

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.

Join your Colleagues in Monthly Special Interest Group Meetings

Systems Special Interest Group | Past topics have included electronic signatures for vital records documents, out of state records, e-certification and more. Upcoming Special Interest Group Calls will be taking place on January 28th and February 25th at 3 p.m. 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. Upcoming Field Services Interest Group Calls will be taking place on January 26th and February 23rd at 3 p.m. ET. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Save the Dates!

NAPHSIS will be hosting a “Vital Records and their Administration” training course on March 15-16. Application information will be sent out in January 2021.

Reminder: 2021 Maternal Mortality File Change

Please remember the cause of death coding for 2021 maternal deaths is different from previous years. Instead of making changes through a separate

recording process, the coding changes described in the 2018 maternal mortality publication (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr69-02-508.pdf>) have been implemented in production coding. These changes include those based on the age range of the mother and pregnancy checkbox only records. Due to a positive response from jurisdictions, a change in the structure of the record axis code was also implemented to retain coding as if the pregnancy checkbox was the only indicator of pregnancy.

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



The [Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice \(NVSS COP\)](#), launched in October 2020, is a virtual forum for connecting stakeholders and sharing ideas, technical tools, resources, and promising

practices to improve birth and death data. We also offer focused subgroups on specific topics of interest, as well as opportunities for virtual testing of FHIR-based interoperability across the mortality and natality workflows, including hands-on participation in connect-a-thons. The COP welcomes all jurisdictions and partners interested in modernizing vital records – at any level of experience – to promote interoperability and System (processes, technology and workforce) improvements for faster, higher quality data.

The NVSS Modernization COP currently hosts the following standing meetings:

- Weekly Technical Assistance Office hours (each Tuesday @ 3pm ET)
 - Next meeting: January 5th, 2021
- Monthly NVSS Modernization COP Meeting (each 3rd Wed @ 3pm ET)
 - Next meeting: January 20th, 2021

- Topic: ***“What is cause-of-death data quality, how do we measure it, and how can we improve it?”***
- Monthly NVSS Modernization Technical Subgroup Meeting (each 4th Wed @ 1pm ET)
 - Next meeting: January 27th, 2021
 - Topic: ***“Everything you wanted to know about the vital records death reporting FHIR implementation guide and the HL7 balloting process.”***

Recent Highlights:

The recordings for each meeting are saved on the Sharefile portal. You can request access to the portal by sending an email to the NVSS mailbox at NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

- During the **December 9th Combined Technical Subgroup meeting**, Pete Krautscheid from MITRE presented: **“Modernizing NVSS - Getting started with FHIR in an hour or less.”** He offered a stepwise approach to achieving FHIR based Interoperability to include: (1) Reviewing the vital records death reporting FHIR implementation guide and FHIR messaging for VRDR record exchange business processes; (2) Understanding the use of the .Net and Java libraries; (3) Demonstrating the use of the Canary testing framework, and more.
- The theme of the **December 16th COP meeting** was **“Carrying out a process analysis to identify and eliminate bottle necks in the mortality flow and improve timeliness of data.”** During this meeting, attendees heard about the importance of carrying out a Business Process Analysis (BPA) as a first step in any modernization effort from NCHS’ Mac McCraw. A BPA can be vitally important in improving the timeliness of data by identifying bottle necks that can be addressed through both technical and non-technical solutions. Attendees also heard two state presentations describing their experiences in carrying out a BPA, *“Interoperability & EDRS Quality Improvement Project”* from Judy Moulder, Director, Health Statistics and Vital

Records at Mississippi State Department of Health, and *“Interoperability Between a Forensics Center and the KS Electronic Death Registration System,”* from Kay Haug, Kansas State Registrar and Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics Director.

- In an effort to promote ongoing connection and sharing, the NVSS Modernization COP is now providing a platform for jurisdictions to share pertinent information that may be of interest to the rest of the community. Titled COP Peer to Peer Connection Corner, this monthly announcement offers jurisdictions an opportunity to share pertinent information related to modernization efforts to include job announcements, training and/or funding opportunities, conferences, and innovations. The announcements are compiled and sent out to the COP distribution list the first week of every month. If you have something you want to share, please send it to the [NVSS modernization mailbox](mailto:NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov) by the last week of the preceding month.
- Stay connected and informed by joining the NVSS COP distribution list. Send an email to: nvssmodernization@cdc.gov.

State and Jurisdiction Input Goes Here!!

Have a topic to share with the monthly newsletter audience? We want to hear from you and feature your segments! Please send us your initiatives from the broader community, questions, or lessons learned. Send them to **George Tolson at gct1@cdc.gov** today!

Vital Staff Spotlights

Jurisdictions may add as many names as they would like to our NCHS Newsletter mailing list! Just send a note to **George Tolson at gct1@cdc.gov** today.

Catherine Ryan departed her position as State Registrar in North Carolina.

ClarLynda Williams-Devane was appointed State Registrar in North Carolina.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues!](#)