PARIS

Public Assistance Reporting Information System

PARIS Newsletter

Summer 2019

PARIS Data Intensive Session at the Medicaid Integrity Institute

February 26-28, 2019

The PARIS Board of Directors was pleased to coordinate with staff from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to plan and conduct a two-and-one-half-day data intensive workshop on everything PARIS.

The PARIS Board worked hard to plan sessions and discussion panels that appealed to all states and all levels of experience with PARIS. The Medicaid Integrity Institute intended for this session to help in the areas of beneficiary eligibility and beneficiary fraud, waste, and abuse and Third-Party Liability. Sessions included detailed information about each PARIS data match, Best Practices, Fraud Detection, and Intra-State Coordination.

The Medicaid Integrity Institute partnership with PARIS is a wonderful opportunity and not for just those in the Medicaid agency. The PARIS Board believes knowledge is power and that spreading the news about the benefits of PARIS participation only helps to make all participating states more successful in their PARIS efforts.

The Board was pleased to have two members invited back to the Institute to present on PARIS during a separate session in April 2019.

The PARIS Board of Directors hopes to leverage these training sessions for future opportunities at the Institute in addition to webinars or conferences sponsored by the PARIS project. Stay Tuned!

Next PARIS quarterly submission deadline is:

Friday, August 9th, 2019

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

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Official PARIS Website

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/paris

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Portia A. M. Gilliam, DMDC

Identity Theft and How PARIS Can Assist in Investigations

The PARIS Interstate Match can be a great assistant in identifying, tracking, and investigating identity theft cases. Michigan has been sharing examples of how PARIS data can be leveraged with other state tools to identify identity theft and other fraudulent activities. Other states are starting to take notice and implement their own versions of these data checks locally.

To leverage PARIS data, you must have access to your State's entire return match file. This allows for the direct comparison of the PARIS data with other data elements, such as your state's eligibility history. In Michigan, various data sources including PARIS, are housed in a Data Warehouse allowing multiple queries to be performed to identify patterns in addresses, phone numbers, and other key elements. Once identified as signatures of an identity theft case, these patterns can be run against all available data sets, including multiple quarters of PARIS data, to discover additional or reoccurring fraud. Knowledge of Excel and SQL to filter and sort PARIS and other data sets for patterns of suspicious information is a great first step of implementing any of these techniques.

It is a growing trend that out of state identities are stolen to be used to gain public assistance. The PARIS Interstate Match can be an ideal tool to assist in identifying where the person (whose identity may have been compromised) is to allow investigators to make contact and verify information. This can also assist in gaining written statements and other vital information that can be used to substantiate the identity theft for criminal prosecution. Other tools, such as CLEAR, are used by Michigan as well, to assist in verifying the correct residency and contact information for the identity theft victim.

Many states that solely load PARIS data into their eligibility systems to produce alerts for staff will find it difficult to try any of the above techniques. Also, depending on the filtering options chosen by the state, additional complications may arise. When filtering the PARIS Interstate Match, it is helpful to review the raw file to determine which fields to consider. While the match itself is done solely based on social security number, you may find it helpful to add additional filters to ensure that your state's recipient's first name and date of birth also match the secondary state. While last names may vary based on marital status or other factors, typically first names and date of births will not vary.

Reminder

Check your
Interstate Match Contacts
&
your State Administrative
Representatives
on the PARIS Website
(https://www.acf.hhs.gov/paris)
for accuracy!

Notify paris@acf.hhs.gov if
changes are needed.

PARIS Contacts

PARIS@acf.hhs.gov

State Interstate Match Contacts
For states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia to post contact information for interstate communication to assist in resolving matches.

State Administrative Representatives
State contacts for PARIS administration-related communication.

Federal Administrative Representatives
Federal contacts currently participating in the PARIS project.

A Message from Our Sponsor

Tom Miller, PARIS Program Director, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

In November, The PARIS Board of Directors met in Washington, DC for two days to discuss PARIS business and to work on a training agenda for the Medicaid Integrity Institute (MII). On the first day, Portia Gilliam from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) joined us for several hours to discuss the matching process and possible ways for improving it. Sadly, David Russell (State of Michigan's Office of Inspector General) announced that he will be stepping down from the Board due to conflicting job responsibilities. David has done a wonderful job on the Board and in his role as the Vice President and will be missed. Jessica Brinks was nominated and elected to assume the Vice President position on the Board upon David's departure. She has already jumped into the role and will do a fantastic job.

The Board did draft a 2 ½ days training agenda on PARIS topics for the MII in Columbia, SC for the training on February 26-28, 2019 titled "Medicaid Trends: PARIS Data Intensive". Most of the training was facilitated by Board members. The Board hopes to do future trainings at MII.

The Computer Matching Agreement (CMA) with the Department of Defense expired on January 29, 2019. A PARIS transmittal went out to states to submit their forms to participate in future Federal file matches. Most states have responded.

The CMA with Veterans Affairs will expire August 29, 2019, so be on the lookout for a PARIS transmittal to submit their forms to participate in future Veterans file matches.

As a reminder, prior to transmitting your PARIS quarterly file to DMDC, ensure your file is current and not a retransmission from the previous quarterly match and that the contact information, such as email addresses, phone numbers and fax numbers, is accurate so other states can easily contact the proper representatives. Don't forget to include program eligibility dates.

Thank you to all the states that have submitted PARIS website updates. Updates can be sent directly to me for posting. So, take a moment to go through your state's information on the PARIS website for accuracy and provide any changes or updates. If you have a PARIS related story you would like to share in a future PARIS Newsletter, please send them in. Thanks for all your support in PARIS.

May 2019 Statistics - 48 States/Jurisdictions Interstate Matching

Heavy Hitters:

1 SSN matching in 9 states

Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia

2 SSNs matching in 6 states

Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia

6 SSNs matching in 5 states

180 SSNs matching in 4 states

A Message from the PARIS Board of Director's President

Bill Allman, Washington State Health Care Authority

I hope that this newsletter finds the PARIS community staying safe and warm and keeping those fingers crossed that we might have a 2019 PARIS Conference!

Following a busy and hectic Board of Directors meeting last November in D.C., we managed to assign responsibilities and draft an agenda for our first "official" training at the Medicaid Institute (MII) in Columbia S.C. The course "Trends in Medicaid Symposium: PARIS Data Intensive" took place February 26-28, 2019.

For those of you that managed to procure a slot for this training, I hope you were not disappointed. The Board has been assimilating the latest information, trends and of course, useful processes that we feel will best maximize the data that PARIS provides. We are pleased with how the training went and were happy to see some of you there!

As Tom mentioned in his column, our esteemed Vice President, David Russell from the great State of Michigan has stepped down from his position as the Vice President of the PARIS Board. As you might imagine, David's increasing responsibilities within the Office of Inspector General in Michigan has limited the amount of time that he would like to spend in support of PARIS operations. To say that David will be missed is quite the understatement! His years on the Board have been marked with the increasing rise in importance of PARIS as a reliable program integrity tool. David never failed to spend an "inordinate" amount of his time ensuring that the PARIS community had/has the correct processes with which to maximize the data PARIS provides. His technical expertise is second to none!

To ensure that there is some semblance of continuity; Jessica Brinks was nominated and unanimously elected at our recent (November) Board meeting in D.C. and will/is assuming David's role of Vice President. Jessica, as most of you are aware, brings her wealth of knowledge and keen analytics to this position and has eagerly been assuming this huge responsibility! To say that David will be missed is an understatement and we all look forward to his participation at the upcoming MII training.

On a similar note, I will be retiring from state service following 35 years within Washington State government, 17 of those years, as a member of the PARIS Board of Directors. Tom Miller and the Board have asked me to remain on as President until my looming retirement date in December. As we move closer to that time, I'll reflect on the growth and increasingly significant role that PARIS has assumed over the years. I sincerely hope that we get the approval for a 2019 PARIS Conference so that I may have the opportunity to see all your familiar faces one more time, as well as an opportunity to get on my Veteran Benefit Enhancement soapbox! Stay tuned for PARIS Conference updates in both e-mails and upcoming newsletters.

Finally, As Tom suggested in his remarks, PLEASE share the successes and processes that have worked within your states for promulgation in both future newsletters and on our PARIS website. Sharing useful information with each other increases both familiarity and confirms what many us have always felt, that PARIS is a huge tool in the program integrity toolbox. We all share in the vital role of insuring that waste and improper payments are outdated!

Feel free to drop me a note or ask any questions that you may have!

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 article highlights Tom Miller, ACF PARIS Program Sponsor.

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Tom was born in Tucson, Arizona the middle child to four brothers and sisters. Tom's dad was a pilot in the Air Force, so he grew up in various places with most of it in New England, including 9.5 years in Portsmouth, NH, and several in Wilbraham, MA. Eventually, Tom's dad retired from the Air Force and took a job on Long Island, NY with the Federal Aviation Administration where they settled in Nesconset, NY.

During high school and attending college at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tom ended up lifeguarding (and surfing) at the beach for nine years where he moved up to the rank of lieutenant of life guards (which is the assistant chief) and tallied over 240 saves. After graduation, Tom spent a year in the manager training program for Friendly's Ice Cream back in Wilbraham, MA, before returning to his more familiar and exciting Long Island lifeguarding post for one last season. As the season came to an end, Tom traveled to Frankfurt, Germany and surprisingly ended up being hired to teach 7th and 8th graders health and physical education at a Department of Defense dependent school. Tom says he did not save a single penny of a paycheck and took full advantage of the travel opportunities in Europe to include snow skiing in Austria, vacationing in Malta, and did just about everything in between with his free time.

At the end of the school year he was planning to return to the beach and was recruited into the Air Force to attend officer training school followed by navigator training in Sacramento, CA. Tom's first duty assignment was flying HC-130 aircraft assigned to an Air and Sea Rescue unit in Okinawa, Japan. While in Okinawa Tom had the opportunities to travel around Asia, Guam, Bali, Midway Island, Wake Island, Alaska, Hong Kong, Korea, and more. Tom was on the crew for the longest peace-time rescue mission ever recorded up to that point, which required 16 hours of continuous flying and ended in saving a life. After 18 months in Okinawa, Tom was reassigned to another rescue unit in Sacramento, CA. Due to his flying experience; he was loaned out from this unit to the CIA to fly covert missions in Central America for 6 months.

Tom then went back to the Sacramento-based unit for another three years, and then transferred across town to work as an instructor at the navigator training school. Tom spent six years as an instructor while also getting a master's in Criminal Justice from the California State University, Sacramento.

Tom's last years in the Air Force included a placement at Patrick Air Force Base, FL, supporting the space shuttle mission (as rescue support, if needed). Around this point, the first Gulf War ended, and he was deployed to Saudi Arabia to support the no-fly zone. Tom's 3.5-month stint in the desert marked the end of his service years. Tom's last flight in the Air Force was returning stateside from England when one of the engines exploded forcing his plane to make an emergency landing at Loring Air Force Base, ME.

After the Air Force, Tom moved to upstate NY to the Binghamton area and traveled assisting several states (CA, SC, PA, MI, WI, MA and NY) implement their statewide child support enforcement and child welfare systems. Tom worked in this capacity for 10 years as a contractor. Finally, Tom became a federal employee in 2004 as a Policy Specialist for the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE). In 2008, Tom took a promotion to the Veteran's Health Administration until 2010, when he came back to ACF to run the PARIS program.

Tom now lives in Burke, VA, which is tiny community 23 miles from downtown DC. Burke is interwoven with paved walking paths that connect the entire community. Tom has two grown children. His son is a federal employee with the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) located in DC and they get to see one another often. Tom's daughter lives in Manhattan and works for Goldman Sachs. → *(continued next page)*

Meet Your PARIS Board Member, Tom Miller (continued)...

How did you get involved in PARIS? *When I was working with Veterans Health Administration, the office was just across the street from ACF. I was able to maintain the friendships I had at ACF. When my PARIS predecessor retired, I was encouraged to apply for the position and was selected. I knew nothing about PARIS. The PARIS Board of Directors quickly got me up and running.*

What are your hobbies? *Grilling outside several times a week no matter the weather.*

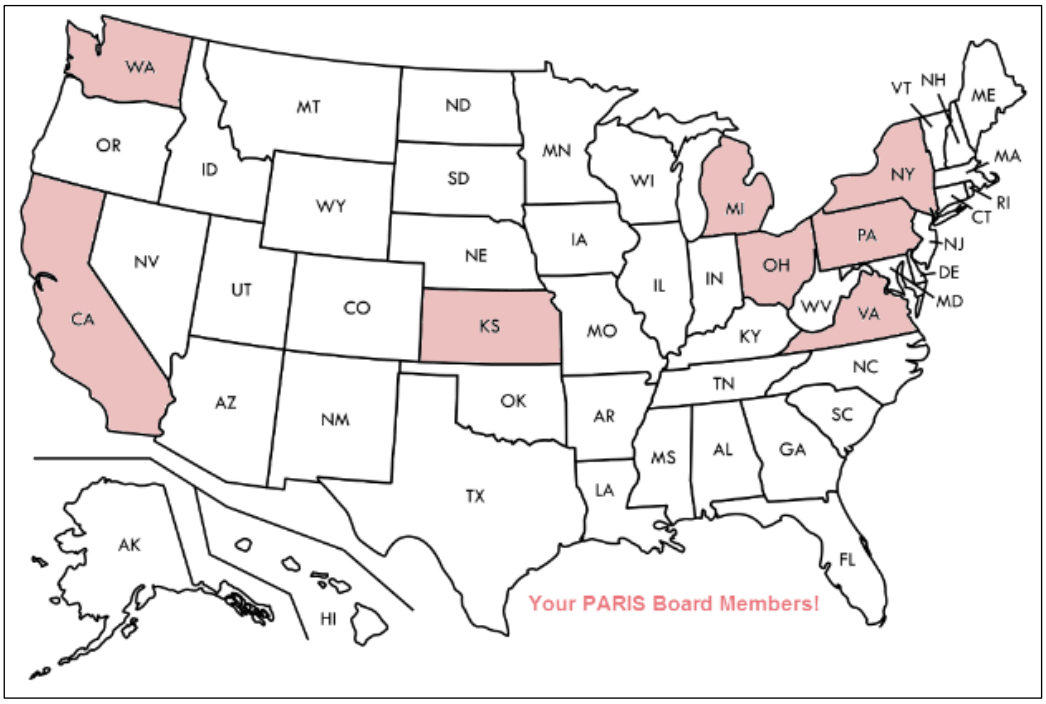
What is your favorite sound? *More the lack of sound. Peace and quiet watching the sun rise.*

What is the one thing we would not know about you when we first meet you? *I have traveled cross country 8 times and one of them was on a motorcycle.*

If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be? *On a mountain lake or at the beach.*

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be? *Play a musical instrument.*

(Above) Tom showing off his phone to answer the OPRE Scavenger hunt item "Someone who does not have a smart phone".

If you could try any occupation other than the one you are in, what would it be? *Pumpkin farmer in the summer and snowplow operator in the winter.*

What book are you reading now? *Nothing. I am waiting on the next Dirk Pitt Adventures by Clive Cussler due out soon.*