



CHRIS
NEWSLETTER

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C O M M E N T S

SERVICE COORDINATION: *THE NEXT LEVEL*

IDEA Reauthorization. Regional Policy Councils. OSEP Monitoring. Readiness Partnership Boards. Transition. Pre-K Evaluation and Assessment. K-20 Department of Education System. What are the implications of these all too familiar initiatives on the way we think about service coordination and preschool tracking systems in the world of *Child Find*? More screening referrals? Probably. Better coordination of information with other agencies and programs? Hopefully. Additional follow-up needed? Most assuredly.

The CHRIS Advisory Board and Technical Assistance Work Group have worked very hard over the last several months to ensure that the redesign of the CHRIS software program will provide improved means within the data system to make the gathering and use of service coordination information easier and more effective.

The redesigned CHRIS software program will have a transition event where all of the important required transition activities can be

documented and made available for not only service planning but also program monitoring. Another feature of the system will be increased flexibility in the way local users choose to record service history and contact information.



In addition, the redesigned CHRIS software will provide better definition of the sequence of events and timelines as children move from referral for services to determination of eligibility for services under IDEA, Part B. This information will help identify systemic weaknesses that result in gaps in services to children. New features will encourage the use of action needed reminders so

children who are receiving services and have a temporary inactive service coordination status will not be overlooked when they reach a new milestone. Additional service coordination will be provided for such activities as transition from Part C to Part B programs or from pre-kindergarten to kindergarten programs.

A review of current records in CHRIS reveals there are still many districts where there is an obvious lack of information on the number of potentially eligible children with disabilities under age three in the system (see related table on page 4). The redesigned CHRIS software program will make the documentation of service coordination easier and the reliability of planning information better.

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Last Chance for CHRIS Points

On October 1, 2002 we will tally the individual and site CHRIS Points for the past year. Prizes will then be awarded to the individuals and sites with the most points. If you would like to earn more CHRIS Points before the deadline, several options are provided below.



<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Return of Quarterly Backup Media - On Time	2
Return of Site Information Documentation	1
Schedule and Complete Online Training	2
Submit a CHRIS Slogan*	1
Submit CHRIS Questions for Olga*	1
Submit CHRISStories*	1
Newsletter Bonus Point	1

*Only original, legitimate submissions will earn points. Submissions published in the next newsletter will receive a bonus point. Please E-mail submissions to chris.um@miami.edu before October 1, 2002.



A CHRISStory From Mary Lou Kelly

A child was referred to us by Head Start for further evaluation. On the phone and during home visits the mother wanted to pursue evaluation, however follow-through was a problem.

Head Start called and needed any documentation that I had regarding attempts to complete the evaluations. There were 23 entries on CHRIS regarding the various contacts with this mother. I faxed this information to Head Start for their audit. It was really amazing to me the number of contacts made with this family. CHRIS is truly a great way to document.

We would like to thank Mary Lou Kelly from FDLRS Westgate for her story. She received two CHRIS Points for her submission.

Update Your E-mail

If you have not received E-mails from us lately it may be that we do not have your correct E-mail address.

Please send any changes in your E-mail address to Aimee at aimee@miami.edu.



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CHRIS Comments
Newsletter Schedule for 2002-2003
August, November, February, May

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A NEW MEMBER JOINS THE CHRIS TEAM

I have been asked to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone who utilizes the CHRIS database. My name is Michael Clancy and I have been recently hired as a member of the CHRIS Help Desk.

Let me begin by giving you a little background on where I come from. I received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University with a minor in Computer Applications. In addition to obtaining my degree, I was also in charge of maintaining two computer labs and assisting students in daily assignments that required the use of computers. Many varied and unique problems arose in the course of a typical workday making every day a challenge.

As a member of the CHRIS Help Desk, I will be working in conjunction with Aimee Astte answering technical questions over the phone, dialing into computers to examine technical issues and providing support to the CHRIS database users.

I will also be traveling around the state training users on how to use the redesigned CHRIS software program. In addition, I will be editing the technical manual for the software, so I am about to become very busy in the coming several months.

I look forward to talking to each and every one of you and, hopefully, resolving your problems (although I hope you don't have any



problems at all!). If you e-mail me a hello note at mclancy@miami.edu you will receive one CHRIS point. I am glad to be part of the CHRIS team and look forward to a trouble-free migration to the new version.

*Michael Clancy
CHRIS Help Desk*

Know Someone Who Needs a Newsletter?

Are you aware of someone in your district who may not be on the CHRIS Comments mailing list but needs to be?



Send their name, position, complete mailing address, and reason you think they would be interested in receiving CHRIS Comments to Aimee Astte at aimee@miami.edu.

A NEW MEMBER JOINS



Timothy Keys is a Research Associate for the Florida Department of Health. He has 16 years experience working for the State of Florida collecting data. He has been in his current position at Children Medical Services (CMS) since December 2001.



Timothy joined the CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) Advisory Board in May 2002 and will be working with TAWG to help expand the uses of CMS & CHRIS data. By working together on ways of linking the databases, Timothy with CHRIS TAWG hope to provide a fuller and more accurate picture of services provided to Florida's pre-kindergarten children.

**Total Number of Children Reported in CHRIS
who will turn 3 during the 2002-2003 School Year**

County	Total Children
No County ID	33
Alachua	*
Baker	*
Bay	60
Bradford	21
Brevard	70
Broward	660
Calhoun	*
Charlotte	54
Citrus	*
Clay	24
Collier	189
Columbia	26
Dade	16
De Soto	12
Dixie	*
Duval	182

County	Total Children
Escambia	129
Flagler	23
Franklin	*
Gadsden	36
Gilchrist	*
Glades	*
Gulf	*
Hamilton	12
Hardee	*
Hendry	19
Hernando	16
Highlands	*
Hillsborough	100
Holmes	*
Indian River	*
Jackson	16
Jefferson	*

County	Total Children
Lafayette	*
Lake	*
Lee	321
Leon	68
Levy	*
Liberty	*
Madison	21
Manatee	180
Marion	*
Martin	*
Monroe	46
Nassau	13
Okaloosa	58
Okeechobee	*
Orange	*
Osceola	*
Palm Beach	77

County	Total Children
Pasco	46
Pinellas	38
Polk	30
Putnam	19
Santa Rosa	63
Sarasota	73
Seminole	*
St. Johns	25
St. Lucie	*
Sumter	*
Suwannee	22
Taylor	10
Union	*
Volusia	47
Wakulla	*
Walton	*
Washington	*

Grand Total 2678

* Fewer than 10 children reported in this county.
Data is based on Nov. 2001 Master Database

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