

**PARIS**  
**Public Assistance**  
**Reporting**  
**Information System**



## **PARIS Newsletter**

**Summer 2018**

### *California's PARIS Input File*

Every quarter, the State of California contributes millions of beneficiary records to the PARIS-Interstate Match. All of these individuals are enrolled in the State's Medicaid Program. This is reflected by a "Y" in the Medicaid Program Indicator field on the PARIS Input File.

In an effort to assist other states in determining residency for recipients who are matched on PARIS, the State of California has made changes to the data elements in their file. Previously, California was using the date the input file was created in the (MA) start date field. While California would have liked to insert the first day of the individual's current certification period into that field, the changes required to do that in their legacy enrollment database proved too extensive. However, to remove potentially misleading information from their file, California's starting

date field will now be blank. This change was in place in time for the August 10, 2018 match.

All States are encouraged to provide the most accurate information as possible in their input files. For example, do not include placeholder telephone contact numbers, such as (123) 456-7890, if you do not want to be contacted by phone. In this scenario, a state could supply reliable fax and email contacts while leaving the telephone field blank.

Other states rely on the accuracy of all fields, including the program eligibility start/end dates, to administer their public assistance programs. The Board appreciates California improving the veracity of their PARIS input data for the benefit of all other states.

*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>

#### **PARIS Board of Directors**

Tom Miller – ACF – PARIS Federal Project Officer

Bill Allman – Washington  
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Jessica Brinks - Michigan

Tim Dahlin - Washington

John Demsko - Pennsylvania

Andrew Georgiades – New York

Susan Lloyd - Virginia

Manuel Urbina - California

Mark Zaleha – Ohio

#### **Federal IT Advisor to the Board**

Portia A. M. Gilliam, DMDC

*Next PARIS quarterly submission  
deadline is: Friday, November 9, 2018*

## More Than Just Pensions - Many Types of Veteran Benefits

When researching possible military related benefits that you or a family member may be eligible for, the vast information on [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov) can be very overwhelming. However, if you review the website material, you'll be surprised to find that most of the info you really need is conveniently located under the "benefits" tab.

According to the latest VA census, most people do not know that spouses and children of some veterans are eligible for healthcare benefits, however, the veteran must be 100 percent disabled from his or her time in service, or must have died in the line of duty.

The government also offers a pension for spouses of some veterans. In this case, the veteran must have served during the periods designated as "war-time service".

For more information, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension>.

When it comes to children of veterans, some are eligible for financial help for their education. To qualify for these benefits, the veteran must be permanently disabled from his or her time in the service or must have died in the line of duty. For more information or to apply, [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor\\_dependent\\_assistance.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp).

Another benefit for veterans is the VA Home Loan program. The government will help veterans get a low interest home loan or even assist them if they are behind on payments.

There are also specific home loan programs for Native Americans who have served and for disabled veterans. For details on all the VA's Home Loan programs, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>.

Finally, yet so importantly, there are several programs for homeless veterans.

Those programs include job training and the HUD-VASH Program, which assists veterans with affordable housing. For more information on how you can get help, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-homeless.asp>.

If you find yourself having trouble navigating the system, reach out to your state department of veteran affairs (<http://www.nasdva.us/Links.aspx>) or contact the American Legion (<https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits>) or perhaps visit a VA Veteran Center near you.

*\*The PARIS Board of Directors will pursue building a "How To" guide on ways to use match information to further verify these individuals for targeted outreach. When complete, the guide will be shared with the PARIS community and posted on the ACF PARIS website.*

If you have file transfer issues or experience a problem making the submission deadline, communicate that information to Portia Gilliam as soon as possible via email to:

[portia.a.gilliam.civ@mail.mil](mailto:portia.a.gilliam.civ@mail.mil)



**Share your Successes!**

Send your success stories to  
[PARIS@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:PARIS@acf.hhs.gov)

## ***News from the Project Sponsor:***

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, PARIS held its second webinar on Advanced Veterans Match and Veterans Benefit Enhancement Project. The presenters were Bill Allman (President of the PARIS Board of Directors), Manuel Urbina (California) and Tim Dahlin (Washington State). I would like to thank the Kansas Department of Children and Families Training Division for hosting the webinar and to Kristi Scheve (Kansas) for pulling everything together.

The Medicaid Integrity Institute (MII) in Columbia, SC has invited David Russell (Michigan) to present the PARIS ABCs course at their September 5-7, 2018 conference titled Emerging Trends in Medicaid—Beneficiary Eligibility and Fraud. He and fellow board member Mark Zaleha presented at MII this past March generating many questions about PARIS. If you attend, don't hesitate to have a conversation with David on the many uses of PARIS data. The MII is looking at having another PARIS session in February 2019. Details of future PARIS trainings will go out in a PARIS Transmittal and appear in the newsletter.

As a reminder, prior to transmitting your PARIS quarterly file to the Defense Manpower Data Center (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.

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

***Anyone not able to attend the  
"Advanced Veterans Match & VBE Projects"  
webinar can access***

***a recording of the session here:***

***<https://ksdcf.adobeconnect.com/pqijumop4ggc/>***

## **Message from the PARIS Board President**

I hope that this newsletter finds the PARIS community enjoying the beautiful weather and outdoor activities that only summer can bring.

As Tom stated in his message, on June 13<sup>th</sup>, PARIS held its second webinar. The session revolved around the utilization and maximization of the data provided in the Veterans and Federal matches. Additionally, an overview was provided on how the data from these matches may be used to facilitate a Veterans Benefit Enhancement Project, like those that are currently enjoying success in Washington State and California. I was joined by my colleague, Tim Dahlin, and Manuel Urbina from California. The training went very well and we hope to be able to provide another opportunity for those of you that were unable to register and attend the June session.

There have been increasingly hopeful signs that we may receive the necessary funding for a 2019 PARIS Training Conference. To that end, funding was provided for the Board to meet and plan for the tentative training. The Board is planning to assemble in Washington D.C., hopefully in early November, to establish an agenda that will be most useful for the entire PARIS community. Stay tuned for future information and announcements, likely in the form of transmittals, regarding this much-anticipated training.

In the meantime, feel free to offer any suggestions or ideas that you may have for this conference or any of the future webinars we anticipate hosting. Additionally, the Board is always available should you have any questions or need any assistance regarding the PARIS match process.

The Medicaid Integrity Institute (MII) in Columbia, SC will be offering a PARIS ABCs session in early September. This will be similar to the successful presentation provided by Board members Mark Zaleha and David Russell this past March. For those of you that can attend MII, stay tuned for information regarding a February 2019 session that is currently being discussed.

Finally, please take the opportunity to double check that your state's email address and contact information on the PARIS website is both current and accurate. States rely on this information for contact with other state reps to adjudicate mutual matches. Additionally, please let us know how well PARIS is assisting your state and any success stories that you may be able to share. We rely on your communication to keep the PARIS community apprised of any success and Best Practices that your state has had with the PARIS data matching process.

As usual, a huge "Thank You" to all of you for your continued support of PARIS. We will continue to provide you with any assistance or information that we feel may be useful in maximizing the data that PARIS provides. I hope to hear from all of you in the future! ***-Bill Allman, President, PARIS Board of Directors.***

## 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 Tim Dahlin, Program Manager Veterans Benefits-PARIS Program in the Washington State Health Care Authority.*

### Background:

I was born and raised in the sprawling metropolis of Silverton, Oregon (pop. 10,000). I enjoy hiking, biking, exercise, good food and music. I also enjoy traveling, but am not crazy about the whole airport experience. I am married (recently celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> in Maui) and we have 2 young adult children. We moved to Vancouver, Washington about 23 years ago, and I have worked for the State of Washington for about the same length of time.

### How did you get involved with PARIS?

Approximately 13 years ago, while working in the Aging & Disability Administration (with Bill Allman), we came upon PARIS as a better means to verify income from Veterans Affairs and Dept. of Defense for our clients. Once involved with the PARIS data, the idea of assisting recipients to collect their proper payment from Veterans Affairs took off, and the Washington State Veterans Benefit Program grew from there.

### What do you think makes PARIS successful?

The PARIS community, including participating states, the PARIS Board, our DMDC partners, and Tom Miller, are committed to providing quality data in the match process. There is much work and discussion to improve the process and outcomes behind the scenes, and I greatly appreciate the commitment to quality from all involved.

**If you could try any occupation other than the one you are in, what would it be?** I considered being an attorney for a time, but it would be fun to be a music writer/critic. (And I could be paid for going to concerts).

**What would be the name of the autobiography of your life?** “Bald, Surly, and Easily Distracted” or “Recovering Ice Cream Addict”.

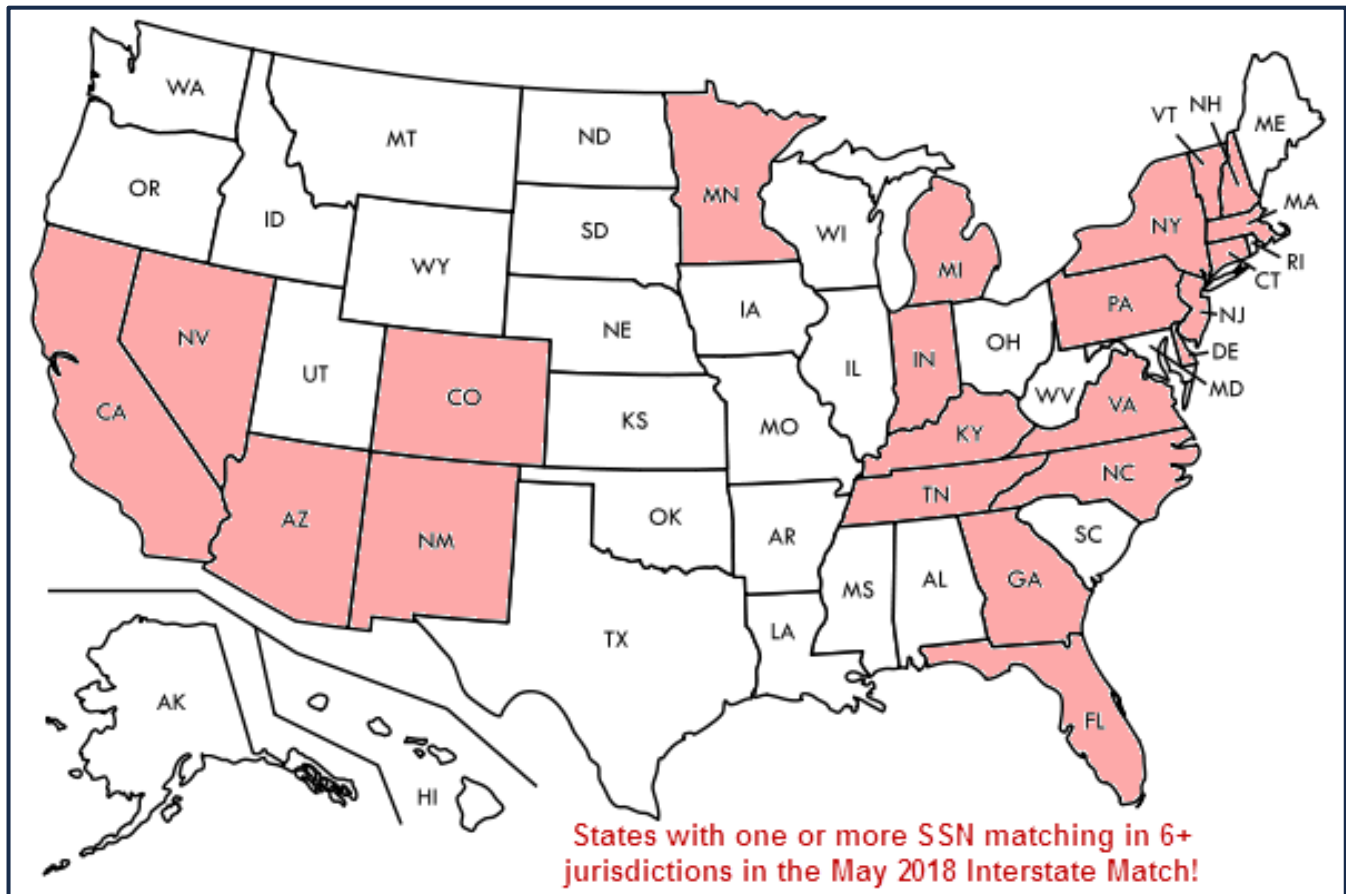
### What book are you reading now?

“Only Killers and Thieves”, by Paul Howarth. A fascinating and often violent story of a family struggling to survive in colonial Australia, which is reminiscent of the American frontier experience. I’m also nibbling away at a collection of E.L. Doctorow short stories.





# Heavy Hitters from the May 2018 PARIS Interstate Match!



# 24,057

The number of SSNs that matched in 3+ jurisdictions nationwide!

The number of states/jurisdictions that participated in the May quarterly match:

# 45