

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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Over the past several weeks, I have been working with representatives from the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Health & Human Services and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to obtain the necessary approvals and signatures to renew the PARIS Federal and Veterans computer matching agreements. The current computer matching agreements are set to expire August 14 (Federal) and October 14 (Veterans). States wishing to continue their participation in the Federal and Veterans matches starting with the November 8, 2013 match will need to complete new Model Agreements. PARIS Transmittal 2013-8 was sent out July 29 notifying states of the renewal process for the Federal match along with the new Model Agreement form. As soon as the Veterans computer match agreement is final another PARIS Transmittal will go out with instructions. It is probably most apparent by now that with the federal budget cuts and agencies furloughing employees that the PARIS annual training conference will not take place this year. I will continue my best effort along with other staff from the Administration for Children and Families and the Board of Directors to assert the importance of having the PARIS annual training conference next year. As always, I cannot express enough my appreciation to the Board of Directors for all they do in assisting me administer this program. Finally, if you have a PARIS related story you would like to share in a future PARIS Newsletter, please send them in.

The next PARIS Quarterly Match is Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The last PARIS Quarterly Match for 2013 is Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

I hope that this newsletter finds all of you enjoying the beautiful summer weather. It hasn't rained a drop here in the Pacific Northwest since mid-June! Really!!

As Tom stated in his message, the Veteran Affairs and Federal files have computer matching agreements that must be renewed by August and October respectively. I urge you to forward these agreements to your appropriate signing authority and return them as soon as possible. In the past year, I have assisted roughly thirty states in their effort to implement a Veteran Benefit Enhancement Project, similar to the one that we have in Washington State. As the VA and Federal Files are critical tools in identifying work product for this project, it is vital to return the signed agreements timely to prevent an interruption in accessing the important data these matching files produce.

It is with deep regret that we are unable to hold a PARIS Training Conference in 2013. Federal cuts and other unforeseen circumstances have formed the perfect storm that prevents us from holding what the Board feels is a much needed training session. On behalf of the Board, we are eagerly looking forward to 2014 and the opportunity to present what I guarantee will be the best training conference to date!

Please don't let the absence of a training limit any questions and communication you may have for the Board. As those of you that I've spent many hours with in the past year can attest to, we/Board members are available in any capacity that you feel is beneficial for your respective state. Whether it is with issues related to the Interstate Match, filtering, Veteran and Federal Files, we are only an e-mail or phone call away. Additionally, we update the website continually with, what we feel, is useful information. Please let us know of any improvements or additions to the website you feel would be helpful. Until the next training conference, the Board feels very strongly that it is our responsibility to be there for each and every one of you. We remain available and committed to insure you have the answers and knowledge needed to maximize the useful data that PARIS provides.

Meanwhile, enjoy the summer respite before it really "heats" up with the increased workload that fall never fails to produce. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

Prez Bill

**Colorado False Claims Act  
Resource Center**

Page 2 of 21

25.5-4-209. Payments by third parties--copayments by recipients--review--appeal. (4) With respect to programs administered by the state department, the state department shall access available data from the public assistance reporting information system for the purpose of identifying persons who are receiving certain public benefits from other states. The state department shall ensure that duplicate benefits are not being paid improperly to persons identified pursuant to the public assistance reporting information system.

**State of Texas**

2013  
S.B. No. 1  
Eight-third Legislature  
Page 198 (46) (b.)

Transfer \$50,000 of General Revenue Funds in fiscal year 2014 and \$50,000 in fiscal year 2015 to the Texas Veterans Commission to partially fund 2.0 full-time equivalents who will work as veteran benefit counselors to investigate and analyze the information/data received from the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). The PARIS information will be used by the Texas Veterans Commission to assist and facilitate claims for veterans receiving Medicaid or other state public benefits for which veterans are entitled from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Summary of Selected Legislation Enacted by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, (Texas) Regular Session 6-3-13**

HB 634 by Farias - requires TDCJ to verify the veteran status of an inmate by using data made available through the Health and Human Services Commission as part of the Public Assistance Reporting Information System. Once identified, TDCJ would be required to assist those inmate veterans in applying for federal benefits for which they will be eligible under a program sponsored by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

**California Department of Health Care Services – Report to the Legislature  
PARIS Veteran’s Match**

April 2012, Conclusion

DHCS’ mission is to preserve and improve the health status of all Californians. In establishing PARIS-V permanently, there is an opportunity to ensure California veterans are receiving benefits for which they are eligible and are likely better suited to meet their needs. With the implementation of DHCS’ recommendations, PARIS-V has the potential to improve the identification of high-cost Medi-Cal beneficiaries, who are potentially eligible for USDVA health benefits. Of the 24 veterans identified as having enrollment in both Medi-Cal and USDVA, who subsequently disenrolled from Medi-Cal as a result of the pilot efforts, \$1,634,064 in total cost avoidance/savings was achieved.

PARIS-V aligns with the implementation of the fourth goal in the DHCS Strategic Plan, which is to increase accountability and fiscal integrity and within that goal is the objective to reduce wasteful duplicative coverage.

PARIS-V is an innovative project that has captured the attention of many national observers. During this time of Medi-Cal expansion and movement toward health care reform, such projects can help states improve cost-effectiveness by facilitating appropriate enrollment in public programs.

**From the website “Welcome Back Tarrant County – Our Projects”**

7-9-13

**Expand Inmates’ Access to Critical, Reentry-Focused Programs and Services**

These policies will require prison wardens to issue yearly reports detailing efforts to identify and actively encourage volunteer and faith-based organizations to provide programming in each warden’s unit [SB 345]; and require the Department to utilize data from the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to verify the veteran status of each incoming individual, which will enable the Department to help incarcerated veterans apply for military benefits, create meaningful reentry plans, and coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs to access mental health counseling and assistance [HB 634].

**Food Stamp Audit Reveals Prisoners, Drug Felons Receive Benefits; Others Overpaid**

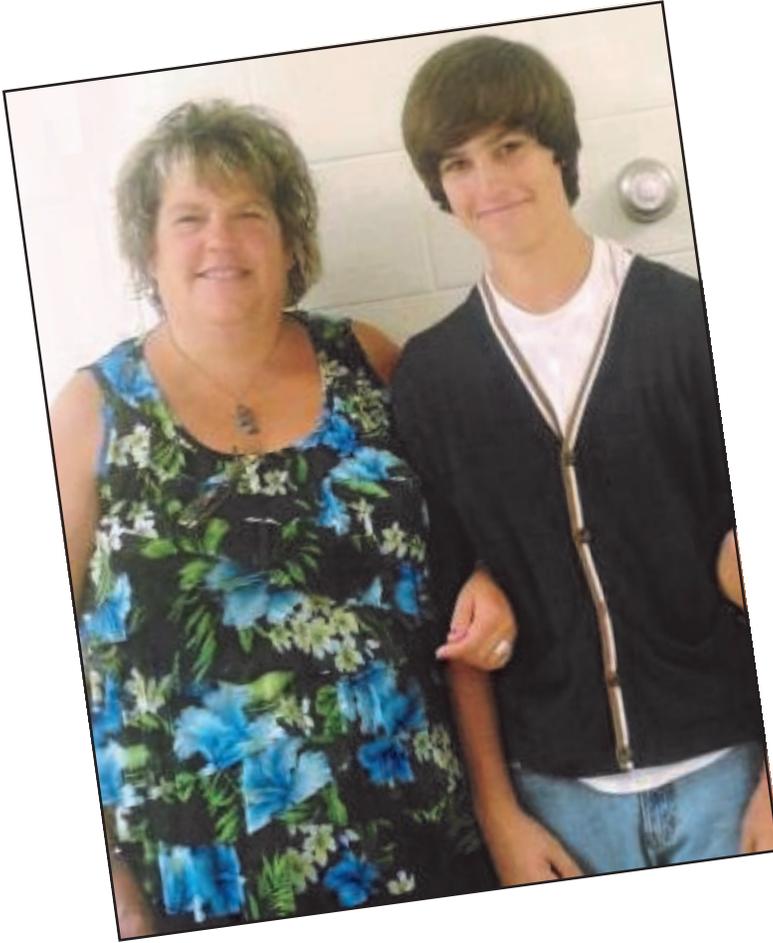
Posted 5-6-13, by Tonya LaCoste

Excerpt from online article ...

The state audit also found over a one year span from 2010 to 2011, 1,573 recipients received three consecutive months of duplicate benefits in Louisiana and other states, but the USDA Inspector General found Louisiana is responsible for less than half of those cases. Louisiana is responsible for duplicating benefits for 605 SNAP recipients, and other states are responsible for the remaining 968 cases. DCFS uses a system to check whether SNAP applicants are already receiving benefits in another state, but the USDA Federal Food and Nutrition Service does not require states to use the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System, also known as PARIS, nor does it require states to check for interstate participation.

## 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 5th installment and is featuring Susan Lloyd, Fraud Consultant, Virginia Department of Social Services.*



### **Background:**

*I am a single mama of a 14 year old boy who is the joy of my life. I have lived 37 places but never felt like I was home until I moved to Powhatan, Va. I live in the country, we give directions by route #'s, landmarks, and fields. We sit on the porch of the county restaurant and watch the tractors go by with their round, rolled hay bales. We have parades that feature horses and riders, our volunteer fire department and the school band. I have either worked in criminal or civil law my entire career, Loss Prevention (I used to chase shoplifters, back in the day), was the Corporate Fraud Investigator for a southern chain of Department Stores, and an Enforcement Supervisor in Richmond City Child Support Enforcement. After taking three years off for Sam, in 2001, I entered back into*

*the criminal law side of Fraud Management. I am also a jewelry designer in my spare time (when not driving 2 hours to/from work daily or watching my son pitch).*

**What sound do you love?** The sound of my new screen door slam and ALWAYS, the sound of my son's laughter.

**What celebrity do you get mistaken for?** Back in the day, it was Chris Everett. (see it?, me either)

**What are your hobbies?** Designing, reading, movies, watching all the cooking shows.

**What is the one thing I would 'not' know about you when I first meet you?** That I'm a strong introvert, but a fake extrovert. After living all those places and going to 9 different schools, one has to be.

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