

# CONNECTIONS

## Build 15.2 Overview

### **CPS ENHANCEMENTS**

#### **WMS Case Identification Number Recording**

In order to be well positioned for the transition to CONNECTIONS Case Management, CONNECTIONS Build 15.2 will create a bridge between WMS (Welfare Management Systems) and CONNECTIONS CPS investigations. Enhancements in this Build will provide CPS workers with the capability to record the WMS case identification number in CONNECTIONS, thus preparing a link between open CPS cases and the corresponding Family Services case in a future Build. In order to accomplish this three new fields have been added to the CPS Investigation Conclusion window:

- ❑ the WMS Case Number field
- ❑ the WMS Validate Button
- ❑ the WMS Validated Checkbox

During concluding the CPS Investigation, the primary or secondary worker assigned to the Investigation stage will be able to record the WMS case identification number on the CPS Investigation Conclusion window when an “Open” for services closure reason is selected. This will create a bridge between the two systems that will facilitate conversion, once the Case Management portion of CONNECTIONS becomes functional.

### **FAD ENHANCEMENTS**

#### **Reclassification of CONNECTIONS Foster Boarding Home Program Types**

With the implementation of Build 15.2, CONNECTIONS Foster Home Program Types will be fully compatible with the Benefits Issuance Control System (BICS) defined program types. Previously, CONNECTIONS program types did not specify all of the program types that were associated with Special Needs or Congregate Care program type groups defined by BICS. As part of the ongoing effort to make CONNECTIONS information compatible with BICS data in the overnight batch update, CONNECTIONS Build 15.2 modifies the Program Type field on the F/A Home License window. This will clarify CONNECTIONS program types and relate them to corresponding BICS program types.

#### **Program Authorization Dates**

With the implementation of Build 15.2 four pairs of FROM and TO date fields will be added to the F/A Home License window. Each pair of date fields corresponds to one of the Benefits Issuance Control System (BICS) non-Congregate care program type groups (Therapeutic, Special Needs, Regular and Emergency).

These date fields will be required for any FAD home with a setting of “Foster Home” and a Program type selected from one of these four groups. Build 15.2 will provide the ability to capture, associate and maintain effective dates for the Therapeutic, Special Needs, Regular and Emergency program type groups. As part of the implementation of this Build, a data fix will convert each home’s existing program type into the reclassified program types. In addition, a data fix will also convert program type FROM and TO dates based on the home’s status.

### **Effect of Foster Boarding Home Program Type Changes on F/A Home History**

Enhancements included in Build 15.2 are related to Foster Boarding Home program types (in CONNECTIONS) that will be reorganized into logical groupings. The entry of effective start and end dates will be required for selected program types. The program types and dates will be passed to BICS for facilitation of the payment process.

## **SECURITY**

### **Increase in Default Unit Size**

When new workers are added to CONNECTIONS via WEBSTAR, they are automatically placed in a default unit. This unit is a temporary holding place for new workers until the Security Coordinator “In-Assigns” them to the specific units in which they will work. Build 15.2’s implementation will increase the maximum number of staff that can be assigned to a default unit from three individuals to fifty individuals.

### **Changes Affecting Supervisors**

The implementation of Build 15.2 includes two security related enhancements:

- End-dating workers in CONNECTIONS and re-assignment of cases and to-do’s.
- New workers will no longer be automatically case-assignable. Supervisors will need to make workers case assignable.

- **End Dating Workers:** There are currently many staff active in CONNECTIONS who have been deleted through WEBSTAR. These individuals should be end-dated in CONNECTIONS. One of the new Security reports available through the OCFS Data Warehouse can be used to obtain a complete list of staff that need to be end-dated. For information on how to generate this Security report, please refer to the “System Build 15.2 Job Aid” that will be disseminated in advance of the build. This job aid includes instructions on how to access and run the above referenced Security report.
- **Making Workers Case Assignable:** New workers will no longer be automatically case assignable. This will prevent staff who do not work on cases from getting assigned cases inadvertently. The

worker's supervisor will need to enable the worker to receive case assignments. This change is currently in effect in New York City; Build 15.2 will make it effective for all new staff statewide who are added to CONNECTIONS.

## **ONLINE HELP**

The CONNECTIONS Online Help System will also be updated and enhanced to accommodate for modifications to the functionality included in Build 15.2

### **Training Supports**

To help districts and voluntary agencies implement Build 15.2, a new training job aid, "System Build 15.2 – Changes to FAD, CPS and Security", has been developed and will soon be available. The above referenced job aid will be the primary and only training tool produced for the implementation of this Build. This training support encompasses all of the modifications contained within Build 15.2. A hard copy of the job aid will be distributed to every Implementation Coordinator, Staff Development Coordinator, and Director of Services in advance of Build 15.2. The Job Aid also will be available in the Public Folder: Statewide/CONNECTIONS/Build 15.2 and will be posted on the CONNECTIONS Intranet Website (<http://sdssnet5/ocfs/connect>) on the Desk/Job Aids page.

If you have questions regarding Build 15.2, please contact your CONNECTIONS Regional Office Implementation Coordinator (see the list below).

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