



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.

January VSCP Directors Webinar: NAPHSIS invites you to the monthly VSCP Project Directors Webinar on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. January topics include: Real-Time Correction and Monitoring of Death Registration Data and Facility “Report Cards.” Please [register](#) to join us on January 12, 2022 at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Field Services Special Interest Group: Past topics have included electronic signatures, strategies when working with reluctant certifiers, hard and soft edits within jurisdictions’ systems, sharing of field program/staff responsibilities, and more. The next Field Services Interest Group Call will be held on January 25, 2022 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

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 January 27, 2022 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup: Assess and improve the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, focusing on improving data at the source (i.e., at the hospital). The next BDQW will meet on February 3, 2022 at 2 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Mortality Data Quality Workgroup: Identify high-priority death data quality issues, metrics, and strategies to improve data quality. The next MDQW will meet on January 10, 2022 at 1 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

2022 Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) Base Contract

The Office of Acquisition Services (OAS) plans to begin sending the base VSCP contracts to jurisdictions for signature the week of December 20th through January 7th. The upcoming period of performance is set to begin January 21, 2022. OAS may have already engaged with your jurisdiction with the expected completion date. The intent of the early communication is so jurisdictions can plan to have someone on standby to sign the contracts during that time. Please be aware that we cannot fund the 2022 VSCP task order until the base contract is signed by your jurisdiction. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

2022 Rare Cause of Death changes

Beginning with 2022 data there will be a slight change in what is expected for Rare Causes of Death. In the past when a rare cause of death was identified, jurisdictions would be asked to submit a copy of the death certificate as well as a confirmation of the rare cause. The 2022 VSCP contract requires confirmation of the rare cause of death and copies of certificates will only be needed upon request. For 2022 we would like for jurisdictions to place more focus on obtaining confirmations for identified records. The 2021 data still requires both confirmation of the rare cause and a copy of the certificate.

When your jurisdiction is notified of a rare cause we ask that you work with the certifier to obtain confirmation of the rare cause. Whether the identified cause is confirmed or not confirmed, this information should be communicated with your assigned Medical Classification Specialist. In cases where the rare cause of death will change, please

ensure the death record is updated and sent to NCHS as soon as possible.

Additionally, beginning with 2022 data, two additional codes will be added to the rare cause follow up list:

A390 (Meningococcal Meningitis)

A394 (Meningococcaemia)

If you have any questions about the rare cause process starting with 2022 data, please contact your assigned Medical Classification Specialist.

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



As a community of NVSS modernizers, the Community of Practice (COP) strives to facilitate activities such as peer-to-peer sharing, ongoing engagement between NCHS

and the community using a multi-pronged approach, and continued development and availability of opensource tools. These are critical to our foundation and ongoing growth and success.

Thanks to ELC funding, the number of jurisdictions working in the modernization space has grown. Since jurisdictions are at varying levels of maturity, we thought it would be beneficial to offer more formalized and structured opportunities to facilitate peer to peer sharing.

With this spirit of enhancing the information flow across community members, starting in January 2022, the COP is introducing a brand-new segment in the Main COP meetings called Round Robin. This will also help jurisdictions meet one of the objectives in their required tasks for the Tier 3 ELC funding (participation in the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice).

Each month, 5 jurisdictions will be invited to share for 3-5 minutes about their activities in the modernization space as it relates to ELC funding projects. Initially in January and February, since

jurisdictions may just be starting out, topics might focus on upcoming plans and approach to achieving their modernization goals. In subsequent months, the feedback may be more substantive, to include steps they took in putting an RFP together for vendor support, learnings from coming to office hours, working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, or approaches to overcoming a risk.

Though we are interested in jurisdictions' work and progress as a community, these are not project updates or progress reports. The emphasis of these short talks will be to share lessons learned, pearls of wisdom, promising practices, with the intent of what might be of use to the rest of the community. In later months, the hope is that jurisdictions may even be convening subgroups around these special topics. We will begin in January with the five states named with an A: Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, and Arkansas. Our office will post a monthly Round Robin presenters schedule to the SharePoint site, and contact each state directly to provide more information as the time approaches.

In addition, starting in January 2022, we are introducing a segment called '*Spotlight of the month*' during COP calls where we will highlight individuals, program accomplishments, major events or noteworthy happenings related to NVSS modernization efforts. If you would like to nominate an individual or program, please send an email to nvssmodernization@cdc.gov with a short description of the highlight.

We look forward to your participation and sharing in the new year as we collectively work towards building a stronger and more collaborative community. Wishing the community, a happy holiday season!

Vitals Staff Spotlights

Diana Yang departed her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New York State.

Stephanie Ostrowski was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New York State.

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