

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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In this time of Sequestration and a continuing resolution setting the federal operating budget at 2011 limits, many federal agencies are faced with furloughing employees and terminating contractors. The Administration for Children and Families does not plan to furlough any staff and will operate within a reduced budget through retirements, attrition and limited hiring. Funding for travel and conferences is being looked at very closely by every agency with many long standing conferences not being held this year. The Board of Directors continues to assert the importance of having the PARIS annual training conference and it is on ACF's radar to hold the training conference later in the year. I look forward to the time when I can announce the conference dates. I also would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors for their untiring energy to respond to congressional and federal committee inquiries as well as taking time out of their busy work schedules to assist other states with PARIS related issues. Their hard work behind the scenes for no compensation or recognition is what makes PARIS the success it is. Finally, 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.**

### From the Prez

As most of you are aware, the current Federal budget, with sequestration in effect, has pushed back our 2013 PARIS Training Conference, normally held in March of each year. As the HHS/Administration of Children and Families continues to emphasize the importance of PARIS, our training conference remains on their agenda and we're hopeful that we will soon be able to announce the conference dates.

That said, the Board continues to remain actively involved in fielding and responding to Federal and state congressional inquiries, as well as providing training in other venues. A recent national webinar was conducted by PARIS Board members Manuel Urbina (CA) and me for the NCSL (National Council for State Legislatures). In the event that you missed it, it remains archived for you to view:

#### **States Help Veterans Access Health Benefits and Save Money, Too**

<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=25872>

Additionally, we have been extremely busy assisting states with Interstate Match inquiries, as well as their efforts to maximize the VA and Federal file data. To illustrate this, below you will find a few examples of states that have crafted pending legislation or have included PARIS activities in their 2013/2014 operating budgets:

OH - [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130\\_SB\\_101](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=130_SB_101)

CA - [http://totalcapitol.com/?bill\\_id=201320140AB1124](http://totalcapitol.com/?bill_id=201320140AB1124)

MD - <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/013000/013639/unrestricted/20110467e.pdf> Page 63 & 69

WI - <http://walker.wi.gov/Documents/2012WFACCommissionFinalReport.pdf> Page 16 & 84

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TX - <http://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB2562/id/774424>

OR - <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/assistance/Documents/ORS-408.505-legislative-report-veterans-2012.pdf> Pg 3

VA - [http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/fc86c2b17a1cf388852570f9006f1299/8440f5fd8739c7085257a1c006371c4/\\$FILE/RD278.pdf](http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/fc86c2b17a1cf388852570f9006f1299/8440f5fd8739c7085257a1c006371c4/$FILE/RD278.pdf)

**KY** - "MOA is due to be signed by May 1. From there, we will launch VBEP." – Margaret Plattner – KY DVA Dir

The Board continues to be available to all of you in your efforts to utilize and maximize PARIS data as an on-going tool to combat program fraud and abuse and to comply with on-going program integrity efforts. Until we meet at the upcoming 2013 Training Conference, we encourage you to utilize the PARIS website to access program and technical related information that should assist you in your efforts. Feel free to send along information and news from your state, as well as any tips that you have found to be useful. Enjoy the onset of the long awaited warmer weather and we hope to see you all **very** soon.

*Bill Allman*

*Washington State Health Care Authority*

*President, PARIS Board of Directors*

Ohio has drafted legislation to begin a Veterans Enhancement Project. The proposed Bill was authored by Ohio State Senator Burke on April 9, 2013 ...

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 5101.274 and 5902.021 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

**Sec. 5101.274.** (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Public assistance reporting information system" means the system the department of job and family services is required to join and participate in under section 5101.273 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Federal military-related health care benefits" means any of the health care benefits provided by the United States department of defense or the United States department of veterans affairs to current or former service members and their eligible dependents, including the benefits provided through the programs known as *tricare* and *champva*.

(B)(1) The department of job and family services shall review information in the public assistance reporting information system to determine whether an individual who is a medical assistance recipient may be eligible for federal military-related health care benefits. If the department determines that the individual may be eligible for federal military-related health care benefits, it shall notify the individual of the potential eligibility and encourage the individual to contact the veterans service commission in the county in which the individual resides for assistance in applying for the benefits. The department shall provide the appropriate contact information to the individual.

(2) Not less than monthly, the department of job and family services shall provide a list of individuals referred under this section to the department of veterans services.

**Sec. 5902.021.** The director of veterans services shall develop, institute, and monitor a program under which the department of veterans services assists individuals, identified by the department of job and family services under section 5101.274 of the Revised Code as medical assistance recipients, to obtain federal military-related health care benefits. As used in this section, "federal military-related health care benefits" has the meaning defined in section 5101.274 of the Revised Code.

**California State Legislature moves forward with Bill to promote Statewide usage of PARIS to identify veterans and their dependents, February 22, 2013.**

An act to repeal and add Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal, and making an appropriation therefor.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1124, as introduced, Muratsuchi. Medi-Cal: Public Assistance Reporting Information System.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Existing law requires the department to establish a 2-year pilot program to utilize the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veteran health care benefits. Existing law requires the department to select 3 counties, as specified, to participate in the pilot project and authorizes the department to implement the program statewide at any time and continue the operation of PARIS indefinitely if the department determines that the pilot program is cost effective.

This bill would remove the pilot project status of these provisions and would require the department to implement this program statewide. The bill would also appropriate an unspecified sum from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide funding for county veteran service officers to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and to assist them in obtaining federal veteran health care benefits.

Texas moves forward with PARIS usage  
**Rep. Joe Farias Passes First Bills out of House\_ by:Farias, Joe**

04/05/2013

Austin, TX-- Representative Joe Farias hailed the passage of three bills he authored this week in the Texas House.

H.B. 634, which passed the House on Tuesday, would allow the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans within the prison system who are eligible to receive federal benefits and as a result, take them off state funded programs. "If we can identify veterans who are eligible for federal benefits and move them off of state-funded programs such as Medicaid, that could save our state hundreds of millions of dollars."

H.B. 736, which passed the House on Wednesday, would add a member of the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC). "The TVC plays a major role in advocating for our veterans and housing is a key concern within the veteran population. It is critical that a member of the TVC be represented on this council so that veterans have an advocate for their housing concerns."



**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**

Georgia Department of Community Health,  
 February/March 2013, Volume2, Issue 3  
**Medicaid Member Matching Audits Begin**

The Georgia Department of Community Health's (DCH) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) hosted a sister-agency meeting in February to launch its renewed commitment to Medicaid Member Matching through the program formerly known as PARIS (Public Assistance Reporting Information System). The program will examine three databases – an interstate system, a federal system and a veterans' system.

Designed to assure that members are receiving the correct benefits, Medicaid Member Matching is part of the OIG's **Integrus** portfolio of audits.

**Editors Note: No worries, PARIS still exists. Georgia has renamed their project from PARIS to Medicaid Member Matching.**

**Minnesota Department of Human Services requires PARIS matches be resolved in 45 days**

Bulletin #13-01-03, April 5, 2013, page 7

**Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS):**

The Qualifying Individual Program Supplemental Funding Act of 2008 amended section 1903(r) of the Social Security Act to incorporate the requirement that states include data matching through the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). PARIS is a system for matching data from certain public assistance programs, including state Medicaid programs, with selected federal and state data for purposes of facilitating appropriate enrollment and retention in public programs. States can use the PARIS data match to ensure that individuals enrolled in Medicaid or other public assistance benefits in one state are not receiving duplicate benefits based on simultaneous enrollment in the Medicaid program or other public benefit programs in another state. This provision took effect on October 1, 2009.

PARIS matches, like IEVS matches must be resolved within 45 days from the date the agency or worker is notified of the match. It is important to resolve these matches to alleviate duplicate participation and avoid overpayments.

## **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 4th installment and is featuring George Tipton, Chief Agent, OKDHS Office of Inspector General***

### **Background:**

My great-grandfather claimed a good piece of farmland in Delaware County Oklahoma when they opened up "Indian country" to the land run. The land is still in the family. My grandfather told me of traveling to Oklahoma from Missouri in a covered wagon when he was about 7 years old. I was named after my great-grandfather, he died the day my dad was born and then I was named after my dad. So the Tipton family has been around Oklahoma for a while, I was born, raised and educated here and lived in some part of Oklahoma all my life. I graduated high school from Pawhuska. It is known for having the first Boy Scout troop in America and of course, I was a Boy Scout. Any one that has been around me at all knows I am an alumni of the University of Oklahoma and a little bit of a Sooner football fan. After college, I went into law enforcement and I met my wife (she's a cop too) when I worked at the Norman Police Department. I did about a dozen years there before going to work for the Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General where I've been now for 22 years. I am officially retirement eligible as of last week, wahoo! I have two grown daughters and one adorable grand-daughter. Of all the organizations I have belonged to over the years, PARIS is my favorite. Why? Because of all the people that try to make a difference in their state with a good program and getting to work with an outstanding board of directors.

***What sound do you love?*** The first pitch of the season either hitting the catchers mitt or crack-ing of the bat.

***If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?*** The future when there is no need for war.

***What celebrity do you get mistaken for?*** Weird Al Yankovic

***What are your hobbies?*** I love to cook. I also grow a salsa garden every year.

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

That I'm a card carrying Native American (Cherokee and Delaware).

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

The Cayman Islands

