

Session # A-7

Title: Public Assistance Reporting Information System Project

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SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

Mark Graboyes

- PARIS is an automated computer matching program, which is able to perform “matches” of SSN’s to reveal which recipients of public assistance are receiving assistance from multiple sources/agencies, inappropriately
 - uses various federal databases and participating states
- now child care data is being added to the match
- the benefit is in cost avoidance, by finding recipients who are receiving public assistance inappropriately, which translates to savings for states
- Forty-four jurisdictions (states) have joined PARIS
- PARIS is operated under ACF DHHS
- PARIS provides 3 matches in one – Federal, Veterans Affairs, and Interstates focusing on 5 programs: TANF, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Child Care, and Workers Compensation
 - Matches offered quarterly – Feb, May, August, November
 - Match by SSN – must have SSN
 - A match is only a red flag, doesn’t necessarily mean the recipient is doing anything wrong
- ACF is the central point of contact
- The legal stuff
 - ACF obtains OMB computer matching act clearance every 30 months
 - memorandum of agreement legalizes state participation in PARIS (model agreement)
 - states voluntarily decide to participate in PARIS
- Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)
- Receives encrypted data electronically via Connect: Direct
 - Requires only one State datafile to match against VA, Interstate, and Federal matches
 - not a national welfare database
 - all privacy concerns apply
- 17 minutes to do entire Interstate match
- 2 minutes per state

Rachael Stewart

- represents state’s view

- no cost to state, no fee
- DMDC does all the actual matching
- cost comes in for providing IT and increased workload
- example, Oklahoma: internal preparation/consultation (\$9,925) + external programming/technical specs (\$10,895), total = \$20,820
- matched cases need review (red flag)
 - added time is .5 to 2.5 hours per case
 - may need to contact client for confirmation/verification
- don't need to create a whole new system – just adds to existing system
- Utah story:
 - first match in August 2001, none of the contiguous states were members, so didn't get much out of the interstate match (usually interstate matches occur with neighboring states); Utah also doesn't have many bordering towns
 - now, 2007, all neighboring states are PARIS members, and interstate matches have increased – many matches with neighboring states
 - different states implement PARIS differently, not one-size-fits-all, some have TANF and child care in one agency, some have it in two
 - 2600 matches per quarter, 4 matches per worker per quarter, 20-25% contain new info that we didn't already know (other 75% are already known, and are disregarded)
 - \$960,000 saved per year
 - state operational costs are \$117,000
- Pennsylvania story:
 - lots of savings in Medicaid, because more money gets distributed through this program
 - savings: total \$73.3 million
 - 4 interstate matches, 1 VA match, 13,172 matches "worked", 2,218 cases closed, 17% case closure rate
 - \$12 million saved in Medicaid
 - costs: \$546,000
 - net savings to PA for 2005: 13 million
 - try to prevent errors rather than just catch them after the fact; try to minimize errors
- New York saved \$192M, DC saved \$4.2M, Oklahoma saved \$1.2M, Rhode Island saved \$631k
- 8 state's reported savings as a result of PARIS: \$282M
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- Why use PARIS?
 - one match does it all
 - 5 matches for 1 submission
 - establishes contact with other participating states
 - includes states you would normally not match with
- Child care participation issues
 - Child care SSN's will be submitted to see receiving benefits in any other state
 - Child care agency in state must talk to PARIS coordinator in the state
 - no additional legal approval is required

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Questions

- any legal issues with recording SSN?
 - no, currently no federal laws against it, but there may be state-by-state laws
 - each person should look into their own states' laws
 -
 - conference call between states to talk about legality of using SSN's
- privacy is protected because the matching is all done on the computer (DMDC), workers do not actually see the personal information

KEY POINTS

- PARIS is a system that uses SSN to identify individuals who are receiving public assistance inappropriately (receiving the same benefit from two or more sources). By identifying these individuals and cutting off their benefits, the state and federal governments can save money.
- low cost to use
- can save states millions
- easy to implement into existing system