



CHRIS
Newsletter

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C O M M E N T S

CHRIS TO PROVIDE KEY DATA FOR STATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Karen Denbroeder

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) centers have a long history in the successful provision of child find services in Florida. FDLRS centers carry out important case management and interagency coordination roles, particularly in the identification of young children with disabilities. With the development of Florida's IDEA, Part B State Improvement Plan, Goal 5, FDLRS' role in interagency coordination has become even more critical. Goal 5 states that "young children with disabilities will have increased access to and participation in natural learning environments and will enter school ready to learn." At the November 2000 statewide Child Find Technical Assistance Meeting, Florida's child find responsibilities were reviewed with particular emphasis on the role of FDLRS.

As you know, the Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS) is a unique database that provides both summary data and management tools for child find specialists. At the November meeting, participants began the planning stage for the redesign of CHRIS. The challenge for the redesign process was to meet state level needs for consistent data collection related to child find responsibilities and to Goal 5 of the State Improvement Plan while maintaining the integrity of the case management function. With this goal in mind, participants were presented with the results of the statewide CHRIS User Survey and given an opportunity to provide additional input.

Since November 2000, the CHRIS staff, the Technical Assistance Workgroup (TAWG), and the Advisory Board have been working diligently, assessing the changes needed to update CHRIS and keep it consistent with identified needs. To meet state level needs for timeline tracking data and information for Goal 5, definitions were developed for referral, screening, evaluation, and placement outcome. The definitions will be aligned with the DOE database, facilitating consistent reporting across the state. At the same



time, the case management function of CHRIS will be maintained, and in some areas enhanced, to provide adequate flexibility for users.

The planned update and redesign of CHRIS is very exciting. The added capacity to report statewide timeline data on children from birth to five years of age will provide necessary information for the State Improvement Plan and allow for the targeting of resources and assistance where they are most needed. Users who consider CHRIS a valuable case management tool will also find that the redesign will enhance the flexibility of the system to meet a variety of case management needs.

Stay tuned for future updates regarding distribution and training for the New CHRIS program.

Karen Denbroeder is the program director of the data and research unit for the Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, Florida DOE.

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TECHNICAL NOTES



Is your system slowing you down?

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of telephone calls received by our technical support staff regarding the following issues:

- 1) The entire system is extremely slow (not just CHRIS but all other programs as well).
- 2) CHRIS freezes and the only way out is to re-start the computer. (This, as you know, can cause corruption to your files.)
- 3) It takes several minutes to open CHRIS.
- 4) Once open, it takes several minutes to open the tracking summary screen.

Some problems, such as numbers 3 and 4, may be due to the fact that Networking is turned on even though your computer is single user. The vast majority of problems, however, are caused by systems with very limited resources. FileMaker 5.5 does a great deal more on the background than previous versions therefore requiring more from your system resources. Given this fact, each center should look into upgrading their computer systems. It is essential that each workstation has a minimum of 256Megs of RAM, the processor should be above 1.4GHZ and you should have at least 40GB of disk space. For complete specs, visit our website at www.chris.miami.edu. Please use those specs as guidelines when planning to purchase new computer systems.



Thinking of upgrading your system? E-mail Olga at Olga@miami.edu or fax her at 305-284-6992 with your quote. Olga will let you know if the system will meet your needs.



LOCKING YOUR DATA

Data security continues to be an essential part of CHRIS. During the coming months the redesign of CHRIS will be in progress. If you have any input or ideas regarding access levels in CHRIS please e-mail Olga@miami.edu. For more information on the kind of input we are looking for go to: <http://www.chris.miami.edu/nextversion.htm>



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Editor in Chief, Features
Annie Hymowitz Garber
annie@miami.edu

Layout Editor
Vivian Perez
vmperetz@miami.edu

Project Director
Christine F. Delgado, Ph.D.
cdelgado@umiami.edu

Principal Investigator
Keith G. Scott, Ph.D.
kscott@miami.edu

CHRIS Help Desk
Olga Camacho, Software Developer
olga@miami.edu

Aimee Astte, Technical Support
aimee@miami.edu

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

CHRIS
University of Miami
Department of Psychology
5665 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Psych Annex Room #251
Coral Gables, Florida 33146-0721

Email: chris.um@miami.edu
Website: www.chris.miami.edu

Phone: (800) 231-5747
(305) 284-5514

Fax: (305) 284-6992

TAWG



The focus of the last two TAWG meetings (November 1-2, and December 14) was to discuss issues related to the State Improvement Plan and on how CHRIS will assist with these goals. In addition, we welcomed three new members.

IRENE SAVARY

Dr. Irene C. Savary is the Exceptional Student Education Administrator (ESE) for Wakulla County Schools and the newest member of the TAWG Advisory Board. Prior to becoming an ESE Director in 1992, she was a classroom teacher, Title I Specialist, Curriculum Coordinator, and Assistant Principal. The CHRIS system has become an integral part of child find services, making it extremely important to have ESE Directors as representatives on the advisory board. ESE Administrators are crucial to the decision making process, and bring specific background knowledge to the board. Irene hopes she can contribute by bringing her expertise and technical training as an ESE Director to TAWG.



RUTHIE RIEDER

Ruthie Rieder is the senior administrator for the Preschool Evaluation Center (PEC) in Orlando. PEC works closely with FDLRS Action Child Find. Ruthie is thrilled to be a new member of the TAWG Advisory Board. Ruthie brings the experience of extensive use of databases for program monitoring, district projections, and record keeping. For years PEC has been using a simple database program and is now in the process of importing their data into CHRIS. Ruthie is very excited with the opportunity to use an expanded database that will simplify record keeping, reporting, and tracking as well as allow for the storage of more detailed information. Child find enters Part C information through Children's Medical Services and the Arnold Palmer Developmental Center. Therefore, for PEC, accessing the Part C information will be a huge help for projections, planning, and tracking.



SUSAN DUFFY

Susan is the Database Administrator (DBA) for FDLRS/REACH in Fort Lauderdale. She has been with FDLRS/REACH since 1993 and is one of the original CHRIS users for her site. She is looking forward to participating in the TAWG Advisory Board. Susan hopes to provide valuable input from a DBA, data entry and report generating perspective.



TAWG 2002 SCHEDULE



- February 1**
Executive Board Meeting
- April 5**
Executive Board Meeting
- May 2 & 3**
Advisory Board Meeting
- June 14**
Executive Board Meeting

If you have an issue for TAWG, please e-mail annie@miami.edu 2 weeks before a scheduled TAWG meeting.

**For more information on becoming a member of the TAWG Advisory Board go to:
www.chris.miami.edu/joinTAWG.htm**

TRAINING BY REQUEST

In November we conducted two New User Training sessions:

- November 6, 2001, FDLRS Miccosukee, Tallahassee
- November 30, 2001, FDLRS Galaxy, Fort Pierce

A special thank you to these two sites for hosting the training sessions.

We also held a New DBA Training at the University of Miami. Congratulations to the seven new DBA's.



*New DBA Training in Miami
November 9, 2001*

HOW TO SCHEDULE TRAINING



For New Users:

If you have six or more users from your region needing New User Training, contact Annie Garber at the CHRIS Help Desk and she will coordinate and schedule a training session in your area.

For Reporter Training:

Call the Help Desk at 800-231-KRIS to request training materials and to schedule an on-line session.

For New DBAs:

Contact Annie Garber with the names of users who need DBA training. When we have six or more users registered we will schedule a training session at a location central to the users.

For more information on training please go to www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm



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