

~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~ October 20 ~ 27, 2006



The Successful Implementation of Build 18.8.5!!!

Build 18.8.5 was successfully implemented on Friday, October 13th. If you want to review what was implemented in the Build please see the Build Release Notes posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet site. The path to the Release Notes is: CONNECTIONS intranet site (<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>) > Implementation > Current Build Information CONNECTIONS Build 18 > Build Information > CONNECTIONS Build 18.8.5 Release Notes.

Looking to Find Key Forms or Distribution Lists...

Look no further than the document that we recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet. Thanks to a few members of the CONNECTIONS Implementation team, a user need was expressed and met! The list includes where to find lists of CONNECTIONS Implementation, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, where to find Security forms, where to find SSL-VPN request forms and many other resources. The path to the document is: (<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>) > CONNECTIONS Home > News and Announcements > the posting titled: *User Resource Document: Where to Find Key Forms and Distribution Lists* under the date of October 18, 2006

An Update on Records Retention...

*****Please note that this piece is for local districts only.***

The September Records Retention Reports have successfully run and are now complete. If you have any questions related to the reports please contact your CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation Support Staff representative.

The Event Calendar Is Here...

Looking to see if there is a CONNECTIONS Build 18.9 Regional forum in your area, when a PCUG (PC User Group) meeting is scheduled, dates for the next NYPWA conference, when equipment installs are supposed to happen, what other events/meetings may be going on in the local districts? Well now there is a place where you can go to view current district events...*The Event Calendar!*

The calendar was designed as a joint effort between OCFS, OFT, OTDA and DOH. The purpose of this calendar is to make available the schedules of major system events, allowing for better coordination of efforts and resources. We have asked that each State agency check the calendar, in advance of producing schedules, to ensure their event does not conflict, or negatively impact, the local districts or initiatives of other partner agencies. To add Events or Announcements to the calendar, you may contact one of the agency contributors listed below.

- **OCFS/Connections:** Donna Cramer
- **OTDA:** Dawn Abbey, Joe Kasson, Amy Kircher and Will Zwink
- **DOH OMM/eMedNY:** Cindy Krueger-Farley
- **OFT:** Deb Olds

The success of the Events Calendar is dependent on content being up-to-date and accurate, and we ask that you help us by making sure that Statewide conferences and systems-related training events are listed appropriately. For ease of use, you can check the calendar regularly for event information, or before planning any project activities. The calendar can be accessed through the following URL: <http://tdashare1.otda.state.ny.net/sites/iaiec/Lists/Announcements/AllItems.aspx> or, for OCFS staff, via the OCFS intranet site. Check out the events!

A Note about the Build 18.9 Forums...

Just to update you, Build 18.9 forums were held in the NYC, Yonkers, Buffalo, Syracuse and Albany regions this past week. The forums present Build functionality in an interactive environment that allows participants to see the new functionality and to ask questions. If you would like more information about the Forums please contact your CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation Field staff representative.

Guest/ Application Verification Testing...

Various types of testing to examine application functionality are completed prior to a Build being released. One of the areas of testing is Guest/ Application Verification Testing. It is undertaken to assist the implementation support team in understanding issues that will face users with the new build; to assist users with validation of business processes impacted by Build 18.9 and to preview the draft job aids.

The Guest/Application Verification test will be conducted November 20, 21, 27, 28, 29 and December 1, 2006 in Albany.

Be Our Guest...

CONNECTIONS users are invited to come to the lab at 40 N. Pearl for Build 18.9 Guest Testing. Guest testers will receive a packet of test scripts that focus on the new functionality as well as enhancements to the system. Guest Testers are also welcome to go off script to simulate their own scenarios. Space in the lab is very limited, so if you are interested in guest testing please

contact your Regional Office Implementation Support Staff by October 27, 2006.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Model Notification Letters...

The Office of Children and Family Services is one of three state agencies (with the [Department of Education](#) and the [Department of Health](#)) charged with specific obligations to New York's Native American population. The general responsibilities for Native American Services are found in Section 39, "Indian Affairs," of the Social Services Law. The statute, enacted in 1924, conferred upon the New York State Department of Social Welfare (later named the New York State Department of Social Services) the bulk of the state's responsibilities with regard to Native Americans. Implementation of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 expanded the agency's consulting and training role with respect to the delivery of services to Native American children. Native American Services came under OCFS when it was formed in January 1998, by melding programs and services administered by the New York State Division for Youth with the family and children's programs formerly administered by the Department of Social Services. OCFS' Native American Services (formerly known as the Bureau of Indian Affairs) responds to the needs of Indian Nations and their members both on reservations and in the state's other communities. In keeping with the task of this legislation, specific directives in relation to notification must be made when a child is removed from a home. As such, and for ease of use for local districts, we have posted a link to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Notification letters on the CONNECTIONS intranet site. The path to the notification letters is: CONNECTIONS intranet site (<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>) > CONNECTIONS Home > News and Announcements under the postings for October 13, 2006.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

The following documents were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- User Resource Document: Where to Find Key Forms and Distribution Lists
- the link to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Notification Letters

Weekly System Maintenance...

CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

- ***Friday, 10/20/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 10/25/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday 10/27/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM