

From the Center for Health Statistics

# Matters of Record



*Swing time, by Sandor Weisz, CC BY-NC 2.0*

## Birth certificate news

July 2017

### Inside

- New birth and fetal death worksheets – updates..... 1
- New feature for trial of labor question ..... 2
- New training program with continuing education credit..... 3
- Coming Soon in OVERS ..... 4
- Birth certificates: sooner and better..... 5
- Please meet our newest manager: Ryan Sanders ..... 6
- Wanted: newsletter topics ..... 7
- Frequent contacts ..... 7

### Archived Articles

## New birth and fetal death worksheets – updates

Recently, we asked for your feedback on improving the parent and facility worksheets. Thank you for your suggestions and comments. Our team is currently in the final stages of reviewing and revising the worksheets based on your input.



As we reported in our last birth newsletter, while delayed a bit due to staffing changes, our review process continues with the plan to have the new birth worksheets released in September. The final worksheets will take into consideration your suggestions, conform to national standards, and follow the flow of the Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS).

Our goal is to make it easier for you get the required information. The worksheets will be clearer and more understandable, resulting in fewer errors to correct.

A new package of information and worksheets for fetal death will be ready for implementation at the beginning of next year. We will provide new worksheets with fewer items to complete, a quick start guide and updated materials to explain how and why this important information needs to be completed. While fetal death incidents are thankfully rare, we want to make the process as clear and minimally obtrusive as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Krystalyn Salyer at 971-673-1197 or [krystalyn.salyer@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:krystalyn.salyer@dhsoha.state.or.us).

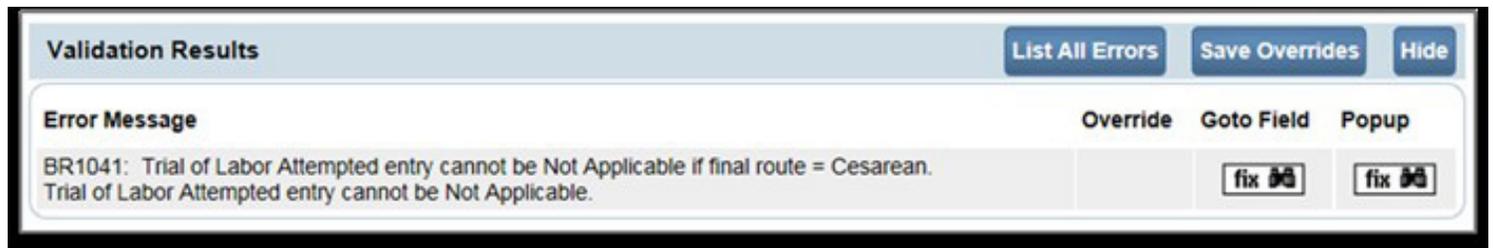
## New feature for trial of labor question

We have added a new feature to OVERS to eliminate confusion when answering the “If Cesarean, was a Trial of Labor Attempted?” question when reporting a birth. For all cesarean deliveries, you must report whether trial of labor was attempted. The new feature added will help avoid delays in registering birth records due to confusion over this question.

The trial of labor question is found on the Delivery page and is activated when “Cesarean” is selected from the “Final Route and Method of Delivery” dropdown list. The question reads, “*If Cesarean, was a Trial of Labor Attempted?*” The current available options can be a bit confusing. Although there are four possible options, the trial of labor question must be answered with either “Yes” or “No” when “Final Route and Method of Delivery” is “Cesarean”. “Not Applicable” may be selected only for non-cesarean deliveries. Most births occur vaginally, therefore the trial of labor field is automatically filled as “Not Applicable” in every new OVERS record. Because of system limitations, “Not Applicable” shows as a possible answer, even after cesarean is selected as the delivery method. The new OVERS feature will give you a red edit when “Not Applicable” is selected for cesarean births. The red edit will read as follows:

*“BR1041: Trial of Labor Attempted entry cannot be Not Applicable if final route = Cesarean. Trial of Labor Attempted entry cannot be Not Applicable.”*

The red edit will not let you proceed until you have selected a different answer from the dropdown list. Please see below for the red edit that will display.



We hope this new feature will be helpful in minimizing the number of amendments that you will have to the “Trial of Labor” question. If you have any questions, please call JoAnn Jackson at 971-673-1160 or email her at [joann.jackson@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:joann.jackson@dhsosha.state.or.us).

## New training program with continuing education credit

When you first started using the Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS) you probably received some form of training from a mentor in your facility or from someone in our office. If you didn't already know, the Center for Health Statistics offers OVERS training and resources for new birth information specialists and midwives on how to use the OVERS system for entering birth and fetal death records and completing electronic amendments. These offered trainings have not been mandatory in the past but are at your facility's request, and they are provided through a live webinar session with our training coordinator. Our office is excited to announce that we will be introducing a brand new training program exclusively for birth information specialists and midwives. The goal of this training package is to help prepare those who report Oregon births and fetal deaths using the OVERS system.



The training package will include three parts:

- Oregon-specific laws and policies for reporting birth and fetal deaths;
- A live OVERS demonstration for how to complete a report and amendment electronically; and
- The new national eLearning training "*Applying Best Practices for Reporting Medical and Health Information on Birth Certificates*" created by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

Beginning January 2018 all new birth information specialists and midwives will be required to complete the 3-part training package prior to gaining OVERS access. Beginning in January 2019, our goal is also to begin requiring all existing birth information specialists and midwives to complete the training program (by December 31, 2019). Managers – please keep an eye out for future information about this required training for your staff.

Our office is also excited to announce that the Health Licensing Office of Oregon has approved the new eLearning training "*Applying Best Practices for Reporting Medical and Health Information on Birth Certificates*" as acceptable Continuing Education (CEU's) for Licensed Direct Entry Midwives (LDM's).

For any questions about continuing education, contact Larry Peck at 503-373-2088 or [larry.peck@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:larry.peck@dhsoha.state.or.us). For any questions about the training package, contact Krystalyn Salyer at 971-673-1197 or [krystalyn.salyer@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:krystalyn.salyer@dhsoha.state.or.us).

# Coming Soon in OVERS

We have several new features that will soon be available in OVERS. Some are additional values to items already collected. Other features will affect birth information specialists indirectly. None of these changes should create any additional work for you. We will provide more detailed information as each feature is activated. Here are some of the changes to come.

## Non-binary sex

We have submitted a work order to our vendor to allow us to accept 'X' as a value for sex other than male, female, unknown, or undetermined. We cannot currently record X in OVERS due to coding of the system. This coding will be changed. Courts have recently granted orders recognizing non-binary (not exclusively male or female) sex. X is the standard value used in several countries including Canada. Being non-binary is different from being transgender. Individuals will still be able to get a court order changing their sex to male or female. X is an additional option for people who identify as neither male nor female. We will share more information as this step develops.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Child" with several input fields. The "Child's Name" section includes fields for First (Jessica), Middle (Jane), Other Middle, Last (Jones), and Suffix. Below this, there are fields for Date of Birth (AUG-21-2016), Time of Birth (10:00 PM), Sex (a dropdown menu currently showing "Female" with "X" as an option), and Child SSN. There are also checkboxes for "Request SSN for Child" (Yes, parent wants a card issued) and "Is Adoption/Legal proceeding expected?" (No). A prominent black box with white text reads "\*System changes not yet finalized". At the bottom right, there are buttons for "Validate Page", "Next", "Clear", "Save", and "Return".

## Fetal death certified copies

We will be changing the legal record for fetal deaths to show Mother/Parent and Father/Parent. Currently the record lists Mother and Father. The parent worksheet and the fetal death report will still be submitted with the person who delivered the baby as the mother. Certified copies will have more inclusive labels for the parents to encompass all situations, including same-sex parents established by marriage or court order. We will be making a similar change to our certificate of death.

## New amendment type for corrections over one year

We will soon be introducing a new amendment type for the limited items on the birth certificate that birth information specialists and midwives are able to correct when the child is one year or older. These items are sex, date of birth and time of birth. We will provide instructions when the amendment type is available. The process will not be significantly different from other corrections.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## State agencies contacting parents

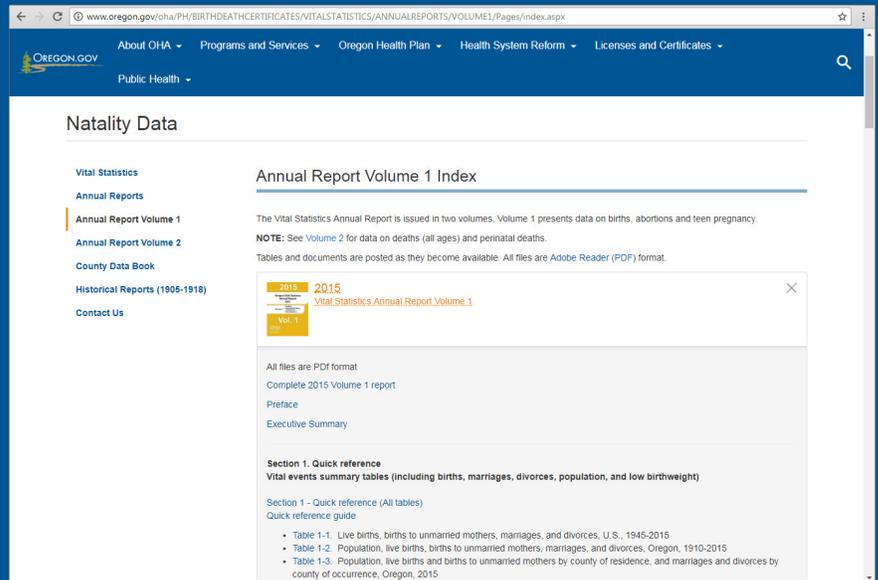
When we update our birth worksheets later this year (currently scheduled for September), we will be adding information to the cover sheet for parents regarding state agencies possibly contacting parents to offer services. We are currently working with the State Treasurer's office to provide parent's contact information each quarter. The State Treasurer's office will contact the mother by mail with information about the Oregon College Savings fund. This does not create any obligation on the parent, but will provide useful information about the program should parents choose to participate.

If you have any questions in regards to the coming changes, please contact JoAnn Jackson, Registration Manager, at 971-673-1160 or at [joann.jackson@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:joann.jackson@dhsosha.state.or.us).

## Birth certificates: sooner and better

Over the past year, the Center for Health Statistics has worked on streamlining the work we do in order to provide final birth data faster. These efforts have paid off. This year, birth data for 2016 was available in June 2017. This is several months earlier than previous years. The quicker turnaround means birth information specialists receive requests for additional information closer to the time of the birth. It also allows policymakers, researchers, and other interested parties a chance to access this data sooner. Earlier access provides for timelier public health analysis and assessments. Thank you for all of your efforts in gathering and reporting Oregon's births.

You can find final birth data tables and annual reports on the [Vital Statistics website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Krista Markwardt at [krista.a.markwardt@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:krista.a.markwardt@dhsosha.state.or.us) or by phone at 971-673-1179.



---

## Please meet our newest manager: Ryan Sanders

As many of you learned in our last newsletter, this spring marked the retirement of long-time managers, Cynthia Roeser and Carol Sanders. In order to fill Carol's role as the Amendments Manager, we've recently hired Ryan Sanders. We'd like to welcome Ryan into the Center for Health Statistics family!

Ryan comes to our department with previous management experience under the Oregon Department of Human Services. From 2013, Ryan was a Branch Operations Manager for Oregon's Self Sufficiency program. In his spare time he enjoys being a dad and serving his church as a dedicated youth leader.

If you have questions in regards to birth, death, marriage, divorce or domestic partnership amendments, you can reach Ryan at 971-673-1178 or by email at [ryan.g.sanders@dhs.oha.state.or.us](mailto:ryan.g.sanders@dhs.oha.state.or.us).

With the recent personnel changes, you may be asking yourself if your contact list is up-to-date. Please see the contact list for CHS Managers at the end of this newsletter for up-to-date contact information, or visit the Center for Health Statistics [staff directory](#) on the new Oregon Health Authority website for a more complete listing of CHS staff. We'll keep you posted as positions become filled.



# Wanted: newsletter topics

Have a question or idea for a future newsletter article? Contact Judy Shioishi, at 971-673-1166 or [judy.shioishi@dhs.oha.state.or.us](mailto:judy.shioishi@dhs.oha.state.or.us). Judy collects ideas for articles and then shares them with the writing team.

## Thank you to the contributors of this newsletter:

Jennifer Woodward, JoAnn Jackson, Karen Hampton, Karen Rangan, Ryan Sanders, Mike Golafshar, Judy Shioishi, Melissa Alarcon-Evans, Carolyn Hogg, Krystalyn Salyer, Krista Markwardt, Kelly Stacey, Kelli Wasson, Megan Welter, Cody Wang, Jamie Gould, Laura Munoz, Juana Anguiano-Rivera, and Rosa Ramirez-Oropeza.

## Frequent contacts

### Paternalities

Debbie Gott  
971-673-1155

### Death Corrections

Derrick Patterson  
971-673-1163

### Birth Corrections

<1 year, Amanda Vega  
971-673-1169  
1 year +, Vanessa Grayson  
971-673-1137

### Filiations

Laura Munoz  
971-673-1143

### Adoptions

Debbie Draghia  
971-673-1152

### Delayed Filings

Johanna Collins  
971-673-1147

### OVERS Help Desk

971-673-0279

## CHS managers

### State Registrar

Jennifer Woodward  
971-673-1185

### Vital Statistics and Systems Manager

Karen Hampton  
971-673-1191

### Registration Manager

JoAnn Jackson  
971-673-1160

### Certification Supervisor

Karen Rangan  
971-673-1182

### Amendments Manager

Ryan Sanders  
971-673-1178

## The Center for Health Statistics is located at:

800 N.E. Oregon Street, Suite 225  
Portland, OR 97232-2187

## Mailing address: P.O. Box 14050

Portland, OR 97293-0050

**General information:** 971-673-1190

**Order vital records:** 1-888-896-4988

## Website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/pages/index.aspx>

## OVERS website:

<http://healthoregon.org/overs>

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Center for Public Health Practice/Center for Health Statistics

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer.

Contact the Center for Health Statistics at 971-673-1173 or 711 for TTY.