

~The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY~
January 20 ~ 27, 2006



Successful Implementation of CONNECTIONS Build 18.7.2...

As you are aware, CONNECTIONS Build 18.7.2 was implemented on Wednesday, January 18th. The postponement of this Build was necessary based on trending information related to the call volume of the State Central Register. The original schedule would have required additional down-time of 2 to 4 hours. The implementation was re-scheduled so that it could be completed within the regularly scheduled maintenance window for application downtime. As previously communicated, the fix implemented with this Build corrected the error users had received upon submission of a Plan Amendment or FSS stage for closure with an in-process Plan Amendment. The Release Notes for this Build are posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet website on the Implementation and News for Users pages.

OCFS Data Warehouse Case Management Build 18 Reports (FASP Reports) Are On the Horizon...

OCFS has designed several Data Warehouse Case Management (Build 18) Reports to provide managers and supervisors with a comprehensive set of reports that help meet their basic operational and planning needs in the CONNECTIONS Case Management system.

Please be aware that you will soon be receiving notification of the availability of the FASP reports, the first set of Case Management reports to be released. Information further describing these reports is contained in the FASP Reports Step-by-Step Guide, which is posted to the CONNECTIONS Intranet on both the OCFS Data Warehouse and Desk/Job Aid pages. In addition to the Step-by-Step, there is also a two-page Quick Reference Guide for Cognos ReportNet and an FAQ document posted on the CONNECTIONS Intranet website on the identified pages.

Current Data Warehouse users will have automatic access to these reports. OCFS will grant access to other staff that local districts and agencies designate. To facilitate this process, OCFS has provided a spreadsheet of staff in a supervisory role, which needs to be returned. As of this writing, OCFS is working with OFT to

resolve a problem concerning access to ReportNet by NIS agencies. We will update the affected agencies when the problem has been resolved.

If you have any questions regarding the reports please contact the Data Warehouse Team at data.warehouse@ocfs.state.ny.us.

Secure Socket Layer/ Virtual Private Network (SSL/VPN) Access to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

Those agencies that access the CONNECTIONS application through SSL/VPN now have access to the CONNECTIONS intranet. The URL option, once connected to the SSL/VPN network interface, is: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect>.

CONNECTIONS Build 18 Implementation Issues ~ Version 16...

The CONNECTIONS Build 18 Implementation Issues ~ Version 16 was communicated on January 17, 2006. This document is also posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Implementation page.

Revised Version of the CONNECTIONS Step- by-Step Guide: Security...

A revised version of the CONNECTIONS Step by Step Guide, dated 1/6/2006, as well as a document that incorporates the identified revisions to the Guide, are posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet site on the Security and Desk/Job Aid pages.

“Did You Know”...

FASP Timeline

The due date for the first reassessment FASP (for all program types: placement, preventive, protective) has been changed to day 210 from the CID. This is in order to bring the completion of this FASP into compliance with the timeframe prescribed in the permanency law. This changes the FASP cycle as we currently know it. The initial FASP is due 30 days from CID (unless indication of a CPS report is the CID trigger, then it is due seven days from CID). The Comprehensive FASP is due 90 days from CID. The first Reassessment FASP is due 210 days from CID. The second Reassessment FASP is due 6 months from the first Reassessment FASP. All subsequent FASPs are due every six months thereafter. The first Service Plan Review for children in foster care and for children placed by a court, directly in the custody of a relative or other suitable person pursuant to Article 10 of the Family Court Act, is to be held in conjunction with the Comprehensive FASP (if the CID was triggered from a removal) or in conjunction with the 90 Day Update Plan Amendment (if a removal occurred after the CID was established). A permanency hearing satisfies the requirements for a Service Plan Review if the permanency hearing is held and completed within six months of the previous Service Plan Review.

When CONNECTIONS Will Be Unavailable...

- ***Friday, 1/20/05*** from 5:00AM - 7:00AM
- ***Wednesday, 1/25/06*** from 5:00AM - 7:00AM
- ***Friday, 1/27/06*** from 5:00AM - 7:00AM