C·H·R·I·S

COMMENTS

Goodbye!

Our 18-month-old granddaughter, Emma, and her parents have enticed the Florida Urbanos to pull up stakes and move to the Volunteer State, Tennessee. After twenty years in Miami, at the Mailman Center for Child Development and the last fifteen or so years working on CHRIS and its predecessors, we decided it was the time to turn over CHRIS and our Mailman Center responsibilities to the next generation. Annie Hymowitz Garber and Olga Camacho will continue with CHRIS in its new home with the Psychology Department on the Coral Gables campus of the University of Miami. One of the predecessors of CHRIS began as joint venture between FDLRS-UM and FDLRS-South, and it was started by Dr. Keith Scott, Eleanor Levine and me. After my departure, Dr. Scott will continue his long association and oversee the project in its new home as the Principal Investigator. In addition, Dr. Shihfen Tu has joined CHRIS as our new Project Director. Dr. Tu will lead the initiative to realize the research potential of the data in CHRIS. Finally, Rachael Spanjer will continue as DOE Project Manager, mentor, advocate, counsel, taskmaster and friend to the CHRIS community and project.

Rick, Emma, and Terri in Nashville

In December 1998, I accepted a position with the Tennessee Department of Health as Director of Systems Applications and Operations in the Bureau of Information Resources. Three managers and forty staff members responsible for software development, technical services and mid-range systems report to me. We manage all Department of Health computer systems and software. My first project is to create a statewide registry of children with special health care needs. Does this sound familiar? The system will be called Children's Information Tennessee (CIT). All agencies providing case management services, vital records and the Statewide Immunization Information System will provide data to CIT. The key to the success of CIT is the creation of an unduplicated registry with links to each participating agency. The registry will provide the basis for studying interventions and outcomes for children in Tennessee without having to make personal identifiers available.

On the personal front, Terri finally made the permanent move to Nashville on March 3rd. We sold the house in Miami on the 4th, closed on the house in Nashville on the 5th and the movers arrived on the 8th. We are still living amidst 400 boxes, hoping to unpack our way back to normalcy. Terri got the house she has always wanted, 3000 sq. ft, lots of windows, 2 fireplaces, 2 stories, hardwood floors, on the crest of a hill with views of down town and the hills. We are 10 minutes, at rush hour, from my office in downtown Nashville. For the last 2 ½ months I have been living in my daughter's attic. It has been wonderful spending time each day with Emma. The experience has reinforced our decision to move here.

We miss our friends and colleagues in Florida and hope to keep in touch. We can be reached via E-mail at rurbano@UrbanoInc.com

In this issue...

Meet Dr. Shihfen Tu, CHRIS's new Project Director and others who have come on board the CHRIS team.

Technical Notes

Olga's CHRIS Tips

Reporter Reminders:

As you know, Reporter is part of your CHRIS99.01 program. It will enable you to create a variety of reports of your choosing. You are the captain of the ship and you can decide what you would like your report to include as well as how it should look. With the birth of the powerful Reporter there are a few things to keep in mind.

Reporter update must be run with FileMaker Server stopped and no users in CHRIS. This can be done as a morning or afternoon routine; whichever is more convenient for your site.

1   Please check that the time and date on your computers and server are correct.

2   If Reporter fails, please call us as soon as possible.

3   Some functions of Reporter will not work if you have not been upgraded to FileMaker Pro 4.1. We distributed FileMaker Pro 4.1 at the CHRIS Power Days training to all the FDLRS Centers. Some issues have arisen around the installation of FileMaker Pro 4.1. If you have not yet installed your upgrade, please call the Help Desk for some precautionary suggestions. If you are experi encing any difficulty since installing, you should also call the Help Desk.

Other Reminders:

⁄   It is essential for us to be able to access your computers. Please check periodically to make sure your modems and lines are in working order. This will eliminate delays to fix things when we need to dial in to provide technical support or to upgrade the program.

⁄   Agency Update must also be run with FileMaker Server stopped and no users in CHRIS. You can, however, make all of the changes necessary to the agencies file with FileMaker Server started and other users using CHRIS. Once all the changes have been made then ask users to exit CHRIS, stop FileMaker Server and run the Agency Update program.

A Letter from Our New
Project Director

Dr. Shihfen Tu

Greetings everyone!

As Rick pointed out in his "farewell" letter, in addition to CHRIS moving from the Mailman Center to the Department of Psychology, one of the changes was that I became the Project Director. So, let me briefly introduce myself. I joined the faculty at the University of Miami, Department of Psychology in the fall of 1994. During the last five years, I have been involved on projects that were supported by FDLRS. For example, I adapted and translated a screening test developed by Dr. Marcia S. Scott into Chinese. With Rick and Dr. Keith Scott, I have been working on linking several large state databases such as the Florida birth and school records. The goal is to identify early childhood risk factors with long-term impact on school performance. One of my objectives is to integrate the CHRIS data into this database, as a means of obtaining further insight into such risk factors.

In the three short months since I came on board I have been extremely impressed by the depth and complexity of the project, as well as the CHRIS software program itself. It is indeed a challenging task to identify children in the State of Florida with potential learning and developmental disabilities, and to provide them with appropriate assistance. Of course, without the effort of everyone at the FDLRS sites and the hard work of the CHRIS staff, none of this is possible. I have to say that I am very fortunate to have Annie Hymowitz Garber and Olga Camacho on the CHRIS team. Along with Rachael Spanjer, they have made my transition to the project as smooth as possible. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all three of them.

Speaking of the CHRIS team, I am sorry to report that Cristina Rojas has left the project in pursuit of other opportunities. We wish her the best. However, we do have a new addition to the CHRIS staff, Maria Mora, who recently moved from New York to Miami. Maria will be responsible for receiving and directing all phone calls that come in to the help desk. In the meantime, we are in the process of hiring Cristina's replacement for the computer lead operator position. This will be the primary person to assist users with questions regarding the CHRIS program and FileMaker. In addition, with the move to the Department of Psychology, we now have Vivian Perez from FDLRS-UM assisting us in newsletter publishing and website designs. One of our goals is to expand the current CHRIS website so that CHRIS information can be directly accessed via the Internet.

Another benefit resulting from our move to the Department of Psychology is that we can take advantage of the department's computer lab facility in order to provide user training on a regular basis. The first session is set for May (please see page 5). More information on the training sessions will be made available soon, please stay tuned.
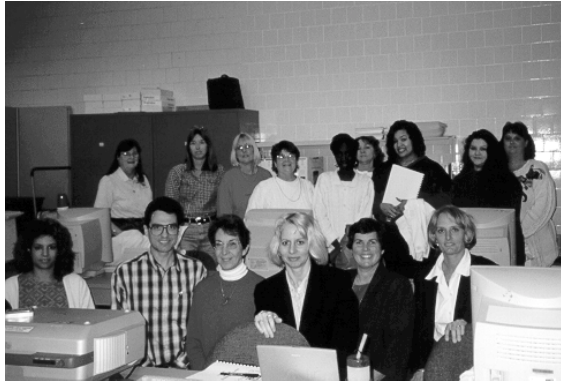
Finally, I would like to thank everyone at the FDLRS sites for your support to CHRIS in the past and hope you will continue to support us. I know there are times it is frustrating to deal with the program bugs and upgrades. But, as we all know, everyone is here for one mission: ***To find that special child who needs our help***. As mentioned in Rick's letter, the State of Tennessee is now creating its own statewide registry of children with special needs. Also, about a month ago, I received an inquiry from a colleague at the University of Maine who is in the process of starting a similar system for his state. This shows we are at least 10 years ahead of other states! Let us keep up the good work. If there is anything that you need, or if you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me. You can reach me at the CHRIS toll free number, or via E-mail at stu@miami.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Shihfen Tu

New User Training

FDLRS/Reach
Ft.Lauderdale, FL

During the last week in February we took CHRIS on the road and had three New User Trainings. The trainings were hosted by FDLRS/Reach in Fort Lauderdale, FDLRS/Sunrise in Bartow and FDLRS/ Miccosukee in Tallahassee. We had a total of 34 new users and experienced users that had never had formal CHRIS training. A draft of the CHRIS Manual was distributed and used during the training. Based on input experiences gathered during the training a revised manual is being prepared and will be distributed to all users.

FDLRS/Sunrise
Bartow, FL

FDLRS/Miccosukee
Tallahassee, FL

Future Training

For users who did not have an opportunity to attend any of the training sessions and for users who would like a bit more follow-up on what they learned at the training, additional training opportunities will be offered on an ongoing basis at the lab on the Coral Gables campus. If you have an interest in coming to Coral Gables for more training, it would help us arrange a training calendar if you would fax or E-mail Annie or Rachael to let us know what you would like to have training on and when you would be available for training. Tentative dates for the two sessions are scheduled for May 11th and July 9th. We will gear this training based on the users' requests. Please contact us to register for this session. We must have at least three participants to open the session, and we have room for a maximum of twelve participants.

99 *training*

Power Days Trianing

During the first week of March we had CHRIS Power Days at FDLRS/Sunrise in Bartow, Florida. Bob Harrington of the Mac Academy provided a two-day hands on FileMaker/CHRIS report training. We had representatives from each FDLRS center. The 28 participants learned how to use the new reporter, how to create personalized reports and some good FileMaker tips.
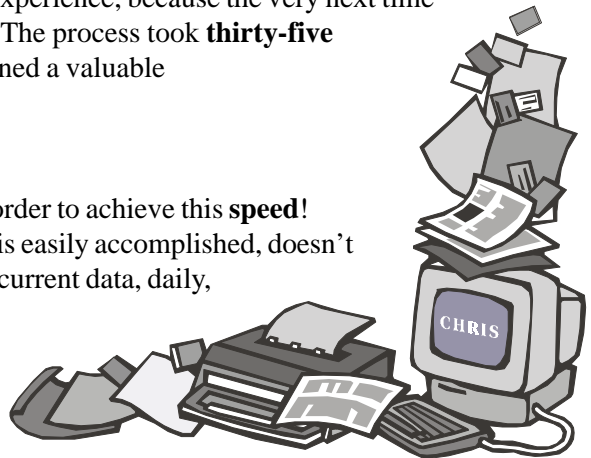
Thank YOU

A big thank you to the FDLRS Center Directors: Gwen Lipscomb, FDLRS/Reach; Don Woods, FDLRS/Sunrise; and Diane Johnson, FDLRS/Miccosukee for assistance and the help of their staff in the New User. They provided us with functioning computer labs that allowed us to conduct productive hands-on training. An extra thank you to Don Woods for arranging for the use of his lab to accommodate the two-day CHRIS Power Days. This provided a fairly central training location for the participants.
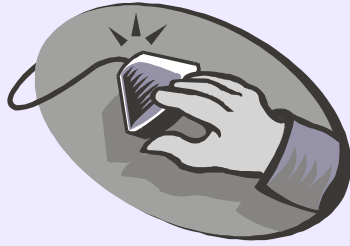
Testimony from Martha

The CHRIS Power Days focused on the new CHRIS *Reporter*. In my opinion, the *Reporter* feature is the most exciting part of the new CHRIS 99.01 upgrade. I noticed at the training there was some concern of the time issue involved in running the reporter. I would like to share what we experienced. When we received this upgrade, I immediately trained our CHRIS data entry person to incorporate the *Reporter* update process into our daily backup process. The first time we ran the *Reporter* update, we wrote down the steps and timed the process to see how much longer it would take. From the first step, stopping FileMaker Server services, to the completion of the *Reporter* update, it took only **three minutes!** The key to the **speed** of completing this process is stopping FileMaker Server services before you begin. We know this from experience, because the very next time we ran the *Reporter* update, we **forgot** to stop FileMaker Server. The process took **thirty-five minutes!** Thank goodness, no data was lost or corrupted. We learned a valuable lesson-in fact, we learned several:

1. Running *Reporter* is **fast**!
2. It is imperative that FileMaker Server services be stopped in order to achieve this **speed**!
3. Incorporating *Reporter* updates into the daily backup process is easily accomplished, doesn't add much time, and gives the immense satisfaction of having current data, daily, from which to create and run reports.

Good luck using the *Reporter*. If you have *Reporter* questions, please call the CHRIS help desk at 1-800-231-5747.

User Tips!
What happened to me!

I was in *Find Events* and did a search for all the *Referral* events. FileMaker Pro found all the *Referral* events and all the *Referral Out* events because they both begin with the word "referral". My result in *Find Events* was almost double the number of records it should have been because we enter *Referral Out* events, also. In order to avoid this, I use the new *Event Find* option available in CHRIS 99.01. From the *Tracking Summary Screen* I go into a detail event of a *Referral* event. I select from the *Menu Line* "*Find*" and then enter a query on date or any of the other fields available in the Referral event. The result is all the records in my *Query*, but for *Referral* event only. I can then view my results in list view.

Thanks to Martha Cromwell for the above tip. If you have user tips you would like to share, please E-mail them to annie@miami.edu

CHRIS's *New Voice*

"CHRIS Technical Support, how can I help you?" If you called the CHRIS Help Desk in the past month you probably spoke with Maria Mora. She is the newest member of the CHRIS team and is quickly learning the "CHRIS Ropes". Maria handles incoming calls and forwards them to the appropriate people. If you have a CHRIS question call Maria, she will find an answer for you.

CHRIS 99.01 UPgrade date:

CHRIS 99.01 is at all centers and sub-locations currently using CHRIS. Please take a moment to review the new changes in CHRIS 99.01 by selecting What's New from the main CHRIS menu. You can print the list and use it as a guide. You may also want to review previous changes by selecting See Information for v98.02 option in the CHRIS 99.01 list.

Strategies for Future Upgrades

We are exploring the options of changing the FDLRS Centers to export and import the CHRIS data so that it is not necessary to transfer all of the files with data each time there is an upgrade. This should cut the center's downtime significantly during upgrade. Transferring the data to the help desk has been necessary in the past because of scripts that had to be run during upgrades to change data to new terminology, or move data from one place to another in the database. In future upgrades, we would like to start testing transferring empty upgraded CHRIS files to the centers that they will be able to transfer their data into. Any complex part will be automated. Please give us your input on this. You can provide input by contacting any member of TAWG by E-mail or fax.

Join the *TAWG* Advisory Board

What is the TAWG Advisory Board?

TAWG is the CHRIS Technical Assistance Work Group. Two years ago, TAWG was expanded to include an advisory board that joins the work group for two meetings a year. The purpose of the advisory board is to review decisions made by TAWG, help determine future direction of the CHRIS project and provide other input as desired. Regular workgroup meetings are held every other month. The regular workgroup receives input from CHRIS users and provides guidance on an ongoing basis to the CHRIS staff.

Who are the current TAWG Members?

Regular members are the project manager, Anne Hymowitz Garber; the project FDLRS/DOE consultant, Rachael Spanjer; the project director, Shihfen Tu, and FDLRS center child find specialist, Martha Cromwell. Current members of the advisory board include FDLRS database developer, Claudia Graves; FDLRS managers, Linda Wood and Carol Milton; and ESE director, Shona Murphy. The advisory board members terms are for two years and they will be rotating off the group in June 1999. New members are currently being sought to fill their vacancies.

Who can be in TAWG?

ESE Administrator, Center Manager, Child Find Support Personnel, Child Find Professionals, and Other Agency representatives.

Sign me up! How can I be a TAWG member?

Fill in the application below and fax it to the CHRIS project, or E-mail it to annie@miami.edu. The TAWG regular members will review the applications and select the new members in time for them to attend the June meeting, along with the outgoing members.

TAWG Application

Please photocopy and fax to (305)284-1632, Attention: CHRIS Project

Name: _____ Center: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

How do you use CHRIS? (Or how do you use the information from CHRIS?)

What's your interest in joining TAWG?

What do you feel you can contribute to TAWG?

Will your center pay for your participation on the TAWG Advisory Board?   Yes ☐   No ☐
This includes travel five times during a two-year period. Meeting sites are usually Tampa, Orlando, or Miami.

INTERESTED IF YOU ARE A MEMBER - BECOMING FAX TODAY

C·H·R·I·S

Yes, the rumors are true. After being housed at the Mailman Center since 1990, CHRIS has moved. We are now located at the Psychology Department at the University of Miami, Coral Gables campus. We moved mid December, and we hope we did not inconvenience anyone for the few days we were unavailable. Our new information:

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

Phone: 305-284-5514
1-800-231-5747
Fax: 305-284-1632
E-mail: comments@miami.edu

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