

Ivra updated on the web registration system to file birth and death certificates. She explained that Department of Homeland Security has encouraged the states to develop electronic vital records systems to assist in deterring fraud and to provide a more timely and secure environment for collecting and sharing information. It was explained that BVR wrote an RFP for a base system and has now selected a vendor. The selected vendor is ManTech. They have served the vital records community for 20 plus years and were also awarded bids for the States of Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma for their electronic systems. Ivra explained that the system would pretty much mirror the Oklahoma system since our laws were similar so there would be minimal customization. The State of Kansas BVR has indicated that 30 plus Missouri funeral directors are using their electronic system and appear to like it. Missouri has identified at least 21 states that have implemented electronic systems and several are already re-engineering to update in today's environment. If interested in following up with these states, BVR could provide the contacts.

BVR's vision for this system would be in two parts, the fact of death portion that showed the personal history information, then the medical certification part of the certificate the certifier would complete. The laws requiring the funeral director to collect the personal data, submit to the certifier, and register the record with the registrar would not change in their responsibility.

Once the funeral director entered the fact of death information, they would no longer have to notify the local registrar, the system would provide notification. The system would also provide notification to SSA when the fact of death information is entered that included the SSN. BVR would also like to have the fact of death portion to issue even if the certification portion has not been completed. This process would be useful when the cause of death portion is not needed. An example would be to provide proof of death when conducting financial matters at the bank.

Implementation would be in phases. Not every facility would implement at the same time. To be in compliance with the statutory implementation date the pilot facilities would go live January 1, 2010. All other facilities would be phased onto the system gradually. Rural areas would be phased in last. Training would be conducted across the state by BVR field representatives starting sometime in September.

Concern was expressed by some funeral directors for physicians not certifying in a timely manner. System would have time sensitive dates and would prompt provider after so many days. If no response by data provider, state may have to assist funeral directors in notifying the Chief Medical Officer of the facility in getting the certificates completed and returned to funeral directors so that it could be registered. This is a current process that would also not require a change to the law. A sample of the 2003 revised Missouri Certificate of Death was shared. It was explained that the revision was designed using the recommendations and guidelines by the National Center for Health Statistics. The electronic certificate would be edited by the system for completeness and accuracy. If all edits were approved, the certificate would register and filter back through the system and made available to the local registrars for issuance within hours. This electronic system

would allow more timely registrations. With the editing process, there would less likely be errors, certificates and/or certified copies would not have to be replaced as in a manual process. The system would not allow registration until the deficiencies were corrected and resubmitted. In some instances there would still be a paper process. BVR will need to have some discussions with State Board and MFDA to resolve the issues of funeral directors and embalmer's signatures. However, Missouri is looking towards a totally paperless electronic system for the future.

Ivra shared that BVR has enlisted several physicians and funeral directors that are very receptive towards piloting and looking forward to going live.