



# The CHARM Report

~ *Child Health Advanced Records Management* ~

*Fall 2005*

**CHARM Program Vision:** *The CHARM Data Integration Infrastructure will be the information resource of choice for Public Health programs and Health-care providers that facilitates coordination of services, improves child safety and health outcomes.*

- **Program Management Update** - The CHARM system software (Version 1.0) and hardware components are installed in the production environment. The interfaces have been implemented and production data has been loaded for the first three participating programs (Vital Statistics, USIIS, and Newborn Hearing Screening). CHARM will be “live” following additional training for the core users and a four week period of Beta testing.

Funding and sustainability issues continue to be a high priority with the development of the CHARM project. The following are highlights of dedicated funding for the next year (actual dates vary):

  - EHDI-CDC Cooperative Agreement - July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 (total award July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008). It supplements development (personnel) and contractual (USU) costs.
  - MCH Carryover funds – These were reduced this fiscal year and may be unavailable next year. They supplement development (personnel) costs.
  - GSDI-HRSA Grant – Ends May 31, 2006. Re-funding for CHARM related activities is currently unknown. It supplements development (personnel) costs.
  - SSDI-HRSA Grant – Ends August 31, 2006. There is high probability for continued involvement. A new application will be written to reflect the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) priorities.
  - LEND Grant (Association of University Centers on Disabilities /USU) - Awarded October 1, 2005. This will supplement funding for Vital Records to develop an EHDI “alert” system. The title of the project is "Birth Certificate Orders: A Missed Opportunity for Hearing Screening Follow-Up."
  - New Grant Opportunity with Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) - This may offer future funding possibilities. The title of the grant application is “Information Links: Connecting Public Health with Health Information Exchanges.” It was recently submitted by the UDOH.

A combined CHARM Governing Board/Core Council meeting has been scheduled on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Topics for discussion include project development, future funding, and sustainability.

Representatives from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), including John Eichwald, were recently hosted for a review of CHARM related CDC grant activities. CDC was pleased to see that the development schedule for CHARM

and the associated projects are on track and moving forward. Utah continues to be one of approximately six states who are accomplishing functional data integration. Thanks to the Participating Program people who attended the site visit (Barry Nangle, Nancy Pare, Lynn Martinez, Frank Cortese, Nita Jensen, Katie Denter, Fay Keune and Susan Ord). Thanks, too, for the continued support and participation during the site visit from Holly Balken, Karl White, Steve Clyde, Monal Daxini, Linda Goetze, John Carey, Bronte Clifford, Karen Dent, Jim Bale, Aihua Tong, and the CHARM Management Team. For more information regarding overall program issues and schedules, contact Rich Harward at [rharward@utah.gov](mailto:rharward@utah.gov) or (801) 584-8529.

- **Working with Local Health Departments** - The CHARM Program was invited to speak to the Salt Lake Valley Health Department public health nurses at a recent staff meeting. A CHARM overview, system description, and future plans were presented. Staff gathered feedback from the nurses and obtained information about the opportunities and potential barriers of using CHARM at the local level. The nurses requested the capability to find children using the mother's name. This capability has been added to the CHARM development log as a feasible enhancement. For more information, contact Rebecca Anderson at [rebeccaanderson@utah.gov](mailto:rebeccaanderson@utah.gov); (801) 230-0013 or Mike Webb at [mwebb@utah.gov](mailto:mwebb@utah.gov); (801) 584-8209.
- **Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) Pilot Test** - The CHARM Program recently completed a pilot test of "Performance Measures for Integrated Child Health Systems." CHARM management staff has been involved in the development of these measures for the past three years with a PHII national workgroup. Participants included Missouri, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington, and several federal representatives from both HRSA and CDC. CHARM assisted by testing the feasibility of obtaining integrated data to calculate the performance measures. Results showed that all of the pilot sites were able to report on the performance measures that applied to the systems they are integrating. Changes were recommended to several of the performance measures by the workgroup and final modifications have been made. The states that participated in the pilot test found it useful for their programs. PHII plans to publish the results in December 2005 so that other states and public health agencies can use the performance measures to assess their progress in meeting the functional requirements of an integrated system. Thanks to Nita Jensen, Jane Johnson, Fay Keune, and Sandra Schulthies for their time and assistance with this project. For more information, contact Rich Harward at [rharward@utah.gov](mailto:rharward@utah.gov); (801) 584-8529 or Christine Perfili at [cperfili@utah.gov](mailto:cperfili@utah.gov); (801) 584-8275.

- **PHII Work Group** - CHARM staff have been invited to participate on another workgroup with the Public Health Informatics Institute. The group is developing a business case to inform providers, parents, and public health about the value of integrating child health information systems (PHII is a program of the Task Force for Child Survival and Development. Its mission is to advance public health practitioners' ability to strategically manage and apply health information systems). For more information, contact Margaret Lubke at [mlubke@ksar.usu.edu](mailto:mlubke@ksar.usu.edu) or (435) 797-4536.
- **Stakeholder Directory** - The CHARM Management Team completed the transfer of the stakeholder directory from an Excel file to an Access database. This will enable the CHARM program to communicate more efficiently with stakeholders and keep them informed and engaged along the continuum of the data integration effort. It will also help manage what types of communication materials have been sent to each stakeholder and what action, if any, the recipient needs to take on a particular item. The directory will be expanded as new partners and more local health departments integrate with CHARM. Kudos to Stephanie Robinson for her programming help. For more information, contact Christine Perfili at [cperfili@utah.gov](mailto:cperfili@utah.gov) or (801) 584-8275.
- **Data Sharing Agreements** – In addition to the signed Data Sharing Agreements with Vital Records, USIIS, and the Newborn Hearing Screening, the data sharing agreement with the Newborn Blood Screening program has been signed. The CHARM Management Team met with the Program managers and staff of the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program and the Birth Defects Network to review their agreements. Revisions were discussed and the documents are currently being modified. For more information, contact Christine Perfili at [cperfili@utah.gov](mailto:cperfili@utah.gov) or (801) 584-8275.