C·H·R·I·S

CHILDREN'S REGISTRY & INFORMATION SYSTEM

fdlrs

COMMENTS

CHRIS and the Florida State Performance Plan, Indicator 12

Dana Wilcox, FDLRS/Alpha Associate Center Data Facilitator

The Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) State Performance Plan (SPP) includes 20 indicators that evaluate the State's efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and describe how the State will improve implementation. Data for each of these indicators are reported annually to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Indicator 12 poses a challenge to districts because 100% compliance is required. It reads as follows: *Indicator 12– Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays.*

When asked this past June by my Executive Director of Exceptional Student Education to "get me those figures" for Palm Beach County, I

turned to CHRIS. I have worked with CHRIS for over 17 years and knew that the database contained useful information for monitoring our district's compliance with Indicator 12.

Hitting the Help Desk

My first call was to Cory Beermann at the CHRIS Help Desk. Together we tackled the creation of a custom report that would yield the needed information.

The first step in developing a custom report is to identify the search parameters for the desired data set. The elements we selected are described below and are based upon the wording of Indicator 12.

School Year
For the purpose of comparing performance on Indicator 12 from one year to the next, we included in our search criteria the year in

Dana Wilcox

which the placement occurred. By designating a date range in the End Timeline date field, a particular school year can be selected. The 2005 – 2006 school year can be selected, for example, by entering "07/01/05…06/30/06" as the search criterion for the End Timeline date field.

…referred by Part C…
The "PreK Funding Program" field on the Tracking Summary Screen

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can be used to designate Part C eligibility. Children referred by Part C are identified as "Part C – Early Steps".

...who are found eligible for Part B...
Children who are found eligible for Part B should have "FSP/IEP Developed" as the End Timeline Reason. This indicates that an IEP meeting was held.

...implemented by their third birthdays.
The way we addressed this part of the equation was to create a calculation field that subtracted the third birthday from the End Timeline Date. For example, if a child turned 3 on October 10th, and the IEP meeting occurred on October 9th, the value in the calculation field for that record would be -1. If the IEP meeting occurred on October 10th, the value would be zero. If, however, the IEP meeting occurred on October 15th, the resulting value would be +5. The report counted the number of children with Part C referrals determined eligible for Part B services in the given year for which the value in the calculated field was either zero or a negative number. These are the children for whom an IEP was developed and implemented on or before their third birthdays.

By comparing the number of children identified as having an IEP meeting by the third birthday with the overall number of Part C referrals with an IEP meeting date for Part B services for the designated year, a percentage was calculated which directly addresses the Indicator 12 criteria.

Garbage In, Garbage Out

The usefulness of reports generated using CHRIS is limited by the quality of the data contained within CHRIS. Accurate and consistent data entry will result in the most useful reports. If FDLRS Centers do not customarily identify Part C referrals in some fashion (such as using the "PreK Funding Program" box as we do in our Center) or if data entry is inconsistent, erroneous, or incomplete, then it will be difficult to select out the records necessary to generate Indicator 12 data.

Conclusion

CHRIS provides a useful way for districts to monitor compliance with Indicator 12. Although Indicator 12 data are reported to FDOE and OSEP annually, districts can run reports throughout the year to monitor their local performance and find areas which may need to be addressed.

Training Hall of Fame

Here are pictures from training sessions recently conducted in Naples and Jacksonville. Thank you to those users who participated and to the centers who welcomed us to their training facilities. A special thanks goes out to Virginia Kennard, Gail Brown, and Renee Santillo for the gracious help they provided during these sessions. To register for any of the training sessions we offer, please refer to the last page of this newsletter for more information or visit our website at: www.chris.miami.edu.

FDLRS/Island Coast

FDLRS/Crown

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHRIS Updates on the Web

The CHRIS website is loaded with helpful information and resources for all our users. In an effort to maintain the most up-to-date and accurate information, we have made revisions to the following manuals.

Citrix Installation and Setup Guide
Reference information regarding the requirements to setup the Citrix Client at remote sites
–Support > Downloads > Citrix Installation and Setup Guide Draft

New CHRIS Plus Features
Reference information to describe the new features added to the CHRIS statewide database
–Support > Downloads > New CHRIS Plus Features Draft

Suffix Field

When a child's legal name includes a *suffix* (i.e., Jr., II, III...), please enter it into the suffix field in the Child Demographic Information screen. Adding the suffix to either the first or last name fields should be avoided. Remember, consistency in data entry provides for much better results when producing reports.

Create Your Own Reports

Cory Beerman

Did you know that you can create your own custom reports in CHRIS? If you would like to learn how, or would just like a refresher, the CHRIS Help Desk can help. We have assisted staff at FDLRS sites all over the state in the creation of a variety of custom reports including reports that address Indicator 12. Feel free to contact the Help Desk for assistance with report generation or to register for Online Reporter Training.

Online Reporter Training is conducted remotely, utilizing our ability to see and interact with any user's CHRIS session from our offices in Miami. The trainer and trainee(s) communicate via telephone and are able to watch the other person's actions on their respective monitors. The training lasts roughly four hours and includes a break for lunch, if necessary. If any of the users have specific custom report requests, the CHRIS Help Desk will incorporate these requests into the training.

Any CHRIS user with a firm grasp of the program can register for Online Reporter Training.

If you are interested in learning how to create your own custom reports and layouts using the CHRIS *Plus* Reporter program, please contact the CHRIS Help Desk at 800.231.5747 or email Cory at: cory@miami.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRIS Training
To register for a training, please send an e-mail to Cory Beermann at cory@miami.edu or visit the Training web page at www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm.

Inform Your Colleagues
Have you read an article that would be of interest to the Child Find community? If so, send the citation information for the article to chris.um@miami.edu. We will highlight articles in future editions of the newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences
The next TAWG Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16th, 2008 at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. It will be held in the Flipse Building, 5665 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Coral Gables, FL 33146, Room 402.

Do you want to be on the CHRIS mailing list?
If you are interested in receiving a copy of the CHRIS Comments Newsletter via email, send us your email address at chris.um@miami.edu. Newsletters are distributed in Adobe PDF format and can be downloaded and saved on your local computer. If you cannot open PDF files, go to www.adobe.com and download a copy of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader today!

Closed for the Holidays
Please make a note of our upcoming holiday schedule. The Help Desk will not be available on the following days.

Thanksgiving
November 22 & 23

New Years
December 31 and January 1

Christmas
December 24, 25, & 26

On December 27th and 28th the CHRIS Help Desk will function in a limited capacity. If you need our assistance, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.