

**PARIS**  
**Public Assistance Reporting**  
**Information System**

# PARIS Newsletter

*PARIS is operated under the auspices of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).*

**Official PARIS website:**  
**[www.acf.hhs.gov/paris](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/paris)**

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The dates for the 2013 PARIS annual training conference have not been established. The 2013 federal budget is still being debated up on Capitol Hill which includes funding for the PARIS conference. Once the budget issues are settled, the Board of Directors will move quickly to get the conference dates and logistics firmed up. All conference registration information will be posted on the PARIS website and sent out as a PARIS transmittal. There will be a conference this year, but it may be later in the year from our usual March-April timeframe.

The dates for the PARIS 2013 quarterly submission are as follows:

Friday, February 8, 2013  
 Friday, May 10, 2013  
 Friday, August 9, 2013  
 Friday, November 8, 2013

*If you have a PARIS related story you would like to share in a future PARIS Newsletter, please send them in.*

**Tom Miller, PARIS Project Officer Administration for  
 Children and Families U.S.  
 Department of Health and Human Services**

**Please ensure your state has the latest and correct contact information on your match submissions. Any changes to your State Administrative Representatives and State Interstate Match Contact, please contact Tom Miller [Thomas.Miller@ACF.hhs.gov](mailto:Thomas.Miller@ACF.hhs.gov).**



## Remarks from the "President"

I hope that this newsletter finds the PARIS community surviving a winter that has been better for some and ugly for others. Spring, and hopefully the PARIS Training Conference are just around the corner so there is light at the end of the tunnel.

As Tom stated, the dates for the 2013 PARIS annual training conference have not been established. You can rest assured the moment that Tom receives the green light, the Board will be establishing the conference dates and logistics at warp speed. On the positive side, the Board has already spent some time in drafting a proposed agenda that includes some great sessions, presentations and information that all of you will find very useful.

In the meantime, feel free to offer any suggestions or ideas that you may have for the conference. Additionally, Tom and the Board are always available should you have any questions or need any assistance regarding the PARIS match process. I have been in contact with many of you who are pursuing a veteran related effort in your respective states. This is not only encouraging, but I'm certain that you will find it to be the win-win program that it has been for us over the last ten years. I am attaching a link to the most recent article that was featured in Government Technology and then Governing Magazines. Please read the "comments" section as I found it to be a good back and forth on the merits of the veteran related effort:

<http://www.govtech.com/Veterans-Access-Federal-Benefits-Save-States-Millions.html>

Hopefully, soon you will all be hearing from us in a transmittal advising you of the conference dates and logistical information. I will follow that up with an e-mail to all of you. In the meantime, keep in mind the offer for any suggestions and we look forward to seeing all of you.....well...soon!

**Excerpt from vtdigger.org**  
**Part 6: Abusing the system,**  
**December 27, 2012**  
**Detecting abuse**

The Department of Children and Families has a team of full-time fraud investigators, called the Program Integrity Unit, working to “improve program integrity and reduce misspent dollars in the Economic Services Division’s major benefit programs.”

The Program Integrity Unit cross-checks data with several sources, looking for red flags around eligibility and benefit levels. Department of Labor data is mined monthly to review reported wages. Quarterly reviews on all Vermonters receiving assistance are run through the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS), checking for double dipping of Medicaid, food assistance or Reach Up dollars in other states.

Unified Long Term Care System Advisory Group  
 Nursing Facility Reimbursement Subcommittee  
 Report to the Ohio General Assembly, December 21, 2012  
 Excerpt from page 5  
 "Recommendation 4: Convert veterans who reside in nursing facilities to federal benefits

Many low-income U.S. military veterans and their families rely on Medicaid and may not realize they are eligible for comprehensive federal health care and benefit programs that provide better benefits while preserving their homes and financial assets. The Subcommittee recommends connecting Medicaid recipients with their federal veterans’ benefits using available federal and state data from the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). Ohio Medicaid saves money every time a veteran who currently receives Medicaid services (36% of which is paid by Ohio) converts to veterans services (100% of which is paid by the federal government). The first priority should be to convert veterans living in nursing facilities to federal benefits without uprooting them from their current residence. Over time, the system needs to be streamlined so veterans are more easily matched to the services they earned and qualified providers are promptly approved to provide those services and benefits."

**Letter from Dennis G. Smith, Secretary to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker to Senator Kathleen Vinehout and Representative Samantha Kerkman, August 7, 2012, page two ...**

Additionally, DHS will continue to use the Public Assistance Reporting Information System interstate match (PARIS) which, through the exchange of information, allows states to identify individuals or families who may be receiving FoodShare in other states, as well as Wisconsin, simultaneously. As was reported in the April Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) report, participation in this interstate project has been successful. The Department has significantly increased our duplicate issuance prevention efforts for calendar year (CY) 2012. Beginning January through May 2012 we have reconciled 1,935 records, established overpayments of approximately \$370,000 (\$273,000 specific to FoodShare) and avoided future improper benefits in the amount of about \$167,000 (\$62,000 specific to FoodShare) in these five months. This projects to almost \$1.3 million in total savings for CY 2012 for the work of the two positions assigned to this task. This data is for FoodShare and Wisconsin Medicaid programs administered by DHS and does not include any overpayment or cost avoidance for DCF administered programs. DHS will continue to explore ways to further expand use of the PARIS data exchange.

Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012: Implications for Masshealth.  
 September 2012  
 Page 6

MassHealth members who are veterans or the survivors and dependents of veterans might qualify for federal veterans’ health care benefits. Section 250 requires MassHealth, EOHS, and the state Department of Veterans’ Affairs to study methods for improving access to federal veterans’ benefits for those who qualify. The study would include identification of existing barriers to benefits and an examination of the feasibility, costs, and benefits of using the federal public assistance reporting information system (PARIS) to identify veterans, dependents, and survivors who are enrolled in MassHealth. Findings of the study are due to the legislature by April 1, 2013.

### **Meet Your PARIS Board Members**

***In each newsletter, we are interviewing a PARIS Board member to give you a better understanding of who we are and where we come from. This is the 3rd installment and is featuring Stephen Bach, Management Specialist 2 NYS OTDA Audit & Quality Improvement/Program Integrity***

#### **Background:**

I was born in Leesburg Virginia but raised in Colonie, New York, one of the largest towns in the United States. I'm the second youngest of 5 children; four boys and one girl, my lone sister being the oldest (bless her heart). My youth was one filled with music, sports, and weather. Yes, I said weather. My father was a meteorologist that worked for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Hey, you would have thought less of me if I didn't throw an acronym in there. My mother was/is a music and piano teacher whom at the ripe age of 74 still plays the organ for a local church and slaps the fingers of her piano students for not displaying "strong hands" when tickling the ivories. October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997 I took my wife Danielle on our first date. GUY'S', remembering the EXACT date gets you brownie points. We saw the movie



"Kiss the Girls" and yes, I kissed the girl and the rest, as they say ... is history. We live in a town called Clifton Park just outside of Albany (New York's capital city) with our 3 year old German shepherd, Harley Michael. Come on, you know you love that he has a middle name! Danielle and I have been on a waiting list to adopt a baby for over a year and a half now and are anxiously awaiting "the call". I've worked for the state of NY for over 11 years and can honestly say that I truly enjoy the PARIS portion of my work the most. It's easy to explain why. It's the people. The PARIS community, all of you, is what gives me passion to do my job. I'm blessed and fortunate to be a part of this program whose very foundation is not an agency, law, or governing body; it's the very people that dedicate their time, energy, and talents to making sure the right people get the benefits they need, and the ones trying to take advantage of the system are held accountable.

#### ***A few more questions to get to know Steve better:***

##### ***If you had one word to describe yourself, what would it be?***

We'll say "Silly" because the real word I would use wouldn't be appropriate.

##### ***If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be?***

Oh, that's easy ... Australia. I'd love to see a Dingo. Plus, it's a beautiful place.

##### ***What are your hobbies?***

I love to read, watch movies, play baseball and basketball, golf, exercise, box, and spend time with my family.

##### ***What is the one thing I would 'not' know about you when I first meet you?***

That no one, I repeat, no one, can beat me in the Kevin Bacon game. Just ask the waitress at Mackey's in Crystal City.

##### ***Which celebrity do you get mistaken for?***

I've been told that if you took Anthony Michael Hall, John Cena and the current Bachelor, smashed their faces together, then you'd have me. I guess that makes me a has been geeky actor, who body slams people, all while being a serial dater.

*Florida Medicaid & Public Assistance Fraud Strike Force  
Strike Force Annual Report  
October 1, 2012  
Pages 23-24  
Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS)  
Matches.*

Starting in August 2011, AHCA began using the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to conduct computer matching to identify public assistance recipients who may be receiving concurrent or duplicative services from other states or the federal government. PARIS is a national information exchange system that provides states with a list of beneficiaries that indicates potentially duplicative service recipients. This particular initiative matches the PARIS results with Florida Medicaid claims and recipient demographic data to detect fraud, depopulate recipients actively enrolled in other states' programs or eligible for Veterans' benefits, identify any potential recovery or termination actions, and ultimately achieve cost savings in Florida's Medicaid and entitlement programs.

AHCA anticipates cost savings for the Medicaid program and other entitlement programs as a result of this initiative. Recipients who have moved from Florida and enrolled in another state's Medicaid program can be identified more expediently and removed from Florida's Medicaid rolls. Additionally, Medicaid recipients who are covered by the Federal Tri-Care insurance program and are currently enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan will be unenrolled and placed in the Medicaid fee-for-service program. In addition, the matches will identify Veterans who are eligible for Veterans Administration (VA) healthcare coverage so the agency can work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to facilitate the enrollment of eligible parties into VA programs (such as VA long term care programs).

New Mexico Human Services Department Strategic Plan,  
Fiscal Year 2013, Page 10

**Task 2.3: Expand the Public Assistance Reporting  
Information System (PARIS)  
as a Cost Avoidance  
Measure**



The PARIS program is an interstate match of clients on public assistance with client lists of all other states.

**Activities:**

- A. Continue effective use of PARIS to help HSD in cost avoidance by not making payment to clients who are not authorized to receive public assistance or who have access to other programs.
- B. Phase II – Implement of federal match comparing HSD clients with persons in federal employment, receiving federal pensions, or receiving retirement payments.
- C. Phase III – Implement Medicaid match to determine if HSD clients have access to other health benefit programs before the payer of last resort, Medicaid. Implementation by June, 2012, provided the Veterans Administration completes its computer software system upgrades by the end of 2011.

**PA Department of Public Welfare Saves Taxpayers \$3.5 Million  
by Cross-Checking Federal and State Benefits**

**HARRISBURG, Pa., Oct. 24, 2012 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ --  
The Department of Public Welfare has identified more than 900  
Pennsylvanians who were receiving welfare benefits when they  
should not have been.**

"Taxpayer dollars are tighter than ever and to ensure our core programs are available to those who truly need them, we must use every tool at our disposal to identify and remove ineligible individuals," Secretary of Public Welfare Gary D. Alexander said. "Because of our recent efforts, we have avoided paying out \$3.5 million in unneeded welfare benefits."

The department was able to identify ineligible individuals by using the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System, also known as PARIS. PARIS is a federal-state partnership that includes a nationwide exchange of information and data about various welfare and pension programs from every state in the country.

By checking records with the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense and Personnel Management, and by using state-to-state information sharing, PARIS helped identify 933 incidences where individuals were not eligible for state welfare benefits or should have been receiving fewer benefits.

"The department must continue to implement measures that promote eligibility and payment accuracy to ensure integrity within our welfare programs," Alexander said.

"These efforts benefit those who rely on our services, as well as hardworking taxpayers, and we want both groups to know that we continue to do all we can to remove waste, fraud and abuse within our welfare programs."

For more information about the Department of Public Welfare, visit the department's website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us).

Pennsylvanians who suspect welfare fraud should call 1-800-932-0582.