



CHRIS
NEWSLETTER

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C O M M E N T S



TAWG, You're It!



The CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group (TAWG) Executive Board and the TAWG Advisory Board have been hard at work over the past two years gathering input, advising decisions, and reviewing each change made to the CHRIS system. Although the final product is not complete, it is appropriate that we acknowledge the contributions of the members of these two groups. To all who are departing, we thank you for the diligence with which you have approached the task of redesigning the system to make it more responsive to the data requests we receive. Each member has given time, dedication, and valuable in-

put to the process. For those of you who have not had an opportunity to serve on either of these groups, we want you to know those representing you don't merely "show up" for meetings. I'm sure they would attest that we leave each meeting exhausted from the effort invested in making decisions on your behalf. Each meeting comes with a sense of accomplishment in the knowledge that no decision has been made lightly, but also often frustration with the painstakingly slow process we are engaged in.

Many of our users have asked when the new version of CHRIS will be released. We would love to have a definite answer to that question, however in the interest of getting it right, we are careful in our deliberations on every issue. It is our sincere hope that this coming year will see the completion of this project and the release of a brand new CHRIS that will serve us well for many years to come. We look forward to a single statewide database from which we will be able to produce up-to-the-minute reports

on dynamic data rather than working from months old data in response to current queries.

As we near the end of this redesign of CHRIS, we will continue to request user input. We hope you will respond to requests from your TAWG representatives to assist us in making the new CHRIS the best CHRIS.

—Rachael Spanjer

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New CHRIS Name Contest

The newest version of the CHRIS program needs a name. E-mail your suggestions to chris.um@miami.edu. Two CHRIS points will be awarded for creative submissions and five CHRIS points will be awarded for the selected name.

Welcome

Incoming TAWG Advisory Board Members

Tracy Carter, Pam Connolly and Patty Smoot are our new TAWG Advisory Board members. Yvonne Gray has agreed to stay on an additional term as an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) representative on the Advisory Board.

Tracy Carter

Tracy Carter is the Data Base Administrator (DBA) for Florida diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Heartland in Lake Placid. She has been a CHRIS user for several years and became a DBA in October 2002. Tracy is looking forward to serving on the TAWG Advisory Board. She will provide valuable input from DBA, data entry and report creating perspectives. She is excited about the new and improved CHRIS that is in the works and is enthusiastic to have the opportunity to be a part of the planning.

Pam Connolly

Pam Connolly currently serves as Coordinator for FDLRS/Springs which supports Alachua, Dixie, Citrus, Gilchrist, Levy and Marion counties. Pam's experience in exceptional student education ranges from classroom teaching to district program supervision. She is looking forward to increasing her knowledge of CHRIS through her work on the Advisory Board in order to better support Child Find services throughout the Springs region districts.

Patty Smoot

Patty Smoot is a Child Find Specialist at FDLRS Gulfcoast, which serves Hernando, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Patty works in the Pinellas office and has been with FDLRS for 12 years. The FDLRS Gulfcoast Center has been very active in the CHRIS network from the beginning. As a case manager, Patty uses CHRIS on a daily basis to manage screening appointments and to document family communication. Patty's favorite feature of CHRIS is the Action Needed option that allows her to follow up on cases regardless of where the child is in the process. Patty is grateful for this opportunity to share the FDLRS Gulfcoast CHRIS successes and to be a part of the continual improvement of the CHRIS program.



Patty Smoot, Tracy Carter, Pam Connolly, Yvonne Gray



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Editor in Chief, Features
Annie Hymowitz Garber
annie@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 2002-2003
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

CHRIS Training Update



In October and November we conducted four training sessions for new users of CHRIS. On October 10th 2002, we had a special training session in Orlando for the

Early Intervention Services (EIS) of Orange County. In order to work more effectively with their FDLRS Center, FDLRS Action EIS transferred all their child data to the CHRIS Database. Twenty-six EIS members participated and were trained in the use of the CHRIS program as well as how their data were now represented in CHRIS. An additional three training sessions were also conducted on October 22, 2002 at FDLRS Sunrise in Bartow, November 14, 2002 at FDLRS Alpha in West Palm Beach, and November 19, 2002 at FDLRS Miccosukee in Tallahassee. A big Thank You to the centers that hosted the trainings.



FDLRS Sunrise in Bartow



FDLRS Alpha in West Palm Beach



FDLRS Miccosukee in Tallahassee

CHRIS Creative Corner

Well we asked and you delivered. We received limericks, slogans and stories. Here are some of the creative writings our CHRIS users sent us:

Slogans

CHRIS...tracking our children's FUTURE

*Debbie Wagner, Child Find Staff,
FDLRS Galaxy, Fort Pierce, Florida*

CHRIS = Time Saved

Reason for slogan: Instead of running to the file cabinet to look up information on a child, view the demo or tracking screen on CHRIS.
*Flo Belhourn, Child Find Specialist,
FDLRS Gulfcoast, Clearwater, Florida*

Limerick

**Have you heard of the program called
CHRIS?**

**Where case management now is
sheer bliss?**

For years kids were tracked

By systems that lacked

Now with CHRIS not a child you will miss

*Jan McLain, Child Find Specialist,
FDLRS NEFEC, Palatka, Florida*

Fond Farewells

We want to thank our outgoing TAWG Advisory Board members: Cathy Bonnel and Janet Brashear. They served an extended term of three and a half years and helped us establish a rotation schedule. Yvonne Gray was scheduled to rotate off TAWG as well but agreed to stay on until another ESE director joins TAWG. Here are some thoughts from our parting and not-parting-just-yet members:

“CHRIS is growing up! During the years I have been participating as an Advisory Board member, I have seen the CHRIS system grow into a more user-friendly system that provides a wealth of information to providers. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the transition and am truly thankful that I was chosen to serve as an Advisory Board member. May you continue to serve the needs of preschool students with disabilities and their providers for many years.”

—Janet Brashear

“Once again, I have been provided the opportunity to serve on the CHRIS Advisory Board for another term. The CHRIS staff has done an outstanding job in assisting districts’ access to valuable data. I encourage my fellow ESE Directors to consider serving on the TAWG Advisory Board. It is an awesome opportunity to be a part of improving data collection.”

—Yvonne Gray



Cathy Bonnel, Yvonne Gray, Janet Brashear

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University of Miami
Department of Psychology
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Coral Gables, Florida 33146-0721