CHILDREN'S REGISTRY & INFORMATION SYSTEM

C·H·R·I·S

COMMENTS

CHRIS Welcomes Karen Hallinan

Karen Hallinan
M.A., CCC/SLP
FDOE Program Specialist for Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities

It is exciting to have the chance to introduce myself! As an educator in the state of Florida over the past three decades, I have had the opportunity to work with people from birth through geriatrics. It has become very clear to me that quality early childhood experiences are of utmost importance to ensuring that young children begin their formal education with a strong exposure to key early experiences.

After receiving my master's in special education, I began my professional career teaching in an Early Intervention center. The correlation between behavior, literacy, and communication became very evident as my experience grew. So much so that it lead me to further my education in the area of speech and language disorders with a focus on early literacy. My personal passion is the manner in which communication infuses all areas of educa-tion, including literacy and social competency.

My most recent professional experience was as Pre-K Coordinator for children with disabilities in a local school district and districtwide Coordinator for all the exceptional student programs. That position lead me to become very involved with TATS and the expansion of inclusive programs in our district.

The Child Find folks for our district, along with our wonderful Interagency Council, allowed me the opportunity to work with many professionals from different agencies that support young children and their families. I became familiar during this time with the expertise and support that CHRIS provides to all of those in the state who are helping children.

In my new statewide position, which began on June 1, 2011, I continue to wear multiple hats, as I did in my previous roles. Through the years, I have found there is an enormous amount of support between colleagues who are passionate about serving young children.

Learning and interacting with others has always been an enjoyable part of my profession. I look forward to my collaboration with the professionals in the many areas in Florida who support quality learning for young children, such as the CHRIS project staff, FDLRS managers, and the Child Find Specialists.

There will be many opportunities to collaborate with all of those who affect children in a positive manner. Your calls and emails are most welcome, and I look forward to those occasions that allow us to meet in person!

CHRIS Highlights the Significant Adults Information Screen

Cory Beermann

The **Significant Adults Information** section of CHRIS contains personal information about the child's parents or legal guardians (see Figure 1). This section can be accessed by clicking the **Significant Adults** tab located at the bottom of the **Child Demographic Information** screen.

The **Significant Adults Information** section was recently expanded to include fields to record email and alternate address information. Two separate addresses can now be entered for each significant adult. *Physical Address* refers to the physical street address of the person's house. *Mail Address* refers to the location at which the person wishes to receive mail.

Figure 1: Significant Adult Section

The *Mail?* field indicates whether the significant adult should receive mailings related to the child. Two options are available: "Y" (the adult should receive mailings) and "N" (the adult should not receive mailings). Selecting "Y" after completing the *Physical Address* fields will automatically complete the *Mail Address* fields with the same information. If the mailing address differs from the physical address, the information in the *Mail Address* fields will need to be changed.

There is no maximum number of Significant Adults that can be entered for each child. Three Significant Adults can be viewed at a time. If information on more than three adults has been entered, a scrollbar will be displayed. Mailings can be selected to go to multiple addresses.

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Have You Seen Our New CHRIS Website?

Bijan Boustani

The CHRIS website has been completely redesigned with the goal of making it simpler and more user-friendly (see Figure 2). The home page contains announcements and general information about the CHRIS database and project services. The website can be navigated by using the four main section options described below:

The **About** section contains background information on the project as well as contact information for the CHRIS team members.

The updated **Training** section contains all the CHRIS training manuals and information about how to schedule CHRIS training sessions. In addition to information for new users, this section contains information on more advanced topics, such as creating reports.

The **Support** section contains contact information for the CHRIS Help Desk and other useful information for CHRIS users in need of assistance. This section also contains recently updated Frequently Asked Questions and information helpful to CHRIS data facilitators, such as Citrix installation instructions.

The **Publications** section includes CHRIS newsletters, research articles, and information about recent meetings.

CHRIS can be accessed by clicking the Sign In button at the top of the page. The newly redesigned **Citrix Login** screen will be displayed (see Figure 3). Enter your user name and password to access CHRIS.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the CHRIS website, please feel free to get in touch with us at the CHRIS Help Desk.
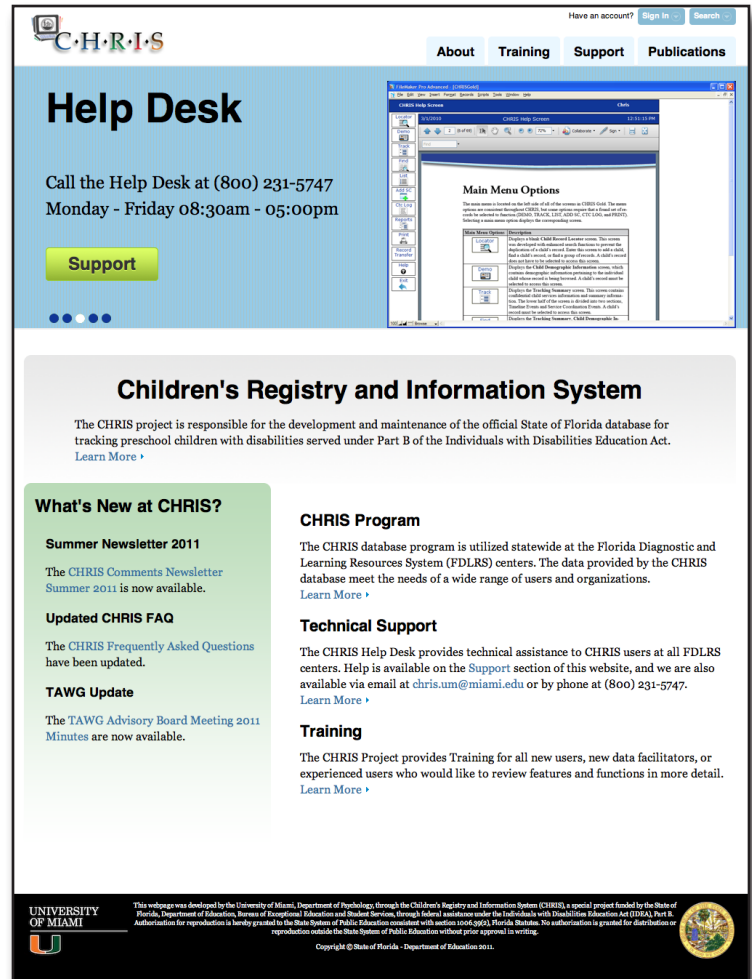

Figure 2: Redesigned CHRIS Website

Figure 3: New Citrix Login Page

New Citrix Server Software

Bijan Boustani

As most of you are aware, Citrix is the technology that CHRIS uses to host our state-wide database. Citrix creates a secure connection between your computer and the CHRIS database housed at the University of Miami.

While logging in over the past few months, you may have noticed that the CHRIS login screen has a new look. This is because we updated our Citrix server software to a more recent version. The transition to the new Citrix software went very smoothly. We have had a number of users call the Help Desk to let us know that CHRIS seems to be running faster and smoother than ever.

CHRIS is currently being used on a wide variety of platforms and devices. We are also presently working on making CHRIS accessible from mobile devices, such as the iPad and iPhone. Stay tuned, the future is here.

CiTRiX®

Access CHRIS from Anywhere

Citrix makes it possible to securely access CHRIS from any location that has Internet access. This includes your office, your home, or your neighborhood coffee shop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRIS Forms

Do you create forms or letters that include CHRIS data? If so, you can automate the completion of these documents by creating a report in Reporter. CHRIS Help Desk staff are happy to help create the forms and letters in Reporter.

CHRIS Trainings

To register for any CHRIS training session, send an email to Cory Beermann at cory@miami.edu or visit the Training page at http://www.chris.miami.edu/training.htm.

Do you want to be on the CHRIS mailing list?

If you are interested in receiving the CHRIS Comments Newsletter via email or know someone who wants to be added to our mailing list, send us an email at chris.um@miami.edu. Newsletters are distributed in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files and can be downloaded and saved on your local computer. If you cannot open PDF files, go to http://www.adobe.com and download a copy of the free Adobe Reader today!