



C O M M E N T S

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Timeline Changes

Olga Camacho & Christine Delgado

The timeline section of CHRIS contains information on key events in the eligibility determination process. Timeline data are used to produce reports at the site, center, and state level. For these reports to be meaningful, it is important that data entry practices be consistent throughout the state.

Recently, we requested information from users regarding the screening process at their sites. The information we received indicated that the screening process (especially the

referral component) can take many different forms. The Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) Advisory Board reviewed user feedback in order to determine how CHRIS could best accommodate this natural variability while still maintaining consistent data entry practices throughout the state.

The decision was made to base the days elapsed on the timeline for the Screening event on *Screening Final Result Date* rather than on *Referral for Screening Date*. Correspondingly, the days elapsed for the Evaluation and the ESE Eligibility events will be based on *Evaluation Completion Date* rather than on *Referral for Evaluation Date*. Event labels and summary fields on the timeline will be modified to reflect these changes. The fields used to determine the days elapsed on the timeline for the IEP/IFSP and End Timeline events will

not change (*IEP/IFSP Date* and *End Timeline Date*, respectively).

Both the *Referral for Screening Date* and *Referral for Evaluation Date* fields will remain available for use in their respective event detail screens; however, data entry into these fields will no longer be required.

The definitions for these fields were revised.

- *Referral for Screening Date* will be defined as “the date the center has gathered enough information to determine that a screening is appropriate.”
- *Referral for Evaluation Date* will be defined as “the date the formal referral for evaluation is made.”

These changes will be implemented in CHRIS on July 1, 2011.

Tracking Timeline Events				
Add	# of Timelines: 1	Time Elapsed: 106		
Event	Date	AN	Summary	Days
Transition				
Screening	02/20/08		2/20/2008,F	
Evaluation	03/14/08		, Education , Rec Review	23
ESE Eligibility	04/18/08			35
IEP/IFSP	05/01/08			13
End Timeline	06/05/08		Entered Kinderqarten	35

Fond Farewells

This summer, two CHRIS enthusiasts will be retiring. Dana Wilcox and Martha Cromwell have been involved with CHRIS since its inception in the early 1990s. As avid users of CHRIS and long-time members of the TAWG executive board, both Dana and Martha have significantly influenced the evolution of CHRIS over the last two decades. On behalf of all the CHRIS users, the CHRIS staff would like to thank them both for their tireless dedication. We wish them all the best in their retirement. Below, Martha and Dana describe their relationships with CHRIS.

Martha Cromwell

I always knew this day would come, but it does seem to have arrived much sooner than I anticipated. I will be retiring and leaving my FDLRS and CHRIS friends at the end of May 2011. I started with FDLRS in August of 1979 and after all of these years, I bet I could count on one hand the number of “bad” days I have had. I had no idea how much I was going to absolutely love what I do or that I would do it so gladly for 30+ years.

One of the greatest honors and joys I have had during my years at FDLRS is being a part of the CHRIS TAWG! I began with TAWG at its inception in 1994, but some of us were working on computer tracking systems even before that. I still have a copy of Dana Wilcox’s presentation “Data Management in Student Identification and Evaluation: Or How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Computer,” which was shared at the FDLRS Annual Statewide Sharing Best Practices Conference on May 26, 1983.

In 1987, Pre-Kindergarten Handicapped Information Sharing System (PKHISS), in essence a handicapped registry, was born. For those who don’t know, registry means that you put information in, but you don’t get any information out. After PKHISS came CHRIS, and in 1993 FDLRS/Springs participated in a CHRIS Pilot Project to answer the question: “Could CHRIS track all children birth to five and their families in need of supports and services to achieve desired developmental outcomes and provide relevant information for interagency planning and individualized service coordination?”

Well, the answer to that question was a resounding YES, and so the CHRIS TAWG was formed to make sure that happened. The CHRIS database is so outstanding because the ingenious developers of the database have actually sought input from the users of the database. That concept is one of the basic tenets of database development, but one that is so largely ignored by the state when it comes to developing databases. Usually it’s just “here it is, just use it and try to make the best of it”!! Not so with CHRIS.

The current CHRIS Gold is a culmination of years of work by the incredible, amazing CHRIS Team at the University of Miami. It is without a



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CHRIS Comments
Newsletter Schedule for 2011
February, May, August, November

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CHRIS NEWS

doubt one of the most, if not the most, useful tools that we Child Find Specialists have. Not a day goes by that we do not sing its praises. We can do everything with it, from answering questions about the status of an individual child's referral to providing aggregate data for ESE program planning. I can produce a map of our county, by zip code, showing the numbers of children who will potentially need services in the next school year so that the ESE Director can see where programs need to be added. I can provide information to a referral source about where a child is in the process, and I can produce an "Action Needed" report that tells me what I need to do next and when I need to do it for individual children. I can do all of this and so much more with CHRIS.

I had the pleasure of attending my last TAWG Advisory Board meeting on February 18, 2011, and it gave me such hope for the future of CHRIS. I really hate to leave it. I feel as though we have put "heart and soul" into it, kind of like raising a child, and now I have to let it go. But it is in great hands. Please use it and love it.

Dana Wilcox

In the late 1980s, I developed a simple Child Find database for our center, FDLRS/Alpha, in order to track the status of individual children, monitor the productivity of diagnostic teams and individual diagnosticians, and render statistics about outcomes

for various reporting requirements. Before I could present it at a statewide FDLRS "Sharing Best Practices" conference, the Department of Education initiated the process of developing PKHISS. After the limited success of this database, the University of Miami (UM) was selected to develop a Child Find database (CHRIS) based on the success of its groundbreaking pediatric information system developed by Dr. Keith Scott, a professor in the psychology department at UM.

Because of my work with Child Find data management locally, I was invited to participate with Child Find staff from other FDLRS Centers in the first statewide meeting to discuss the structure and capabilities of the new system. The first meeting, in 1990, led to subsequent meetings. A process of listening, designing, soliciting feedback, and refining both the structure and function of the emerging data system was begun.

More than 20 years later, though the faces have changed, the CHRIS Project at UM remains in place and committed to refining a Child Find data management system that has grown to be a critical tool in the everyday life of each FDLRS Center's Child Find operation. The CHRIS Project has listened and listened well, and the result has been both a tremendous product and a true partnership that I have been privileged to be a part of since its beginning, most recently as a member of the TAWG Advisory Committee and TAWG Executive Committee.



Dana Wilcox & Martha Cromwell

As I approach my retirement in July 2011, I know that I will always consider it my good fortune to have been able to contribute in some small way to the continuing evolution of the CHRIS database. I say this both from a professional and a personal standpoint. The support of the CHRIS Project's knowledgeable help staff has been unfailingly available and creative in crafting solutions to the many and varied data needs that have arisen within our district and FDLRS center. At the same time, it has been a personal pleasure for me to know and interact with the special individuals who comprise the CHRIS Project Team, from top to bottom.

So to Christine, Olga, Cory, and Bijan, and to my colleagues from around the state who also have been a part of this collective effort, I say a sincere "thank you" for allowing me to work with you on CHRIS, and for your support and friendship through the years. It has been a privilege. I know the work will go on, committed and skillful as ever.

Allsites Report Changes

Olga Camacho

The Allsites Report will be modified in order to reflect changes to the Timeline definitions and **Tracking Summary** screen. The following decisions were made at the TAWG Advisory Board Meeting held in February.

1. The number of years reported will be reduced to three.
2. A description of the Allsites Report, including a definition of the find criteria used, will

be displayed at the bottom of the page.

3. The record count for screening will be based solely on *Screening Final Result Date*.
4. The record count for evaluation will be based solely on *Evaluation Completion Date*.
5. Referral In will be added to the Workload Allsites Report.

All of the above changes will be implemented July 1, 2011,

to coincide with the new school year. If you have any questions and/or comments, please contact the help desk.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hurricane Season

Another season marked by lightning, tropical storms, and hurricanes is fast approaching. All CHRIS users should take the necessary precautions to protect their computer systems. Remember to back up your hard drive, secure your documents, and protect your equipment against any possible hazards.

CHRIS TAWG Meeting

The CHRIS Team would like to thank the TAWG Advisory Board for the great meeting that occurred in February. The meeting was very productive and resulted in many great updates to the CHRIS database.

CHRIS Trainings

To register for any CHRIS training session, send an e-mail to Cory Beermann at cory@miami.edu or visit the Training page at <http://www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm>.

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