

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Health Department
Program Contact: WICKHAM Lila A

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Vital Records is a legislatively mandated, fee supported program that produces birth and death certificates in accordance with federal and state statutes to maintain the integrity and accuracy of birth and death information. The information is analyzed to provide essential public health information that is used to plan prevention and intervention activities for positive health outcomes. An example of a prevention function is assuring the communicable disease program has immediate access to birth records so that vaccines can be given to newborns to prevent them from acquiring Hepatitis B from their mother. The program received high marks on a state triennial evaluation which assesses the quality and accountability of the program.

Program Description

Birth and Death Certification: Multnomah County is responsible for issuing birth and death certificates within the first six months after the birth or death, and within 24-hours of receipt of a request for certificate. Death certificates can be issued to family members, legal representatives, governmental agencies, or to the person or agency with personal or property rights. Birth records can be released to immediate family including grandparents, parents, brothers/sisters, legal representatives or governmental agencies. Employees working in this program must be registered with the state to assure competency. An electronic birth and death data certification model was implemented requiring a significant increase in individual education with community partners.

Program Justification

The Vital Records Program addresses the Accountability strategy of providing reliable information for decision-making in public health. Populations at risk for poor health outcomes are identified for the provision of proactive interventions. For example: Infants of hepatitis B carrier mothers receive 3 immunization vaccines in the first six months of life. Prevention of hepatitis B is critical as hepatitis B infected individuals have a 30% lifetime risk of liver cancer. Mothers transmitting Perinatal Hepatitis B to their infants are decreasing in Oregon as early immunization of infants occurs. Vital Records assures accurate, timely and confidential registration of birth and death events minimizing the opportunity for identity theft and assuring accurate record of cause of death and the identification of parents of the born child.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY07-08)	Current Year Purchased (FY08-09)	Current Year Estimate (FY08-09)	Next Year Offer (FY09-10)
Output	Number of birth and death certificates issued	39,508	37,216	39,370	41,562
Outcome	% of children who receive the series of three Hepatitis B vaccine by 15 months	85.0%	94.0%	95.0%	95.0%
Efficiency	Average number of days to issue error free certificate	1	1	1	1

Performance Measure - Description

- 1) Certificates issued: measures program volume. Oregon State Health Division will also be offering birth certification as an improved service resulting in a reduction of birth certificate projections.
- 2) Outcome: Revised to reflect percent of completely immunized children instead of number receiving immunization at birth. Infants of hepatitis B carrier mothers immunized: Infants need to receive 3 vaccines by fifteen months of life. Outcome: Prevention of hepatitis B is critical as hepatitis B infected individuals have a 30% lifetime risk of liver cancer.
- 3) Days to issue: Measures rapidity of issuance process. The 24 hours from receipt to issuance is a mandatory timeframe. Quality measure (percent of certificates requiring edits) was eliminated due implementation of electronic birth and death records.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Legal mandates are ORS 97, 146, 432; OAR 830 and 333.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2009	2009	2010	2010
Personnel	\$34,955	\$481,425	\$0	\$528,405
Contracts	\$831	\$289	\$0	\$1,190
Materials & Supplies	\$7,200	\$14,870	\$2,654	\$22,027
Internal Services	\$0	\$78,416	\$0	\$93,129
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$42,986	\$575,000	\$2,654	\$644,751
Administration	\$8,869	\$0	\$10,879	\$0
Program Support	\$61,300	\$34,539	\$67,907	\$31,744
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$70,169	\$34,539	\$78,786	\$31,744
Total GF/non-GF:	\$113,155	\$609,539	\$81,440	\$676,495
Program Total:	\$722,694		\$757,935	
Program FTE	0.40	5.95	0.00	6.35
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$33,427	\$0	\$39,087	\$0
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$575,000	\$0	\$644,751
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$34,539	\$0	\$31,744
Total Revenue:	\$33,427	\$609,539	\$39,087	\$676,495

Explanation of Revenues

This is a fee driven self-sustaining program.

If the state is now offering birth certificates, would we expect to see a decline in the number of certificates we issue? We were anticipating a potential reduction in birth certificates but that has not proven to be the case since the introduction of the state program. We have also received some additional funeral home customers resulting in an increase in the Death Certificates that we issue. The combined birth and death certifications continue to show the increase we projected.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #40009, Vital Records

The transition to electronic data transfer has been labor intensive and necessitated the elimination of transmitting death certificates via the fax machine. As a result, the program has had to revise its business practices and increase education and outreach to community partners.

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