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.

REMINDER - 2022 VSCP Annual Meeting

The VSCP contract requires an in-person annual meeting with VSCP Project Directors. This year's requirement will be met virtually during the July VSCP call. The July meeting *is required* for all VSCP directors. Registration is required to note your jurisdiction's attendance. Register to join us on July 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup

The Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW) works to 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 August 4, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Mortality Data Quality Workgroup

The Mortality Data Quality Workgroup (MDQW) works to identify high-priority death data quality issues, metrics, and strategies to improve data quality. The next MDQW will meet on July 11, 2022, at 1 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Field Services Special Interest Group

If you work in field services or would like to hear what other jurisdictions are doing in their quality assurance program, please join us! Past topics have included data sharing, the IJE, informant's entitlements, Model Law, home births, and more. The next Field Services Interest Group will meet on July 26, 2022, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Systems Special Interest Group

Discuss and share how your vital records systems respond to ongoing developments in the vital records world. Topics include FHIR, special characters in names, interoperability, and streamlining the data lifecycle. The next Systems Special Interest Group will meet on July 28, 2022, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Continual Impact Training

This two-part webinar series will teach attendees how to create a visual map of a detailed work process. Swim-lane maps capture step-by-step tasks, including who is responsible, who receives the handoff, what system and/or job aids are required to complete the task and other key data. Register here to join the July 12 and July 19, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Eastern session OR Register here to join the July 14 and July 21, 2022, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern session.

New Invoice Processing Platform

To comply with OMB Memorandum M-15-19, *Improving Government Efficiency and Saving Taxpayer Dollars through Electronic Invoicing,* Health and Human Services (HHS) will begin using the Department of Treasury's Bureau of Fiscal Services, **Invoice Processing Platform (IPP)** with new contracts and recent contracts requiring any change**.** IPP is a web-based system that provides an integrated secure system that will simplify the management of vendor invoices. IPP is designed to improve the workflow for Contracting Office Representatives (COR) by eliminating the process of manual entry. It is important to share this information with staff involved in contracts and the invoicing process to avoid payment delays. Further information is available at www.ipp.gov or by contacting IPP Customer Support.

IPP Contacting Customer Support is available during standard operating hours, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

- **By Phone:** Customer Support at (866) 973-3131
- **Email:** ippcustomersupport@fiscal.treasury.gov

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. On June 27th and 28th, the NVSS Community of Practice organized its second quarterly testing event of the year, aimed at providing jurisdictions and their technical partners with an opportunity to test their health systems strengthening efforts with FHIR based interoperability. While the focus of this event was on the Electronic Death Registration Systems (EDRS) to NCHS flow, this event was unique in that it incorporated testing the STEVE FHIR API. The event was free of cost, less formal than traditional connectathon, and was intended to support a spirit of iterative systems development for both NCHS and jurisdictions while fostering collective and shared learning and engagement.

Eleven (11) jurisdictions including Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York City, Puerto Rico, and Utah, as well as NAPHSIS participated as testers. Additionally, ten (10) jurisdictions to include Montana, North Carolina, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Michigan, Oregon, New Hampshire, Washington, and District of Columbia participated as observers.

Testing Results Include:

- All 11 testing jurisdictions were successful in sending and receiving at least one FHIR message to NCHS and received a coded response and acknowledgement message back. Most were able to send and receive all three records.
- Eight (8) out of the 11 jurisdictions successfully tested with the STEVE API.
- Ten (10) of the 11 jurisdictions plan on continuing to test with the NVSS API and STEVE API to finish the testing requirements as per the test plan (both <happy> and optional paths).
- The observing jurisdictions found the event very informative and some expressed interest in participating in future formal testing events.

Lessons Learned Include:

- The testing event uncovered no updates needed to the VRDR IG but did uncover about a few bug fixes to the library and Canary. It also uncovered a few minor enhancements needed to the NVSS API
- The prework done between GTRI, UT and MN to refine the JAVA library helped a great deal
- The prework done between IA, LA and NVSS to refine ITB processing also helped resolve issues in advance.
- Issues with the demographic information not processing quickly enough on day 1 were resolved on day 2 and everyone received their MRE files.
- Having the NVSS API and STEVE API available in the testing environment so that states can test on their own is important. It is also important to update the NVSS Modernization Tool Kit with clear links to the changes to the VRDR IG STU 2.0/V1.3 compared to the previous version.
- Some jurisdictions requested to have the VRDR IG and tools available for testing more than 5 weeks prior to the testing event.
- It is important to give all participating jurisdictions access to the NVSS API (test) so that they can transition from being observers to testers during the event with no wait time.

Two more testing events organized by the NVSS Modernization COP are scheduled for October 17-18 and December 5-6, 2022. More information will be forthcoming. Jurisdictions interested in participating in upcoming testing events should send an email to NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov

Thank you to all the participants for making the event a success. Special thanks to the MITRE team for their technical leadership in developing the NVSS API, the client API and providing technical assistance to all participating states. Appreciation to NAPHSIS, GTRI, and Ruvos for their ongoing collaborations in the NVSS modernization space.

We look forward to our continued collaboration in working towards our collective NVSS modernization goals.

Click here for previous newsletter issues!

This newsletter is a publication of the NVSS, intended to enhance the community of vital records and vital statistics practice, to provide useful information for vital statistics and vital records professionals, and to inform the broader community of interested stakeholders.

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