



Online Training for TEDR Coming Soon to a Computer Near You!

The Texas Vital Statistics Unit (VSU) has received federal grant monies to develop and deliver more training for the Texas Electronic Registrar (TEDR) system. The grant was focused on transmitting fact of death data and demographic information within five days and cause of death information within ten days for at least 80% of deaths in Bexar County. A monitoring system will track user enrollment, utilization and satisfaction of TEDR and Texas and Mexico cross-border partnerships related to transfer of mortality information will be explored. Although the grant focuses on Bexar County, many of the activities will benefit our constituents across the state.

VSU selected MicroAssist, Inc., a Texas-based technology training company, to build the custom online training application as the company had developed a similar online training application for the Immunization Division at DSHS which has been very successful. MicroAssist and VSU officially launched the project on April 10, 2009 and the online training should be available by August 2009.

Additionally, Field Services staff will be conducting onsite face-to-face trainings across the state during the development of the online training process.

Check our website for training locations and times at www.TERtraining.texasvsu.org

DSHS Improving Electronic Death Registration System

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is improving the Texas Electronic Death Registration (TEDR) system. House Bill 1739 (80th Legislative Session) mandated the move to filing death certificates electronically. DSHS appreciates feedback and is committed to supporting medical certifiers and all users in the transition to the new death registration system.

Based on medical certifier feedback, the following time-saving improvements are currently being tested and should be implemented by May 1st:

- Medical certifiers will no longer be required to re-enter demographic information.
- Funeral directors will be able to enter the time of death.
- Fields previously requiring an entry of "not applicable" based on information given will be disabled.
- Records incorrectly designated by the funeral homes to medical certifiers will be removed from the medical certifier's work queue upon re-designation by the funeral home. An e-mail notification will be sent to the medical certifier or funeral service provider.

Additional system enhancements are planned for the summer of 2009. DSHS is also working to establish a physicians' review group to provide feedback on proposed system enhancements.

For more information, please visit www.texasvsu.org. For technical assistance, please email help-ter@texasvsu.org. Please include the specific topic information in the subject line and the EDR number in the body of the email.

Register now for the 2009 Vital Statistics Regional Conferences!!!

The 2009 Vital Statistics Regional Conferences are scheduled for June and July. Sites include Lubbock, Tyler, Kerrville, and Corpus Christi. To register, complete the registration form located inside. For additional information, go to www.texasvsu.org.

Save the Dates!!!

The Master Registrar Certification Course will be held in Austin on August 10th through the 14th. Details and Application forms are now available at www.texasvsu.org.

New Field Services Group Staff!

The Vital Statistics Unit (VSU) welcomes Derek Johnson and Catherine Roche to the Field Services Group – and we welcome back Victor Farinelli!

Catherine Roche is the Area Representative for south and west Texas. Cathie received a bachelor's degree with a major in chemistry and a minor in environmental health from the University of Utah. She has worked in the health field for 25 years, six of those years with the State of Texas. Cathie has lived in the Austin area since 1984. She enjoys art, gardening, reading, scuba diving and traveling.

Derek Johnson is the Area Representative for east Texas. Derek was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and was raised in Houston, Texas. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Derek has worked as a technical writer, internal auditor and contract researcher before coming to the Vital Statistics Unit. He currently lives with his wife, Gretchen Johnston, in Georgetown, TX.

Many of you are familiar with Victor Farinelli. Victor started at Vital Statistics in May of 2002 in the Request Processing Branch. He then served as the area rep for north Texas from December of 2004 until October of 2007. Victor then moved back over to Request Processing where he was the Team Lead for the Paternity Supplemental team. We are pleased to have his knowledge and experience back working with us for all of you. Victor will be the Central Texas Area Rep, and will handle our website and focus more on issues here in the office.

Please join the VSU in welcoming Victor, Catherine, and Derek to the Field Services Group!

2009 Five-Star Award Criteria

Remember that no application for the Five-Star Award is necessary. A list of award recipients from 2008 is posted on the Texas Vital Statistics website currently and winners for 2009 will be posted later this fall at www.texasvsu.org

Catherine Roche
888-963-7111 x2580 or
catherine.roche@dshs.state.tx.us



Derek Johnson
888-963-7111 x2530 or
derek.johnson@dshs.state.tx.us



Victor Farinelli
888-963-7111 x2534 or
victor.farnielli@dshs.state.tx.us



Hospitals/Birthing Centers/Midwives

Timeliness: Complete 92% or higher of birth registration releases within five days of the birth using Texas Electronic Registrar (TER) between 01/01/09 and 09/30/09.

Paternity: Complete the state average or higher of potential Acknowledgments of Paternity (AOP) between 10/01/08 and 09/30/09. Your facility must be a birthing hospital and must have functioned in that capacity for a minimum of nine months of Federal Fiscal Year 2009, which began 10/1/08.

Standardization: Use and distribute all pre-populated TER-generated forms.

Training: Had Attended the 2008 Annual Vital Statistics Conference or will attend one of the 2009 Regional Vital Statistics Conferences scheduled for June and July.

ImmTrac Performance: Use the manual ImmTrac (NB-2) consent form to offer parents of newborns the opportunity to "grant" or "deny" ImmTrac consent, and submit properly completed forms for 95% of children born at your facility between 9/1/08 and 8/31/09.

Local Registrar Offices

Timeliness: Average no more than 30 days for death registrations entered in Texas Electronic Registrar (TER), including manual, drop-to-paper and fully electronic records, from the date of death to filing in the state office between 01/01/09 and 09/30/09. Local registration offices averaging less than 20 days will be considered for an Exemplary Five-Star designation.

Innovation: Use TER for all birth, death, and marriage registrations.

Security: By faxing a statement on official letterhead to 512/458-7538, the Local Registrar must attest that all minimum security features are included in their security paper as found in TAC Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 181, subchapter B, Rule 181.28 (c) *Security Features*. Exemplary status will be considered if any additional features are included from Rule 181.28 (d), *Other Permitted Security Features*.

Training: Attend the 2008 Annual Vital Statistics Conference or one of the 2009 Regional Vital Statistics Conferences scheduled for June and July.

Collaboration: Recruiting physicians in your registration district to sign up and use the Texas Electronic Death Registration System.

Funeral Homes/Mortuary Services

Timeliness: Complete 90% or higher of death registration releases within 10 days of death using Texas Electronic Registrar (TER) between 01/01/09 and 09/30/09.

Innovation: Use TER for all death registrations.

Recommendation: Have a letter of recommendation from a local registrar submitted to the Vital Statistics Unit (VSU) on or before 09/30/09. Must be sent by fax to 512/458-7538.

Training: Attend the 2008 Annual Vital Statistics Conference or one of the 2009 Regional Vital Statistics Conferences scheduled for June and July.

Collaboration: Recruit physicians in your registration district to sign up and use the Texas Electronic Death Registration System.

2009 Texas Vital Statistics Regional Conferences

The Vital Statistics Unit/Department of State Health Services and the Texas Public Health Association will co-sponsor the 2009 Texas Vital Statistics Regional Conferences this summer. The day-long conferences will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Locations and dates are as follows:

June 16 - Lubbock
(Tuesday)

Holiday Inn Hotel Towers (806) 763-1200
801 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79401
\$85 single/double room; cut-off for group rate is 6/1/2009;
Group ID: 2009 Vital Statistics Conference

June 18 - Tyler
(Thursday)

Baymont Inn & Suites - Hotel Accommodations (903) 939-0100
3913 Frankston Hwy, Tyler, TX 75701
\$85 single/double room; cut-off for group rate is 6/07/2009;
Group ID: 2009 Vital Statistics Conference
Harvey Convention Center - Conference Location
2000 West Front Street, Tyler, TX 75702

June 23 - Kerrville
(Tuesday)

Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center (800) 292-5690
1001 Junction Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028
\$85 single/double room; cut-off date for group rate is May 23, 2009;
Group ID: 2009 Vital Statistics Conference

July 14 - Corpus Christi
(Tuesday)

Omni Hotels Bayfront and Marina (800) THE-OMNI
900 North Shore Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
\$85 single; \$135 Double; cut-off date is 6/22/2009;
\$7.00 Parking Per Vehicle Per Day
Group ID: 2009 Vital Statistics Conference

Who should attend? All persons involved in the completion and registration of births, deaths, marriages, and acknowledgments of paternity in Texas. Learn about new legislation affecting vital registration in Texas.

Registration: Early Registration Fee is \$75.00. Early Registration for Lubbock, Tyler, and Kerrville must be received by June 1, 2009. Early Registration for Corpus Christi must be received by July 1, 2009 On-Site Registration Fee is \$85.00. Space is limited - no refunds.

Checks or money orders should be payable to the Texas Public Health Association. Please enclose completed registration forms with all payments. To pay by credit card through PayPal, go to: www.texaspha.org and click on the "Co-sponsored Events," then follow the prompts to Vital Statistics. Once you have paid via PayPal, fax your registration form to (512) 336-0533. All payments must be received on or before the day of the conference. You may bring the check with you on the day of the conference.

Mail registration forms and payments to TPHA/Vital Statistics Conference, P.O. Box 201540, Austin, TX 78720-1540.

Continuing Education Units: Continuing education accreditation is being submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services Midwifery Program, American Health Information Management Association, Texas Funeral Service Commission, Texas Justice Court Training Center and the County & District Clerk's Association of Texas.

Registration Questions: Texas Public Health Association, (512) 336-2520 **Program Questions:** (888) 963-7111, extensions 2534, 3651, 2580, or 2949.

Name: _____ Name of Company/Agency: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Attending Conference in (check one):

- Lubbock- June 16th Tyler - June 18th Kerrville - June 23rd Corpus Christi - July 14th

Newborn Screening in Texas

The Texas Public Health Department began screening newborns in 1965; the first disorder screened for was Phenylketonuria, better known as PKU. Today at the Department of State Health Services, there are 27 disorders screened for infants. Screened disorders include PKU, Sickle Cell Anemia (3 types), Congenital Hypothyroid, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Galactosemia and 20 additional metabolic disorders. If not detected and treated early, these disorders can cause mental retardation, organ damage, developmental delays, seizures, coma, and even death. These disorders are rare; however, approximately 620 Texas newborns will be diagnosed with a screened disorder this year.

Infants are screened twice; at 24-48 hours old, either in the hospital or by an attending midwife and in the pediatrician's office 1-2 weeks later. A few drops of the baby's blood are all that is needed, therefore, many parents do not realize their baby has been screened and do not understand the importance of a quick response in the event of an abnormal result.

Hearing screens are also conducted on most babies before leaving the hospital or birthing center. This important screen helps to identify 3 infants per 1,000 that are born with a profound hearing loss.

The Newborn Screening Program (NBS) has many resources to offer parents and healthcare professionals. Please visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/newborn> for information for parents and professionals, including a link to order pamphlets, informative videos and contact information to arrange an in-service training at your facility.

Recently the DSHS Laboratory has added the capability for providers to view the NBS (bloodspot) results online. If interested, visit the NBS Remote Data site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/nbsRemoteDataServices.shtm>.

The Newborn Screening Program has an electronic notification distribution list. If you would like to receive urgent notifications and program up-dates, you may go to https://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=TXHHSC_196 and subscribe.

For further information, contact us by e-mail at Newborn@dshs.state.tx.us; or call Judy Chrisman, NBS Program Educator 512- 458-7111 ext 2682.

Vital Statistics TODAY (UPS 016-976) is published quarterly by Texas Vital Statistics, Department of State Health Services, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3191. Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, TX POSTMASTER. Send address changes to *Vital Statistics TODAY*, Texas Vital Statistics, Department of State Health Services, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3191. Publication Number 35-12604

David Lakey, M.D.
Commissioner



Editorial Board

Albert Rivera, Managing Editor
Derek Johnson, Assistant Editor
Cathirene Roche, Assistant Editor
Joan Strawn, Assistant Editor
Victor Farinelli, Designer

Review Board

Geraldine R. Harris, State Registrar/
Unit Manager

Contributors

Joan Strawn, VSU
Albert Rivera, VSU
Judy Chrisman, NBS

phone: (512) 458-7111 (Austin);
(888) 963-7111 (toll free)
fax: (512) 458-7233
email: registrar@dshs.state.tx.us
internet: www.texasvsu.org