002. Before the season begins, please be sure to check your UPS and verify that your backups are working properly. Here are a few simple guidelines to follow in case a major storm approaches:

- ~ Make at least two copies of your backup. One should be stored in a secure place at your center and the other should be taken to a secure, offsite location.
- ~ Turn off your PC. If you have a server, shut it down.
- ~ Unplug all computers, printers and modems.
- ~ Disconnect the modem from the phone line.
- ~ Label all computer cables before you disconnect them so you know exactly where to reconnect them.
- ~ Move all equipment away from windows and off the floor.
- ~ If you need help, please don't hesitate to call us when you get back and are ready to restart you computer.

The above are good tips to keep in mind in case of a severe lightning storm or continuous blackouts or brownouts as well. Your equipment is very susceptible to any type of electrical surge, irreparable damage could happen in an instant. Always remember, better safe than sorry!



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CHRIS Comments
Newsletter Schedule for 2001-2002
August, November, February, May

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SPRING 2002 CHRIS QUESTIONNAIRE



CHRIS QUESTIONS KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?

E-mail your CHRIS-related questions to Olga at Olga@miami.edu. Any original, legitimate questions will earn the sender one CHRIS point. If your question is published in an upcoming the CHRIS Comments newsletter, you will receive an additional CHRIS point.

A big thank you to all who participated in the CHRIS Questionnaire. We had a total of 31 responses. We are currently summarizing all the results and will be presenting them to the TAWG Advisory Board. We received good suggestions on adding fields, reorganizing fields, and adding flexibility to several of the screens, as well as other general comments and concerns. As you know we strive to make CHRIS as flexible as possible while meeting the needs of all our users. Stay tuned for more information on the new CHRIS.



WHAT IS *TAWG* ?

And why you should join...

TAWG is the CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group which receives input from CHRIS users and provides guidance to the CHRIS staff on an ongoing basis.

TAWG is comprised of two separate boards: TAWG Executive Board and TAWG Advisory Board. The TAWG Executive Board meets every other month. The TAWG Advisory Board joins the TAWG Executive Board for two meetings a year.

The purpose of the TAWG Advisory Board is to review decisions made by the TAWG Executive Board, to help determine the

future direction of the CHRIS project, and to provide other input as needed. Membership on the TAWG Advisory Board is open to ESE Administrators, FDLRS Center Managers, Child Find professionals, Child Find support personnel, and other agency representatives.

TAWG Advisory Board members serve a two-year term, and are asked to attend a total of five meetings. Please keep in mind the TAWG Advisory Board meets on a Thursday and Friday in May and November in Orlando, Tampa, or Miami.

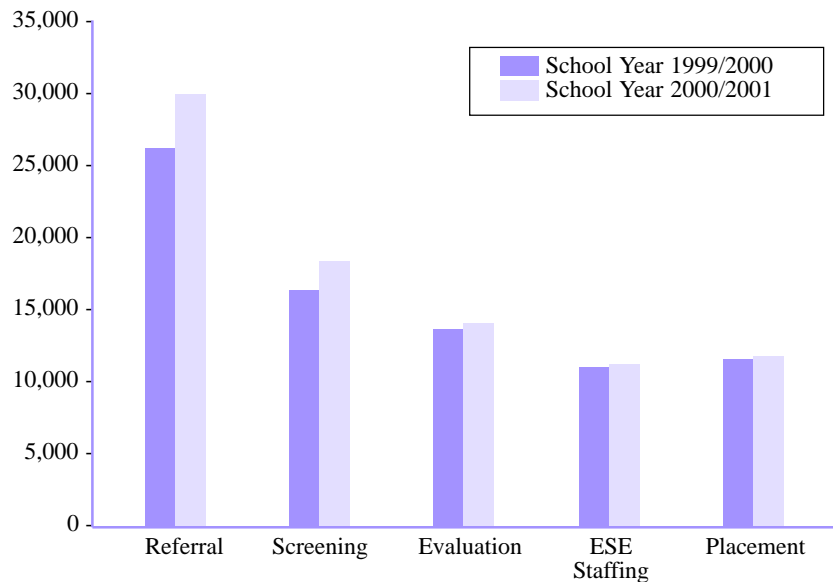
Application Period Extended

Due to popular demand we have extended this year's TAWG Advisory Board application deadline until August 30, 2002. If you think you would like to contribute more to CHRIS, apply to join TAWG now! Applications are available on the CHRIS website at www.chris.miami.edu/joinTAWG.htm

The TAWG Executive Board members will review the applications and select the new TAWG Advisory Board members. The new members will be notified in time to attend the November 2002 meeting.

All-Sites Summary 1999-2001

Data were obtained from the CHRIS Master Database created from the November 2001 quarterly backup of all 38 CHRIS sites. School year is defined as the period from July 1st to June 30th of the following year. These data reflect the increased efforts of Child Find personnel in locating, identifying, and placing children with disabilities.



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