

CHRIS Turns 30

This year CHRIS celebrates its 30th anniversary! A brief history of how we came to be and how we have changed over the years is provided below.

In 1983, there was a huge waiting list in Dade County of children waiting to receive services. Dr. Keith Scott and Dr. Richard Urbano decided to create a tracking system to be used at FDLRS South, the first iteration of a child registry system in Florida.



Dr. Keith Scott



Dr. Richard Urbano

In 1986, the Handicap Prevention Act mandates the establishment of local registries for all FDLRS centers throughout Florida. At this point, many FDLRS centers create their own in-house systems. While many others join together creating a “digital Tower of Babel”.

This prompted a wave of consolidation in 1990. A decision was made to have two systems that would track all of the FDLRS centers, located and maintained at the University of Miami. One system for five centers and another system for the remaining 13 centers. Anne Hymowitz Garber also joins the CHRIS team in 1990.

In 1991, a final wave of consolidation brings all FDLRS centers together under one database system. The desktop version of CHRIS is born using Informix.



Anne Hymowitz
Garber

Register		Assist Exit		CHILD DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION			
DBNUM	MASTER ID	NYSIIS	Entry Person				
Name			Birth Date			Sex	
AKA			Birth Place				
SSN							
Race	Ethnicity		Current Placement				
Language Proficiency			Sub-Location				
			Service County				
Street			ADDRESS	City	State	Zip	County
							Mail?
FAMILY/SIGNIFICANT ADULTS				PHONE NUMBERS			
Name	Relation	LW	M	Phone#	Notes		

The 1991 version of the CHRIS Demographic screen

TRACKING						
DBNUM	Name		Birth Date			
Staff Assigned			Tracking Status			
ISC or SC			Excep. Status			
Event	Date	\$	AGN.	Summary	Notes	

The 1994 version of the CHRIS Tracking screen

In 1995, our software engineer and eventual Program Manager, Olga Camacho arrives.

In 1997 we switch to a FileMaker Pro 3 platform. The back-end of CHRIS still uses FileMaker Pro, although it is up to version 19 now.

At this point in CHRIS history, each FDLRS site maintained its own copy of the CHRIS database. At one time there were 37 separate databases throughout the state of Florida. Each site had to maintain their copy with rudimentary, remote assistance from the CHRIS Help Desk. At the end of each quarter, FDLRS sites would mail a copy of their CHRIS database to the Help Desk where it would be painstakingly combined into a master database used to run statewide reports.

In 1999, Dr. Shihfen Tu becomes the CHRIS Project Director.



In 2001 Aimee Astte Echeverri joins the CHRIS Team. Development of CHRIS *Plus* is underway.



Aimee Astte Echeverri

in 2001, Dr. Christine Delgado becomes the new CHRIS Project Director.



Dr. Christine Delgado

In 2004, Cory Beermann arrives. This year also sees a seismic shift occur. All separate CHRIS databases are consolidated at the University of Miami to be accessed using Citrix via the World Wide Web. A permanent, live, state-wide database is born, CHRIS *Plus*.



CHRIS Team in 2005
(Cory, Olga, Aimee, Christine)

In 2008, a new version of CHRIS is released, CHRIS Gold. It includes redesigned reporting features, better graphical user interface and many more improvements. This version was improved continuously until 2021.

4/30/2025		Tracking Summary		10:13:26 AM	
Name: Oui, Sebastian			DBNUM: 499576 Child_ID: 499576.29 Code: Jessica Rey		
DOB: 6/13/2015 Age: 9.10 SY5: 2020			Update Date: 4/30/2025 Record Creator: Imoore		
3rd BDay: 6/13/2018 Language: English			Current Location: Dagmar Milroy		
County Of Residence: Pinellas			Current Sub-Location: Diane Napier		
Staff Assigned: South PKAT			Exceptionality Status: E		
ISC or Service Coordinator: _____			Timeline Status: ET		
Code: Jessica Rey			Service Coordination Status: FTE		
PreK Funding Program: Part B - PreK			Interagency Release: _____		
Agencies/Providers: None			Start Date: _____		
			End Date: _____		

Tracking Timeline Events					Service Coordination Events				
Add	# of Timelines: 1	Time Elapsed: 62	Display Contact Log? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N						
Event	Date	AN	Summary	Days	Event	Date	AN	Summary	
PartC to PartB					Folder To ESE	05/03/18		,Folder to North Shore	
Screening	03/01/18		1/9/2018,F		Referral Closed	05/02/18		Entered Part B	
Evaluation	03/22/18		3/1/2018 Adaptive ,	21	Appointments	05/02/18		Scheduled,8:00	
ESE Eligibility	05/02/18		ASD (P)	41	Contact Log	04/26/18		Email to parent	
IEP/IFSP	05/02/18		Pinellas County	0	Contact Log	04/26/18		Call to schedule an	
End Timeline	05/02/18		IFSP/IEP Developed	0	Folder To ESE	04/24/18		,Folder to KR for	
					Appointments	03/01/18		Scheduled,10:30	
					Periodic Follow-Up	02/14/18		,Folder to DM/LN	

2020 was the year when COVID forced a new normal upon us all. During this time of tremendous upheaval, Olga tirelessly worked with a software engineering firm to create the first version of CHRIS to exist in the cloud.

After months of sleepless nights and endless Zoom based design meetings, at the end of June, 2021, Citrix was turned off for the final time, and Olga converted CHRIS Gold from its brick and mortar home in our server room at the University of Miami, into the web-based version of CHRIS that now lives in the cloud. CHRIS can now be used on any device that can access the internet.

The CHRIS Help Desk would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all our users and especially the TAWG (Technical Assistance Work Group) members who, throughout the last 30 years, have provided input, guidance, support and made CHRIS into what it is today. We look forward to improving with you for many years to come.

Happy Holidays!

The screenshot displays the CHRIS web application interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes a search icon, a breadcrumb trail (Arv > DBNUM: 705335 > Child ID: 705335.29 > Age: 3.10 > Record Creator: CHRIS), and a 'CopyText' button. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for 'Demographics', 'Tracking', 'Forms', and 'Print'. The main content area features a left sidebar with a 'General' tab selected, and sub-items for 'SC Events' and 'Timeline Events'. The main form area contains a 'Saved' button and a summary section with fields for DBNUM (705335), Child ID (705335.29), DOB (10/03/2016), and Age (3.10). It also displays the last name (Arv), suffix, first name (sth), and middle name. A note indicates the child is currently 3 Years, 10 Months, and 14 Days old. The form is organized into several sections: 'Record Creator' (CHRIS), 'Update Date' (MM/DD/YYYY), '3rd Birth Day' (10/03/2016), 'Primary Language' (English), 'County of Residence' (Pinellas), 'Location', 'Sub Location', 'Staff Assigned' (a dropdown menu), 'ISC or Service Coordinator' (a dropdown menu), 'Code' (a dropdown menu), 'Prak Funding Programs' (three dropdown menus for Program 1, 2, and 3), 'Agencies/Providers' (three dropdown menus for Agency/Provider 1, 2, and 3), 'Exceptionality Status' (1), 'Inter Agency Release' (a dropdown menu), 'Timeline Status' (ET), 'Service Coordination Status' (AP), 'Start Date' (MM/DD/YYYY), and 'End Date' (MM/DD/YYYY).