



C O M M E N T S

CHRIS
Newsletter

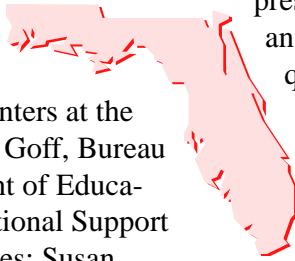
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Statewide Child Find Technical Assistance Meeting

The Statewide Child Find Technical Assistance Meeting was held in Tampa on November 28-30, 2000. The first day brought together Child Find specialists, early childhood education providers, and district/agency administrators to learn about emerging issues and trends in services to young children, birth through age five. Presenters at the meeting included Shan Goff, Bureau Chief of the Department of Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services; Susan Muenchow, Executive Director of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness; Diane Hutcherson, Florida Partnership for School Readiness Child Care Specialist; Lynn Marie Price, Program Specialist with the Children's Medical Services Part C Early Intervention Program; and Rachael Spanjer, Department of Education Child Find Specialist. Participants learned about collaborative efforts on behalf of the Department of Education, Florida Partner-



ship for School Readiness, and the CMS Early Intervention program to identify, evaluate, and provide appropriate services to children in the birth through age 5 population who may have learning and developmental risk factors. Following the presentations, participants had an opportunity to address questions to the panel of presenters.

The following two days were a work session geared towards FDLRS Child Find CHRIS users. The purpose of the work session was to begin making some decisions on how CHRIS should be redesigned to meet the needs of children and families, who may be entering the public school exceptional student education programs at age three or upon kindergarten entry. Although a number of decisions were made at the meeting, there are still some unresolved issues that will need to be addressed over the upcoming months. A follow-up meeting to address some of the issues is in the planning stages.

The following are some of the decisions made based on the survey results and the two-day work session.

- AKA Field - Add a second AKA field. Rename first AKA field: Nickname; name second AKA Field: Alternative.
- Leave the following fields as is: Birthplace; Language Proficiency; Sublocation (display on both Tracking and Demo); Primary Placement (display on both Tracking and Demo).
- Significant Adult 1,2,3 - Relation field - Add "other" and make field editable so that each center can add other values.
- ISC - Keep the field and change the name to: Service Coordinator.
- Interagency Release - Remove the way it is done now completely. Make three fields in Demo file. Field 1: Is there an Interagency Release? Y = Yes, N = No, R = Restricted. Field 2: Start Date field. Field 3: End Date field
- Awareness Source -
 - a. Make List Alphabetical
 - b. Make Field Editable
 - c. Expand the list: Child care center/Preschool; Business insert; Friend; Relative; Internet; Previous FDLRS Contact; Child Find Presentation; Screening Schedule
 - d. Delete Neighbor from list

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CHRIS Points

As you know, we have been awarding CHRIS points to individuals for training, participating in the CHRIS survey, and other CHRIS related activities (center points are tracked separately and will be

reported in the CHRIS Comments newsletter). Listed below are our TOP individual CHRIS point getters so far this year. Congratulations and thank you for your participation and dedication to CHRIS. We will distribute prizes to the winners based on point accumulation at the end of this school year. Suggested prizes include: computer peripherals, one-on-one technical assistance and, of course, public recognition right here in the CHRIS Comments newsletter.

If your name is not below, do not despair, you still have time to earn CHRIS Points. If you have any suggestions for CHRIS Point prizes, or have CHRIS Point questions, e-mail chris.um@miami.edu and the CHRIS Points Commissioner will review it.

Current Place	Name	FDLRS Associate Center	Points
First Place	Susan Duffy	FDLRS/Reach	18
Second Place	Gail Brown	FDLRS/Crown	16
	Cathy Bonnell	FDLRS/Gulfcoast	16
	Chris King	FDLRS/Miccosukee	16
	Susana Cossio	FDLRS/South	16
Third Place	Patty Naquin	FDLRS/East	14
	Kathy Lavin	FDLRS/Gulfcoast	14
	Patty Smoot	FDLRS/Gulfcoast	14
	Byron Smith	FDLRS/Heartland	14
	Arnetta Givens	FDLRS/Miccosukee	14
	Jennifer Adams	FDLRS/PAEC	14
	Kathy Brekhus	FDLRS/Suncoast	14
	Brenda Robinson	FDLRS/Westgate	14
	M. J. Ziemba	FDLRS/Westgate	14
Fourth Place	Kathy Baker	FDLRS/NEFEC	13
	Joanne Gore	FDLRS/NEFEC	13
	Jan McLain	FDLRS/NEFEC	13

Report Training



If you are interested in Reporter training please send an e-mail to chris.um@miami.edu Subject: Reporter training. Include any Reporter experience you have, what training times and locations would work best for you, and whether you can travel. We will compile this information and set up a training schedule based on input and interest. Please send the E-mail by February 28, 2001.



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The CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group

TAWG Advisory Board New Member Search

TAWG is the CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group, which receives input from CHRIS users and provides guidance on an ongoing basis to the CHRIS staff. TAWG is comprised of two types of members: TAWG Executive Board and TAWG Advisory Board. The TAWG Executive Board meetings are held 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, help determine future direction of the CHRIS project, and provide other input as needed. The TAWG Advisory Board membership terms are for two years. The current TAWG Advisory Board will be rotating off the group in June 2001. New members are currently being sought to fill their vacancies. TAWG Advisory Board membership is open to ESE Administrators, FDLRS Center Managers, Child Find professionals, Child Find support personnel, and other agency representatives.



JOIN THE CHRIS TAWG ADVISORY BOARD NOW
GO TO www.chris.miami.edu/joinTAWG.htm



TAWG Application

If you are interested in applying to be a TAWG Advisory Board Member, please go to the CHRIS web site www.chris.miami.edu/joinTAWG.htm and follow the instructions for submitting an application. Please keep in mind the TAWG Advisory board meets the first Friday in June and December usually in Tampa, Orlando, or Miami. If selected, you will be asked to attend a total of five meetings during a two-year period. Applications MUST be received by March 26th 2001.

The TAWG Executive Board members will review the applications and select the new TAWG Advisory Board members. The new members will be notified by April 30th in time for them to attend the meeting on June 1st, 2001 along with the outgoing members.

TAWG EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWEST MEMBER...

Karen Denbroeder is the program director of the data and research unit for the Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, Florida DOE. She has fifteen years experience in her own business as a licensed school psychologist and as an educational consultant. She has been in her current position of program director since July, 2000. Karen joins the TAWG Executive Board team and will be working to insure accurate linkages to the Department of Education database.



TAWG Meeting December 1, 2000

TAWG Executive Board and TAWG Advisory Board
(Left to Right) Rachael Spanjer, Anne Hymowitz Garber, Yvonne Gray, Gail Brown, Olga Camacho, Don Woods, Keith Scott, Alina Diaz, Karen Denbroeder, Cathy Bonnell, Debbie Crowder, Shihfen Tu (taking the picture), and Martha Cromwell (not pictured).



The Help Desk is Here to Help Call 1800-231-5747

The CHRIS Help Desk is available for much more than technical assistance with the CHRIS Program. If your center is involved in any of the activities listed below, the CHRIS Help Desk needs to be notified.

- Purchasing a new computer for CHRIS.
- Installing non-CHRIS related software on a CHRIS computer.
- Making any changes to Site Networking.
- Encountering FileMaker problems.

Some of the above items may or may not interfere with the CHRIS program. However, by informing us of the issues, we will be happy to coordinate with your local tech support to ensure smooth transitions. Remember, we are here to help you.

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