

PARIS

**Public Assistance
Reporting
Information System**

PARIS Newsletter 2020 Issue 1 (Winter)



PARIS 2020 Match Deadlines

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→ Friday, February 14th, 2020

→ Friday, May 8th, 2020

→ Friday, August 14th, 2020

**Every participating jurisdiction submits in August.*

→ Friday, November 13th, 2020

PARIS Training Conference in D.C.

PARIS Board Hosts Training

The PARIS Board of Directors is excited to be able to help host another training conference for the PARIS community in Washington D.C.

The last conference was held in 2016 and was considered a huge success for the project with almost every jurisdiction in attendance.

This is an unparalleled opportunity for states to learn about PARIS and how it can be fully utilized and leveraged within their states for all program areas.

The 2020 Conference will take place March 10-11, 2020 in Washington D.C. It will include several sessions diving into the Interstate Match, the Veterans

Match, Veterans Benefit Enhancement Projects, and the Federal Match. In addition, the PARIS Board has been thinking about potential improvements and enhancements to PARIS and would love to share these ideas with the community.

PARIS conferences are also time for states to share their perspectives from working the matches within a high-volume state, like California, or smaller centralization of work, like that done in Kansas.

This is an opportunity to hear several tips to leverage your state's PARIS data with other data sources, such as EBT usage, on-line application audit information, or claims payment/diagnosis codes.

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

All content of this newsletter are authored by the PARIS Board of Directors unless otherwise noted. The information provided here does not necessarily reflect the views of ACF or HHS.

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Official PARIS Website:

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

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Portia A.M. Gilliam - DMDC

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ACF sponsors one attendee from each state, usually the designated State Administrative Representative for PARIS and pays all their travel and per diem expenditures. There is no cost for the state to have one representative attend.

States are encouraged to send additional attendees at their own expense. The conference itself is

provided free of charge to the states.

A formal announcement of the conference was sent out via PARIS Transmittal 2019-15 on December 20th. A copy of this transmittal can be accessed on the PARIS Website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/paris>.

Washington D.C. is beautiful in the spring and the hotel in which the conference is being held boasts that they have the most incredible

waterfront views of our nation's capital.

ACF sponsored-attendees must be selected and have travel arrangements made by the conference logistics coordinator by February 14. Registration deadline for other attendees is February 21, 2020, so act now to secure your place at this informative training conference.

Statistics from the November 2019 PARIS Match

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50 States/jurisdictions participated

512,525 total interstate matches (SSN matching in 2 up to 6 states)

505,845 SSNs matching in **2** states

6,488 SSNs matching in **3** states

182 SSNs matching in **4** states

8 SSNs matching in **5** states

2 SSNs matching in **6** states**

**Those two SSNs were found in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and/or West Virginia.

PARIS in the News –

A piece on retiring Board President, Bill Allman: <https://www.ajmc.com/focus-of-the-week/retiring-veteran-makes-1-last-push-to-see-more-states-encourage-use-of-va-benefits-instead-of-medicaid>

Reference to PARIS in a June 2019 report on Medicaid Program Integrity (see page 45): <https://www.macpac.gov/publication/improving-the-effectiveness-of-medicaid-program-integrity/>

Retirement Gains – More Losses for the PARIS Board of Directors

The Board of Directors would like to thank and send best wishes to Mark Zaleha, Ohio, as he retires after 33 years of state service and to John Demsko, Pennsylvania, as he retires after 30 years of service.

Mark has served on the PARIS Board since 2011. If anyone has had the pleasure of attending a PARIS conference in the past, they will likely remember Mark for his zeal and passion for PARIS objectives. It will be difficult to replace Mark's ability to speak at a moment's notice on any topic create a PowerPoint at record speeds, and calculate the potential fiscal impacts, if all states fully utilized the PARIS data.

Ohio will also feel the loss of Mark's departure; however, he has done a tremendous job integrating PARIS into their new combined eligibility system and served as inspiration for their county offices to rise to the challenge of working all their PARIS matches.

Facing the departure of Mark, John, and David Russell (announced in the last PARIS newsletter), the prospect of conference attendees receiving personal lessons in card games, such as Euchre, with rousing results is severely diminished (after work hours, of course). However, the remaining board members have committed their best efforts to plan and lead meet and greet opportunities in the absence of these social leaders.

John has served on the PARIS Board since 2016. PARIS conference attendees will miss John the most for his contribution of Hershey's from Pennsylvania for door prizes. He's also famous for his personal offers of assistance to other states and the speed in which he can retrieve statistics and facts. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will miss John's quiet competence as he has managed the Interstate Match for their 67 county offices since 2002.



John Demsko

John and Mark, being from neighboring states, gave the board the perspective on how PARIS could work between two states with several matches. Both Mark and John were hands-on with the data and provided the board the viewpoint of territories that are county-administered, with state oversight.

Good luck to both in their retirement years with their travel plans, and the time they plan to spend with their families.

The PARIS Board is still looking for experienced and dedicated volunteers across the nation to fill the Board vacancies. Please reach out to one of the remaining PARIS Board Members or to the PARIS Project Sponsor in ACF for more information, if you are interested.



Mark Zaleha Presenting, Photo Credit John Demsko

Tips to Make the Most of PARIS Matches from the PARIS Board of Directors

Quarterly Input File:

Always check the contact information you are sending to make sure it is up to date and accurate.

Make sure to indicate which matches are being requested for each SSN in the designated fields (Interstate position 300, Veterans position 299, and Federal position 301).

Interstate:

Use the quarterly Interstate Match report (sent to the community by transmittal after each match and then uploaded to the PARIS Website) to identify if you have any “heavy hitters” or SSNs matching in three or more states. Work those cases first or send those directly to your fraud unit to investigate.

Compare the SSNs matching to other states in PARIS to your EBT out of state transactions. Prioritize those that are matching both areas.

Make sure to establish good working partnerships with your highest matching states, or your neighbor states. Reciprocate system access to facilitate working these matches or establish regular quarterly times to work through matches concurrently.

Pay attention to the SSN verification field; you may not want to discount entirely unmatching SSNs, but it’s easy to query data with additional matching factors such as “name starts with” or “Year of Birth” to try to narrow down if these matches are the same individual in each state.

Veterans:

Remember, with Veteran’s Health Care, PARIS is not promoting states to “take anything away” from the veteran but are rather wanting to ensure they understand their entitlements and are educated to make their own choices.

Look at the address information for the payee (starting position 845 on the Veterans Output file) and prioritize those that are out of state or out of the country. Compare those receiving an Aid and Attendance payment of \$90 with the living arrangement on your state records. If they aren’t in a facility, send a notice to the household to ask if they have reported to the VA that they are not in institutional living anymore.

Confirm the income amounts of the benefit, including any Aid and Attendance, Unusual Medical Expense, or Homebound Allowance payments and make sure your case is budgeted correctly on your state eligibility system.

A Message from the PARIS Project Sponsor

Joshua Williams

PARIS Program Interim Project Officer, ACF

The 2020 PARIS Training Conference is almost here! We at ACF understand that this conference is highly valued by states and are excited to help to host it. The PARIS Board of Directors is working diligently to set up a thorough and valuable agenda for attendees. We are looking forward to strong participation from all states. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of the PARIS Board members if you have any questions—our virtual office doors are always open to the PARIS community!

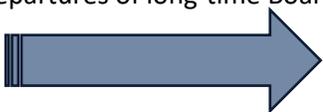
As already noted in this newsletter, the Board wishes the best to two additional board members who are retiring. Mark and John, along with David and Bill, have served the PARIS community very strongly and their active presence will be missed. However, these losses are also an opportunity for new voices to rise in the PARIS community. If you think you might be up for the professional challenge and opportunity to help the PARIS community move forward by joining the Board, we would love to hear from you! Send us an email, call us, or talk with us at the conference in March.

Federal:

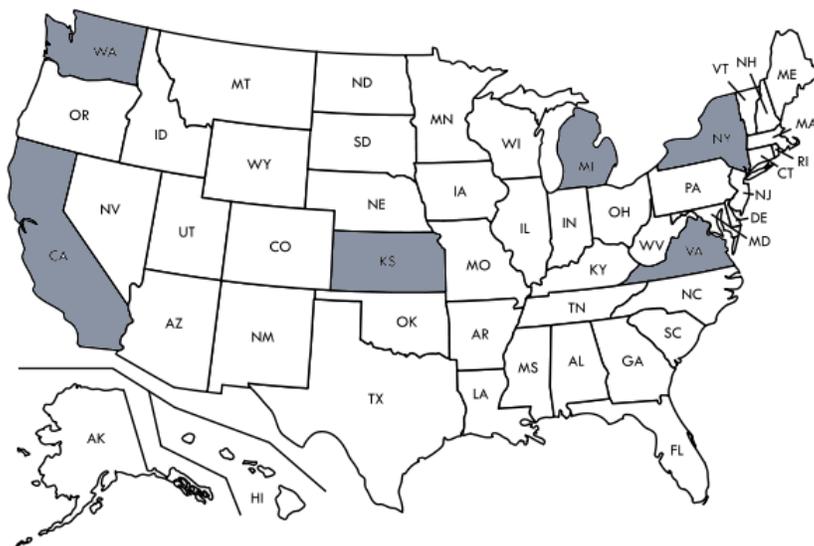
Look at the address information for the payee (starting position 425 on the Federal Output file) and prioritize those that are out of state or out of the country. Confirm the income amounts and make sure your case is budgeted correctly on your state eligibility system.

Be sure to investigate and code the individual’s third-party resource information on your claims payment system (these most likely have access to or are currently covered by Federal health insurance sources).

States represented on the PARIS Board of Directors, after the recent/upcoming retirements/departures of long-time Board Members.



If interested in applying for one of the vacant Board Member positions, please reach out to one of the current members or to Joshua Williams, ACF Project Sponsor, to communicate your interest and be provided information on how to apply.



A Message from the PARIS Board of Director's President Bill Allman, Washington State Health Care Authority

I hope that this message finds all of you well and that you are looking forward to the upcoming 2020 PARIS Training Conference, scheduled for March 10 - 11 in Washington, D.C. The PARIS Board has been hard at work putting together an agenda that will prove useful and valuable in your efforts to maximize the data and opportunities that the quarterly PARIS matches provide. In a recent transmittal, we asked you to provide us with any topics or areas that you feel would be of most interest to you and your respective states. As I write this, there is still time for you to let us know for us to prepare accordingly. Additionally, we asked for volunteers from participants that would like to share and present their state's utilization of PARIS and the success that they may have realized as a result. We are looking forward to welcoming and meeting those of you that are newer to the PARIS community, as well as seeing those of you that attended the last PARIS Conference in 2016. Here is the link to the conference transmittal, which includes information that should make your understanding and conference registration much easier.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/paris/resource/paris-transmittal-2019-15-2020-paris-training-conference-announcement-and-details>

Feel free to call or e-mail me or any member of the PARIS Board should you continue to have any questions. Our contact information is available on the PARIS website. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/paris/about/board-of-directors>

As already promulgated in this newsletter, the Board will be losing two additional and valuable members who are retiring. Mark Zaleha (Ohio) and John Demsko (PA) will be joining David Russell and myself in moving on to the next and hopefully much more exciting chapter of their lives. Mark, Dave and John have served admirably for both the PARIS Board and community for years and there are not enough words to articulate just how much their participation will be missed. This creates four vacancies on the Board that provide both a challenge and opportunity for new talent to step up and assist PARIS in moving forward in what appears to be a very exciting future! I strongly urge you to consider this chance to become a member of the PARIS Board and assist in setting the course for what appears to be an exciting, new chapter in the history of PARIS. If this sounds like a professional challenge that you would like to embrace, please let us know by phone, e-mail or perhaps with a conversation at the conference. I cannot even begin to appropriately articulate how much of an impact that PARIS participation has had on my career!

On that note, it is with great personal anguish to announce that this is my last newsletter message as President and member of the PARIS Board. I have been a member of the PARIS Board since 2002, when PARIS consisted of only 20 states...none west of the Mississippi! I believe that the PARIS Board was an integral part of PARIS growth that eventually led to SMD10009

(<https://downloads.cms.gov/cmsgov/archived-downloads/SMDL/downloads/SMD10009.pdf>), CMS' mandate for participation of all 50 states and two territories in PARIS. Further, I consider participation on the Board over that time to be one of the most significant and rewarding accomplishments in my 36 year state government career. From the past Federal managers (Mark Grayboyes and Tom Miller) to past Board members, individuals involved in PARIS have become lifelong friends rather than just colleagues. I could not possibly list them all, however, Kristi, Dave, Manuel, Tim, Susan, and Andy on the current Board join the aforementioned list to make my membership and participation on the Board one of the highlights of my career. Additionally, all the state representatives that I have met, spoken with, and assisted over the years have reinforced my dedication to the successful future of PARIS. Again, I strongly urge you to consider applying for the PARIS Board with the hope that you may have the opportunity to experience the challenge and commitment that leads to the satisfaction and appreciation of accomplishments, relationships, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you PARIS nation and I sincerely look forward to seeing and meeting all of you at the conference!