Cooperative Agreement Corner

Our Cooperative Agreement with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) supports activities for jurisdictions. Upcoming opportunities are provided below.
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VRHS Accreditation Program
Join an upcoming virtual meeting with NAPHSIS to discuss the potential benefits for jurisdictions that participate in the VRHS Accreditation program. You will hear from colleagues in Arizona, Florida and South Dakota who have been actively participating in the program. They will share some of their organizational and performance improvements to date resulting from their involvement in the accreditation process. Register here.

Systems Special Interest Group
Past topics have included electronic signatures for vital records documents, out of state records, e-certification and more. The next Systems Special Interest Group Call will be held on April 29th at 3 pm ET. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Field Services Special Interest Group
Past topics have included mother/parent worksheets, working with the funeral director community, retention schedules and more. The next Field Services Interest Group Call will be held on April 27th at 3 pm ET. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

VSCP Project Director's webinar
Join the next VSCP Project Director's webinar where we will be discussing an online query system for public/media and testing performed post-mortem for influenza vs. COVID-19 cases. Register here.

2020 Data Year Close-out: Action Needed

This year we have noticed several issues in the 2020 data files that many jurisdictions will need to address aggressively in order to close the national files on time. **Please pay special attention to any outstanding errors, missing records, infant death and fetal death volume, infant death linkage and mortality pending causes of death.**

Tables 1, 2, and 3 include the remaining contract closeout and file release dates for 2020 data. Note that to include a jurisdiction's most current information in the file release, all corrections and final file deliverables are due no later than the target dates listed. The contract closeout dates are highlighted in red, as are the dates for final updates. The dates for final updates are subject to change, depending on the quality of the national file.

Table 1. 2020 Birth File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 birth	March 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 birth file updates	April 9, 2021
(DACEB) Release of final 2020 birth data to	May 6, 2021

Table 2. 2020 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 deaths	May 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 death file updates	June 15, 2021
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 26, 2021
(DACEB) Release final 2020 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	October 1, 2021

Table 3. 2020 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 fetal deaths	May 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 fetal death file updates accepted	June 25, 2021
(DACEB) Release final 2020 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 26, 2021

As we move toward final file closures, I encourage you to contact your assigned Data Acquisition, Classification and Evaluation Branch (DACEB) staff with any questions or feedback on the status of your files or the file closeout process.

First Vital Records and Health Statistics Unit Receives National Accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board

The **South Dakota's Office of Vital Records and Health Statistics was awarded** national accreditation by The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This is the first nationally accredited Vital Records Health Statistics (VRHS) unit, receiving accreditation status for five years. PHAB, the nongovernmental, nonprofit organization administers the national accrediting program, focused on public health practices and performance improvement. The new VRHS national accreditation program, launched in February 2019 was a culmination of a multi-year effort supported with funding provided from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support and National Center for Health Statistics.

This significant accomplishment marks a milestone promoting industry standards that will validate, strengthen, and underscores the importance of efficient and effective business operations and continuous quality improvement in operating vital records and health statistics offices. This achievement was **publicly acknowledged by** *Kim* **Malsam-Rysdon, South Dakota's Secretary of Health; releasing the following statement.** *"The South Dakota Department of Health relies on preserved information and accurate data to best inform and deliver public health programs to our communities. I would like to thank Mariah Pokorny, Shawna Flax, and their team of dedicated professionals, for achieving this goal on behalf of all South Dakotans."*

Vital records and health statistics continue to be relied upon and recognized as an essential service to public health programs, practices, and strategies in safeguarding the public's health. In addition, to its core responsibilities for filing, protecting, and preserving birth certificates, death certificates and other important documents and records. The VRHS unit is critical in creating and informing effective public health programs in communities. Accreditation will enhance and improve Vital Records and Health Statistics services and programs nationwide. This achievement is the first of several others VRHS programs to join South Dakota, actively pursuing accreditation in

preparation to join their colleagues from South Dakota. Let us all congratulate our colleagues for their efforts and vision.

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice

The **Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice (NVSS COP)** is a shared space for learning and innovation and provides a forum for jurisdictions and their partners working in the modernization space to come together on topics of mutual interest. One of the questions we receive from the COP members is how they can facilitate the ongoing development and learning of their teams/ workforce in modernization in general and in public health informatics in particular.

To this end, in the NVSS Newsletter Special Issue below, we are sharing selected online training resources and tools in (public) health informatics offered by reputable sources (both free and cost). NCHS is not positioned to financially support jurisdictions or their partners to take these trainings; this curated list is not exhaustive and is being offered as a suggestion only. Jurisdictions/partners are encouraged to do their own research before enrolling in any course to ensure goodness of fit. Within each provider link, using key search terms such as 'Public Health Informatics', 'Health Informatics', 'Interoperability 'and 'Data Analytics' may result in additional trainings of relevance. The providers are arranged in alphabetical order.

If you have suggestions on trainings that could be added to the list or have questions, please send a note to NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

Vital Staff Spotlights

Diana Yang was appointed VSCP Project Director in New York State.

Louis Wishart departed her position as VSCP Project Director in Delaware.

Click here for previous newsletter issues!

NVSS Modernization Community of Practice: Workforce capacity building resources in public health informatics, interoperability and FHIR for jurisdictions and their partners working in the NVSS modernization space.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

- ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing public health agencies in the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, and over 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ.
- ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, formulate and influence sound public health policy and ensure excellence in state-based public health practice.
- ASTHO has compiled informatics tools and examples to be utilized for the development of an informatics workforce or office.

Sample resources:

- Informatics Workforce and Organizational Toolkit

Coursera

- Coursera offers free and paid opportunities to build skills with courses, certificates, and degrees online from universities and companies.

Sample Resources:

- Health Informatics Specialization by Johns Hopkins University
- Introduction to Digital Health by Imperial College, London
- HI-FIVE (Health Informatics for Innovation, Value & Enrichment) Training by Columbia University
- HI-FIVE: Health Informatics for Innovation, Value & Enrichment (Administrative/IT Perspective)

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)

- CSTE is an organization of member states and territories representing public health epidemiologists.
- CSTE works to establish more effective relationships among state and other health agencies.
- CSTE provides technical advice and assistance to partner organizations and to federal public health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- CSTE offers an abundance of resources that have been developed to support practicing epidemiologists in a wide range of areas including public health informatics.
- CSTE Webinar library: https://www.cste.org/page/WebinarLibrary

Sample Resources: (https://www.cste.org/page/WebinarLibrary)

- Communicating the value of public health informatics (under category: Workforce Development)
- Evaluation for public health informatics (under category: Workforce Development)Key concepts and terminology in public health informatics- (under category: Surveillance and Informatics)

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, Inc.

- **HIMMS** supports the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology.
- HIMSS offers a unique depth and breadth of expertise in health innovation, public policy, workforce development, research, and analytics to advise global leaders, stakeholders, and influencers on best practices in health information and technology.
- HIMSS Learning Center offers a variety of on demand paid and no cost courses and training in informatics, interoperability, and innovation. Allows searches by topic, training type, etc.

Sample Resources:

- HIMSS Learning Center: https://www.himsslearn.org
- State HIEs Innovating Interoperability During COVID-19
- Interoperability: How to Measure Data Interoperability and Communication Across Health Systems
- Determining Measures of Success for Interoperability
- What is User Centered Design in Health Care
- Nine Essential Principles of Software Usability for EMRs
- COVID-19: The Role of Informatics and Best Practice Sharing In Pandemic Response

Informatics Academy

- **Informatics Academy** - A mix of free and paid online course on public health informatics, project management, systems design, training, and evaluation for practitioners at all levels from the Public Health Informatics Institute.

Sample Resources:

- Includes training on the fundamentals of internet information systems (IIS), Designing and managing public health information systems, Informatics for everyone, Communicating informatics and IT lifecycle fundamentals for public health informatics and guiding principles for contract management.

Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)

- PHII has led the charge in establishing informatics as a recognized discipline critical to the field of public health; its mission is to transform health practitioners' ability to use information effectively.
- PHII supports public health organizations in the U.S. and worldwide and serve as a strategic partner with major industry associations, foundations and government agencies.
- PHII staff are professionals with expertise in public health, information systems, business analysis, training, project management and communications.

Sample Resources:

- Introduction to Collaborative Requirements Development Approach:
- Carrying Out a Business Process Analysis with Examples
- Toolkit - Preparing to Access CMS 90-10 Funding for Public Health
- Podcasts on Emerging Topics in Public Health Informatics
- The Informatics-Savvy Health Department Assessment Tool
- Informatics Workforce Position Classifications and Descriptions