

~The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY~
February 17 ~ 24, 2006



President's Day



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The CONNECTIONS Program Improvement Plan Update...

In response to concerns related to the performance of the CONNECTIONS system, we have initiated a *CONNECTIONS Performance Improvement Project*, and we are partnering with staff from OFT, OCFS, as well as vendors, to analyze all aspects of the infrastructure design (i.e. servers, network, database, etc.) and application design, to determine the root cause of these performance issues. To improve a system of this magnitude, a representative sample of transactions has been identified to benchmark and focus problem resolution. Other system changes will be controlled to ensure integrity of the problem resolution. OCFS has identified the top 10 transactions for benchmarking. Test Plans have been created and baseline testing have taken place at the following locations: Albany – 40 North Pearl 6th floor lab – (02.13.06), the Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families – 112 State St. – (02.15.06), and the ACS Manhattan Field Office – 125th St. – (02.22.06). Testing has been successfully completed at the Albany 40 North Pearl Street lab and the Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families this week. Your continued support is certainly appreciated.

WMS Discrepancy Report...

The WMS Discrepancy Report is a production report generated monthly from the OCFS Data Warehouse. The report is displayed in the Reports Folder, and reflects a “point in time” when CONNECTIONS and WMS are out of synch. This report will be made available to staff at **local districts only**. It will be sent to the Report List window of each user designated to receive the report.

The report lists 3 different types of discrepancies in data in the two systems:

1. Any case in CONNECTIONS when the corresponding WMS case does not exist, or is incomplete (the case is still in “APP REG” status in WMS).
2. Any case in which the Family Services Stage is closed in CONNECTIONS but the corresponding WMS case is still open.
3. Individuals in an active case who have different demographic data in the two systems – Case Manager ID, Individual Name, Date of Birth, Sex, Social Security Number, and/or Case Address (address of primary caretaker in CONNECTIONS to Case Address in WMS).

It should be noted that the WMS Discrepancy Report is being prepared for distribution in March 2006 and your Regional Implementation Field Support Lead will be contacting you to discuss this report.

***Please note:* In order to either initially identify, or change, the WMS Discrepancy Report recipients we ask that you complete the Management Report Update form, posted below. Instructions regarding completion of the form are identified in the piece below.

Management Report Update Form...

Please note that the Management Report Update form and instructions for completion of the form was initially forwarded to Directors of Service in August 2005 and then again in October 2005, with an attached spreadsheet identifying the individuals at the local district who currently receive the management reports. This form allows the local district to identify who they want to receive copies of the following reports:

- OCI Monthly Management Report
- OCI Monthly Management Summary Report
- Case Status Maintenance Report
- Summary of Characteristics Report
- To Be Expunged Report
- Expungement Report
- CIN PID
- WMS Discrepancy Report

In order to either initially identify, or change, any of the report recipients we ask that you complete the form (posted below) and submit it to Marie Wiley.

Instructions for completion of the form:

1. The form can be completed by tabbing to each field; you can then hit the “enter” key to either add or delete the identified name for each report.
2. After completion of the document hit the “Submit by Email” button, located in the upper right-hand corner of the form;
3. you will receive a pop-up box titled “Submit Email Client” and the field “Desktop Email Application” will be pre filled, click “OK”;
4. you will receive a pop-up box titled “Send Data File”, click the “Send Data File” button;
5. you will receive a pop-up box titled “Email Confirmation”; click the “Close” button;
6. you will receive a pop-up box titled “Adobe Acrobat”, the message will ask if you want to save changes to the Management Reports Update Form before closing; click either “Yes”, “No”, or “Cancel”.



The New Look of the CONNECTIONS Intranet Site...

The look of the CONNECTIONS intranet site is changing! Over the last several months we have been working on a new look for the intranet. In light of the many new system users, we have taken on the task of redesigning the intranet site to showcase a fresh face! The content of the site will be similar to the current content with several enhancements. A sneak peak at the site reveals a more robust search feature as well as more links to other important information such as links to both STARS and CDHS trainings. "Look for the new look" in late February!

CONNECTIONS Did You Know...

Permanency Hearing Report Cues...

Did You Know...

Currently, CONNECTIONS draws over the Date Certain for the next Permanency Hearing from CCRS in a nightly interface. Based on today's date, the batch program compares today's date and the Date Certain for the next hearing. If the date is exactly 45 days from today until the upcoming Date Certain, the program creates the appropriate cue for the Permanency Hearing Report coming due. However, if the date is more than 45 days from today until the upcoming Date Certain, the program does not create the cue. It "marks" that Date Certain from CCRS as "processed" and does not go back. The cues that have been created are accurate; however, the program is not creating cues for the majority of entries brought over. You need to know that if you get a cue, it is correct however, you may not get a cue. It should be noted that all cues that are based upon the removal date are working accurately.

When CONNECTIONS Will Be Unavailable...

- ***Wednesday, 2/22/06*** from 5:00AM – 7:00AM
- ***Friday, 2/24/06*** from 5:00AM - 7:00AM
- ***Wednesday, 3/1/06*** from 5:00AM – 7:00AM
- ***Friday, 3/3/06*** from 5:00AM – 7:00AM