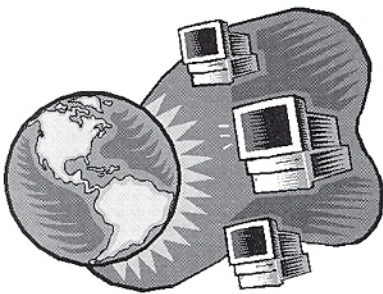


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**Come see
our website!**



[http://pediatrics.med.
miami.edu/crishome.htm](http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/crishome.htm)

CHRIS Cited as Key to Smoother Transitions

Recent Quality Assurance visits to Part C (formerly H) Early Intervention Programs encouraged the use of the Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS) database as a tool for implementing smoother transitions of children and families from one service or agency to another.

Reports from the QA visits specifically suggested that Early Intervention Program (EIP) service coordinators make referrals to Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Child Find for tracking purposes as soon as possible when a child enters their program after obtaining appropriate release. Likewise, FDLRS centers are being encouraged to help schools be prepared for young children entering the school system at age three by providing solid program planning data to the districts.



District boundaries are not the same for EIP's and FDLRS centers. Often a FDLRS center serves three or more EIP's, creating a serious service coordination and information sharing challenge for developing good program planning data. This year's round of QA visits revealed increased participation by both the EIP's and the FDLRS centers in the use of CHRIS as a tracking and service coordination tool.

Additional good news came from the FDLRS sites. According to site reports, the number of hands on users of CHRIS, measured by the number of accessible workstations at each site, has more than doubled in the past year, providing "at your fingertips" access for child find specialists to service coordination and planning information.

Technical Notes



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CHRIS Comments

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Splitting the Databases

The CHRIS registry database has been available at all FDLRS centers for the past eight years. Several centers that were part of early registry activities have collected information on children for the past 15 years. Although it would be nice to keep all the records available at any given time, the databases have grown so large that performance is affected by their size. Some FDLRS centers have databases with over 20,000 records. Many FDLRS centers have asked that a method be created to archive older records. The Technical Assistance Workgroup has authorized the creation and implementation of the "September" program to archive the older records.

What will be archived?

Two criteria will be used to select records for archiving.

1. A chronological age of seven or older on or before September 1, 1998
2. No new activity since September 1, 1997.

Will the archived data be available for use?

Yes! The archived data for each database will be placed on a CD. These data will be accessible for browsing from the CD using CHRIS software.

How will this help the user?

Running reports, queries, updates and backups should be much faster.

What if there is no inactive event recorded in a child's record but the child is seven or older by September 1st?

If there are children's records that are not inactive, but children are over seven and had no events since September 1, 1997 they will be archived because they are no longer in the CHRIS target population.

All Sites Report

The primary purpose of CHRIS is to maintain a registry of children with identified conditions or at risk for needing special education services during their school years. Below are the results of the All Sites Report run for all centers this year July 97-June 98. The data were collected in May-June 1998. Therefore, some of the numbers are

estimated. This year 24,264* children were registered in CHRIS bringing the total number of children referred to FDLRS during the last five years to 116,273*. Of the children referred, 17,137* were screened (5 year total 78,290). In addition, 6,534* children had identified conditions.

*Estimated

Referrals

YEAR	MONTH												TOTAL
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
'92-'93	1,261	1,988	1,990	2,049	1,564	1,011	2,003	1,982	2,343	2,196	1,974	1,339	21,700
'93-'94	1,354	1,908	1,977	2,056	1,844	1,283	2,080	1,763	2,314	1,804	2,145	1,611	22,139
'94-'95	1,323	2,000	2,012	2,050	1,655	1,113	2,517	2,243	2,281	2,227	2,355	1,530	23,306
'96-'97	1,485	2,093	2,352	2,409	1,918	1,377	2,407	2,392	2,291	2,280	2,339	1,521	24,864
'97-'98	1,471	2,069	2,484	2,443	1,597	1,444	2,193	2,335	2,236	2,225	2,283	1,484	24,264
TOTAL	6,894	10,058	10,815	11,007	8,578	6,228	11,200	10,715	11,465	10,732	11,096	7,485	116,273

Screenings

YEAR	MONTH												TOTAL
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
'92-'93	602	1,034	1,520	1,536	1,118	922	1,180	1,363	1,559	1,682	1,496	1,072	15,084
'93-'94	887	941	1,481	1,403	1,382	934	1,378	1,158	1,777	1,400	1,470	1,149	15,360
'94-'95	828	1,232	1,393	1,585	942	723	1,289	1,204	1,803	1,591	1,648	808	15,046
'96-'97	798	1,130	1,528	1,357	1,097	839	1,325	1,355	1,697	1,903	1,767	867	15,663
'97-'98	769	1,126	1,803	1,896	1,167	828	1,246	1,482	1,857	2,082	1,933	948	17,137
TOTAL	3,884	5,463	7,725	7,777	5,706	4,246	6,418	6,562	8,693	8,658	8,314	4,844	78,290

*Staying
Current . . .*

FileMaker

For the next two years all FDLRS CHRIS users will have the latest and greatest version of FileMaker Pro available. The CHRIS project purchased a total of 125, Windows 95 and Macintosh, "Transaction Subscription Upgrade" licenses. Users currently running a licensed copy of FileMaker will be able to upgrade to FileMaker 4.0 and get future FileMaker Upgrades for the next two years. When upgrades or service packages are released, the CHRIS project will distribute CDs with the updates to each FDLRS center. Up to 10 users per FDLRS Center will be given a maintenance licensing agreement. The maintenance agreement only covers licensed copies of FileMaker Pro.

CHRIS

We have reviewed all recent requests for changes to CHRIS and have scheduled two upgrades for the 98-99 project year. **Winter 99 Version 99.01:** This release will focus on expanding the flexibility of reporting. User request already approved by the Technical Assistance Workgroup will be included in this release. **Summer 99 Version 99.02:** This release will include Technical Assistance Workgroup approved modifications/additions to CHRIS which did not make the Version 99.01 and new modifications/additions approved by the Technical Assistance Workgroup prior to the cutoff date for Version 99.02 features. Send your suggestions/requests to the Technical Assistance Workgroup. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 1998. The minutes for the Technical Assistance Workgroup document issues discussed and decisions made by the group. The latest minutes can be accessed through our website at <http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/chris/TAWGMinutes.htm>.

Q&A Perspectives from the Sites

Question:

Is it really necessary to have the Agency field on the Find Events screen? It would be much more helpful to be able to query on the case manager instead. Why not add case manager to the screen?

Answer:

You're so right. And we have egg on our face. The Agency field that is in event find is totally useless, especially since most users don't even enter anything in that field. We've taken note of your desire to be able to query on the case manager and will add that capability to the screen in the next version upgrade.

Question:

The last CHRIS newsletter (Spring, 1998) said that the Inactive Reason *Service Initiated* will be phased out and replaced with *Receiving Service with Service Plan* and *Receiving Service without Service Plan*. It is my understanding that we are to be tracking children placed in ESE programs. Since a child cannot receive ESE services without a service plan, please clarify what type of services we are supposed to be tracking that don't involve a service plan.

Answer:

We're happy you asked this very good question. Many children who are tracked in the CHRIS system who do not qualify for ESE services or Part C services (which also require a service plan) are referred for other public services which have eligibility criteria but may not require a service plan. Those services are included in the Services Authorized list and include: Chapter 1, Children & Families, Children's Medical Services, Division of Blind Services, Even Start, First Start, Head Start, Healthy Start, K-3 non-ESE, Mental Health, Migrant, Public School PKEL, and Subsidized Child Care.



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