

CONNECTIONS

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

CONNECTIONS Case Management Build 18.9 Highlights

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Below is a brief description of the new functionality being rolled out with the deployment of Build 18.9. This new functionality is added in our continuing efforts to move forward in creating a single, statewide, integrated system for the collection and recording of child protective services, preventive services, foster care services and adoption services.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

- ***Health Module:***

The system will support the recording of key health information including health status, health exams, vital information, clinical diagnoses, and other select information regarding a child's health history and that of their biological family. Entry of information into the Health services module for local districts that have, at this time, delayed implementation of the health services module is optional. Voluntary Agencies are required to enter health information on foster children in their programs in the Health Services Module. Two new security attributes have been added to support the Health Module, they are: VIEW HEALTH and MAINT HEALTH. In addition, "Designation of Responsibility" at the District/Agency level is a new requirement in the Health Dialogue and applicable only to that module.

- ***Education Module:***

The system will support the recording of key information regarding education and associated information for children.

- ***Permanency Module:***

CONNECTIONS will support the system generation and completion of the Permanency Hearing Report as well as notices to attendees and statements to court. The Permanency Report will be retained in the system as part of the case history.

CRITICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Below you will find enhancements and fixes included in the Build to address user requests and/or user identified issues regarding current system functionality.

The following information will identify and describe the specific modules within the CONNECTIONS Application that will be modified.

- ***Assigned Workload:***

- A field is added to the Workload to display the agency code of the Intake worker and/or Case Planner.

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- **Case Merge/Split:**
 - User will be able to view/print notes entered in a merged case which is subsequently split. Currently the user has no access to the notes entered on a merged case which is then split back to its original composition.
- **Case Status:**
 - The case status of Open when all stages are closed, will update to Closed when all stages in the case are closed.
- **Family Services Intake:**
 - In a CPS INV stage for district A66, where the FSI is created when the INV is unfounded, users will be able to change the FSI type from CWS to ADVPO.
- **Family Assessment & Service Plan:**
 - The Case Planner Summary will open in browse mode only for anyone other than the Case Planner.
 - A comprehensive list of incomplete items, including the tab name, by child, will be added to the Check FASP detail window.
 - User will now be able to delete O&A blocks and/or Discharge Protocols that were added in error.
 - Typographical errors have been corrected in the FASP.
- **Family Services OCI Report:**
 - The current FSS OCI report lists only stages that have coming due or overdue activity. The updated report includes all stages that appear on the workload, whether or not there is a coming due or overdue activity.
 - Alerts to notify workers of overdue or coming due FASPs and FASPs that were unavailable for launch will no longer appear on the report.
- **Family Services Stage:**
 - The Find option is added to all text tool viewers that are read only. The Replace option is available in all text tool viewers that are modifiable
 - The user will be able to print a single page from the FASP.
 - The user will be able to print selected sections of the FASP.
- **Foster/Adoptive Home Development:**
 - A change will be made in FAD to distinguish a home receiving an adoption subsidy from a home going through the process to become an approved adoptive home. The former will have a facility type of “Adoption Subsidy Home” and the latter will have a facility type of “Adoptive Home.” Neither of these types of homes have expiration dates nor do they require reauthorizations.
 - A change will be made to the FAD stage to create a “dual purpose” home. A “dual purpose” home is defined as a Resource Family who is eligible to receive both foster and adoptive payments. These homes will be assigned a single vendor ID. Only a local district will have the ability create a “dual purpose” home. FAD workers, in a voluntary agency, will not have this option and will continue to create single purpose Foster/Adoptive homes.
- **Foster Care Issues:**
 - The Visiting Plan is required when the Program Choice is Placement. Visiting Plan is added to the list of incomplete components on the Removal Update.

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- **Person Demographics:**
 - When the District is A66 the language field will default to blank and requires the Primary Worker in an INV stage or Case Manager, in a FSS stage, to input the primary language for each individual in the stage.
- **Progress Notes:**
 - Entry of progress notes while a case is pending closure will invalidate the pending approval.
 - CPRS progress notes are updated to mimic FSS progress note functionality.
 - "Court Ordered Investigation is added as a progress note purpose."
 - Progress note values are added and updated to include the words Plan Amendment. The values are as follows:
 - Plan Amendment - Other
 - Plan Amendment - Preventive Services Are Started/ Ended for a Child
 - Plan Amendment - Case is Closed to CPS
 - Plan Amendment - Child is Entering or Re-entering Foster Care
 - Plan Amendment - Child is Moved from One Foster Care Setting to Another
 - Plan Amendment - Child Becomes Legally Freed for Adoption
 - Plan Amendment - Trial Discharge
 - Plan Amendment - Final Discharge
 - Plan Amendment - Child Entering/Reentering Direct Placement with a Relative/Resource
 - Plan Amendment - Child Returned Home from a Non-LDSS Placement
- **Security:**
 - OUT assignments will be treated the same as IN assignments when determining access.
- **Service Plan Review:**
 - Address validation is changed to allow saving of a non-validated address.
 - Outside Participant role, which was deleted upon Save, is retained and added to the dropdown menu for SPR letters.
- **Staff Detail:**
 - Duplicate instances of Agency/Unit/Worker, on the Staff Detail window, will no longer be allowed within a District/Agency.
- **Supervisory Approval:**
 - A new pushbutton is added to the Check FASP Detail window "Submit for Review" to allow first level supervisory corrections and comments prior to submission of the FASP for approval.
- **Tracked Child Detail Window:**
 - When an FSS is linked to an INV stage, the parent caretaker (who is 17 or under) will no longer be assigned a Protective Program Choice.
- **WMS:**
 - A new item has been added to the Options dropdown menu on the Stage Composition Tab called "Compare WMS-CONNECTIONS Data". Users will be able to identify information that is out of sync between WMS and CONNECTIONS. This option is only enabled when there are changes to shared data since the last successful sync and will display changes in the "Event" column.
 - A new security attribute has been added that MAINT APP REG. This attribute is required for local district staff to maintain a case in WMS.