# CHILDREN'S REGISTRY & INFORMATION SYSTEM

## C·H·R·I·S

## COMMENTS

# CHRIS Welcomes Marilyn Hibbard
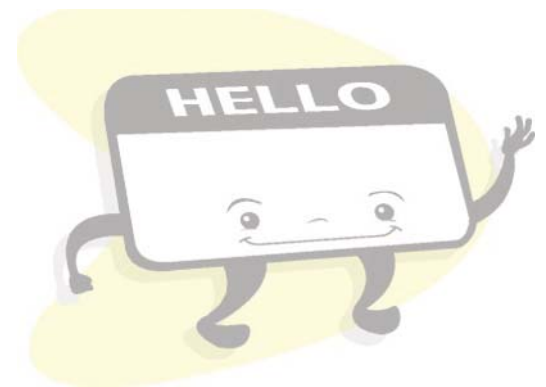
**Marilyn Hibbard**
**Program Specialist for Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities**

Early Childhood Education is where we can make the greatest impact in the lives of children. Hello! My name is Marilyn Hibbard, and I have recently taken the position of Program Specialist for Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities, ages three to five, within the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS). I am thrilled to be here and to have the opportunity to work with each of you who are involved with Child Find and CHRIS.

Prior to joining the Program Development and Services section, I worked in the monitoring section of BEESS. Before that position, I was a teacher in an elementary school in Leon County School District. I have now been in Florida three years and, although I really like it here, I am still struggling with the high temperatures and humidity. I moved here

from Pennsylvania (which has wonderful snow) where I was a teacher for Early Intervention and later, a teacher of emotionally handicapped students at a public high school. Originally I came from Ohio where for many years I taught students with multiple disabilities. In addition, I worked in a residential center for mentally handicapped adults. As you can see, I have had experiences with ages birth to the geriatric group; however, my first love is early childhood education and therefore, I am pleased to be working with others who have an interest in serving our young children with disabilities and their families.

I wear many hats in my position, but I love meeting new people and I look forward to meeting and working with the FDLRS managers and all of those involved with Child Find and the CHRIS project. I have lots to learn so I ask a little patience as I become
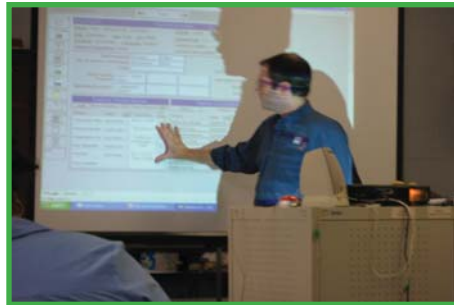


more knowledgeable of the responsibilities of this new position. Fortunately, I had time to work with Kimberly Crawford, the previous contact for CHRIS, before she left for the University of Western Carolina. She spent some time helping me learn the ropes, and I appreciate her kindness. To help me become more knowledgeable, I will attend a CHRIS training next month. I look forward to meeting many people and putting faces with the names I read in my emails. Please stop by to meet me if you're in Tallahassee and, of course, friendly calls are always welcome!

# New User Trainings for 2007

**Cory Beermann**

CHRIS New User training sessions have started for 2007. These pictures are from our July training at FDLRS/Hillsborough's Manhattan center in Tampa, Florida. There were seven new users in attendance, six from Hillsborough County and one from Sarasota County. A second New User training session was conducted at the University of Miami in August for users from Miami-Dade County. At both trainging sessions, Cory was assisted by the CHRIS Project's new arrival, Marsha Francois.

In addition, the CHRIS staff is in the process of scheduling New User trainings in the Ft. Myers/Naples, Clearwater, and Jacksonville areas within the next two months. We will send out an email to all users and update our website (www.chris.miami.edu) when the scheduling is finalized for these three training sessions. If you would like to request a New User Traing in an area closer to you, please send an email to Cory Beermann at cory@miami.edu. Contact the Help Desk at 800-231-5747 for more information.

# CHRIS Reports Survey 2007

**Olga Camacho**

Thank you to all 33 users who participated in the CHRIS Reports Survey. Several of you made suggestions on fields and buttons you would like to see added or removed to help the Standard Reports better meet your needs. These suggestions will be evaluated by the TAWG Executive Board and, once approved, will be implemented in the CHRIS Gold Standard Reports. If you were unable to participate in the CHRIS Reports Survey and have comments or suggestions that you would like us to consider for CHRIS Gold, please contact the Help Desk at 800-231-5747 or email us at chris.um@miami.edu.

# Early Risk Factors for Developmental Delay and Other Developmental Disabilities

**Christine F. Delgado, Ph.D.**

The research study described below was recently published in the journal *Exceptionality*. The complete report can be obtained from the CHRIS web site at *www.chris.miami.edu/Publications/ Research.htm.*

One-third of preschool-aged children with disabilities in Florida are classified with developmental delay (DD). The majority of these children will continue to receive special education services in elementary school. Identification of the factors that place a child at risk for DD may enhance early identification efforts.

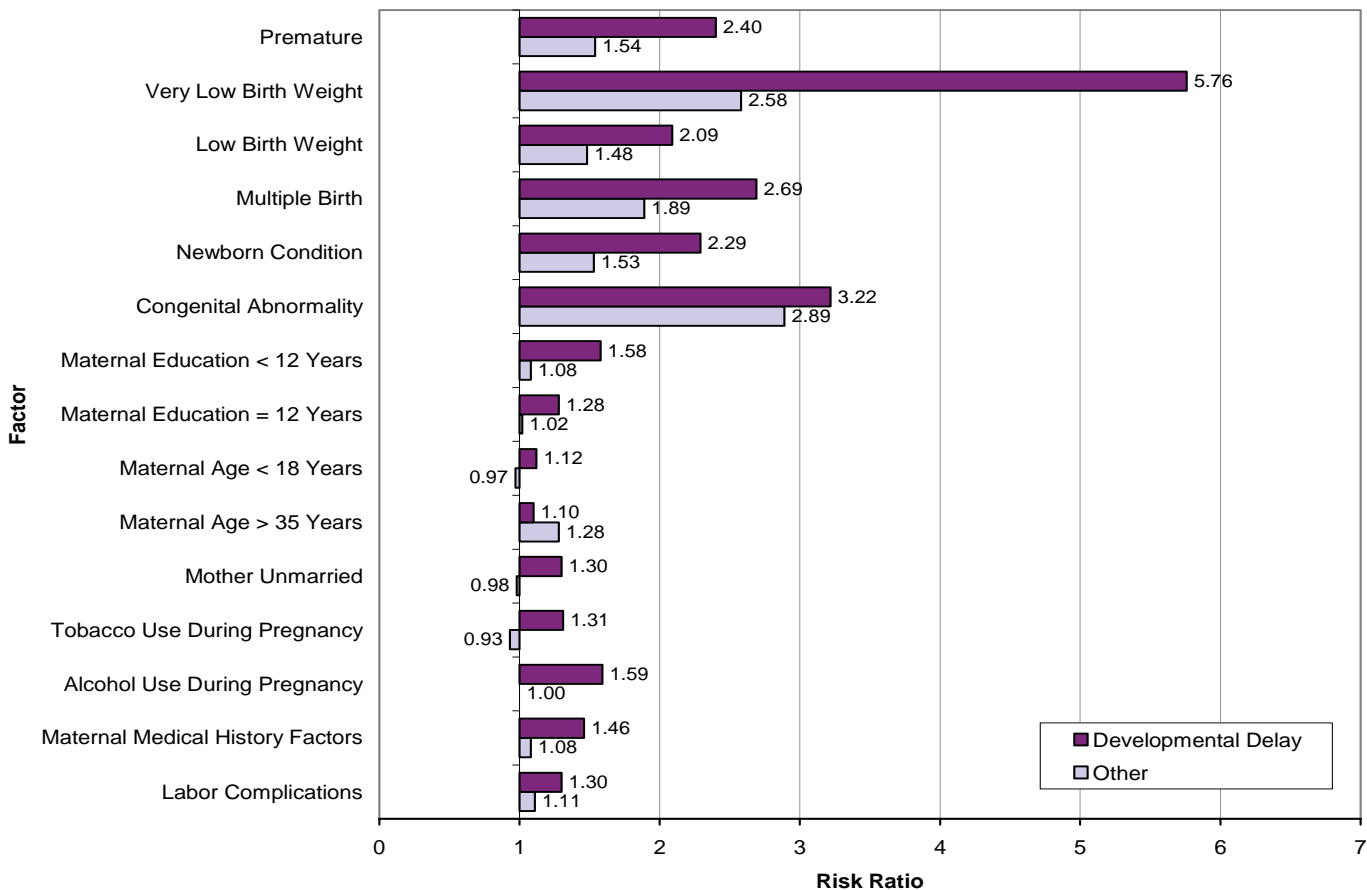For the purposes of the present study, risk factor data from the Florida Department of Health birth certificate records were integrated with preschool exceptionality data from CHRIS. Risk associated with factors present at birth was compared across the following groups:

- 8,404 children with **DD**
- 9,029 children with speech impairment (**SI**)
- 7,040 children with another disability (**Other**)
- 934,675 children without an identified disability (**No Disability**)

Risk ratios for factors present at birth on rates of DD and Other disabilities are provided in Figure 1 (results for SI can be found in the complete report). The level of risk associated with each factor was determined for each group by comparing the rate of occurrence of the factor within each group against the No Disability group. A value of 1.0 indicates equal levels of risk for an outcome (e.g., DD) between the groups being compared (e.g., being born at low birth weight versus at normal birth weight). A value less than 1.0 represents decreased risk for an outcome, and a value of greater than 1.0 represents an increased risk.

The results of the study demonstrate that children born with any of a variety of perinatal risk factors, particularly very low birth weight, are at increased risk for being classified as DD and that the risk associated with these factors is greater for DD than for other developmental disabilities.



Figure 1.

# CHRIS On The Move

**Marsha J. Francois**

On June 18, 2007, the CHRIS project moved into its new home in the Behavioral Medicine Research Building near the center of the University of Miami Coral Gables campus. In order to minimize downtime, the CHRIS database was transferrerd to our backup site at the Polk County Technology Center. In anticipation of the move, an additional Citrix server was installed at this site in order to increase the number of users who could simultaneously access the database.

Moving the project was a very demanding task which included adjusting the servers to their new home. After weeks of stressful days and sleepless nights, our Project Manager, Olga Camacho, was able to transfer the CHRIS database back to our offices here at the University of Miami. We would like to extend our gratitude to all our users for your continued patience and support. *Thank you also to Polk County Schools for your collaboration and continued assistance.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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!

### Upcoming 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.

### Reporter Training

Contact the Help Desk at 1.800.231.5747 to schedule a Reporter training session. Training sessions last 4-5 hours and users can request the development of specific custom reports.

### 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.

### Friendly Reminder!

CHRIS would like to inform all of its users that all University of Miami training sessions will continue to be conducted at the Flipse building. In addition, our contact information (mailing, address, telephone numbers, fax number, and email addresses) will remain the same.

### Contact the CHRIS Help Desk

If you or someone at your site have any questions regarding CHRIS, please contact the Help Desk at 1.800.231.5747 or email us at chris.um@miami.edu. You can also visit our webpage www.chris.miami.edu.