

~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
January 26th ~ February 2, 2007



A Letter Regarding Build 18.9 Functionality...
Dated January 17, 2007...

For your reference, a letter was recently forwarded, via email, to local district Commissioners as well as voluntary agency Executive Directors, that provided direction regarding the use of Build 18.9 functionality. The letter also includes details about the training plan that will compliment the Build's implementation. Please note that attached to the letter was a training needs document that we asked each local district to complete and return to their CONNECTIONS Regional Office Implementation representative. The information in the training needs document is necessary to plan the frequency and location of Build training. For your convenience a copy of the letter and the attachment is posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet website home page at <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>.

“NEW” Training Courses for Build 18.9...

A complete listing of *new* training courses that will highlight the functionality that will be implemented in Build 18.9 will be in STARS by early next week. We will also have a description of the new training posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website on the Training page.

Thank You for Your Response to Our Request to... “Be Our Guest”...

In the past few Weekly's we invited you to “Be Our Guest” and participate in the Guest Testing of the new functionality that will be introduced in Build 18.9. We now have a complete list of “Guest Testers” and are looking forward to both meeting and working with you! If you are one of the guest testers, we wanted to let you know that we will be sending you information about the specifics of the testing very soon.

The Business Process Redesign Manual...

Just a note, that the Business Process Redesign Manual is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet site. This manual is intended to be used in supporting the change in business processes associated with Build 18.9. Please contact your

CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation representative if you require support, they will assist you in using the manual and can demonstrate the new functionality using the Build 18.9 prototype!

Further Info About CCRS & CONNECTIONS ~ A Crossing Point...

Please note that this enhancement is scheduled to be available to users on Monday, February 5th

In an effort to provide relief to users who are currently entering duplicative information into both CCRS as well as the CONNECTIONS application, we have developed a “crossing point” that will eliminate the need for duplicative entry. Districts will **no** longer enter Assessment and Service Plans directly into CCRS as data will be fed from CONNECTIONS. Most CCRS edits will be suspended for plans, and the system of record for the CID and Assessment and Service Plans will be CONNECTIONS. It should be noted that the goal is to replace the CCRS Assessment and Service Plan function, not keep it in sync. Please note that you must continue to register the case in CCRS, as CCRS remains the system of record for placement/movement, legal and adoption activities and CONNECTIONS becomes the system of record for Service Plans.

For You to Consider

- The Adoption Management system currently gets data from CCRS for any child who has a PPG of Adoption
- Other systems fed by CCRS are NOT impacted; all existing feeds from CCRS will continue
- CCRS produces a report for users (District/Agency Caseload Report) with Assessment and Service Plan data, among other things

Potential Issues You May Encounter

- The Caseload report may sort differently depending on the CONNECTIONS Agency/Unit/Worker code for the Case Planner
- The “cross-over record” may error out of CCRS if the Agency code in the Case Planner’s CONNECTIONS Agency/Unit/Worker code is not recognized by CCRS
- If the initial FASP is approved, and the CCRS case has not been opened (and is not opened within 5 days of the approval) the information will not cross over to the CCRS system

Edit Rules for Agency/Unit/Worker Codes

A CCRS ID (in CONNECTIONS Staff Detail) for a Case Planner with these configurations will result in: (___ represents a blank)

- ___/___/___: the Agency Code for the Case Planner is updated in CCRS
- ___/001/001: the Agency Code for the Case Planner is updated in CCRS
- X01/001/001: the record will “error out” and nothing will be updated in CCRS (the agency code is invalid)

- A01/001/001 (Alpha O instead of Numeric Zero – 0): The record will “error out” and nothing will be updated in CCRS (the agency code is invalid)
- A01/_01/01_: the Agency Code for the Case Planner is updated in CCRS (there is a blank at the end of the worker code)
- A01/_01/_01: the A/U/W code is acceptable and will go to CCRS (there is a blank in the unit code and a blank in the first character of the worker code)
- A01/001/001: the A/U/W code is acceptable and will go to CCRS

It should be noted, however, that users will still see the message that informs them to update CCRS upon modification or ending of a Program Choice or PPG, as this message will not be suppressed at this time; however, the deletion of this message from user view will be a technical fix that has been included in Build 18.9. For further information regarding the CCRS and CONNECTIONS cross-over please refer to the two previous Weekly's.

NYS OFT HSEN nyseWebstar...or...How Do I Get My Mail Through My Internet Address As A Custom Recipient? and Other Informational Tid Bits...

For your convenience we have now placed a link to the nyseWebstar Manual on the CONNECTIONS intranet site. The manual details information about how to reset your password, make your internet address your prime mailing address (Custom Recipient ~ page 39 of the manual), create a distribution list and much, much more.

NYS OFT HSEN nyseWebstar URL Is Moving...

nyseWebstar is moving to a new URL beginning Friday morning, January 26, 2007. The **new** URL is: <https://Webstar.ofst.state.nyenet>. All favorites, shortcut links or links on other web pages that point to the old Webstar URL of <https://Webstar1.ofst.state.nyenet> should be updated to the new Webstar URL prior to Friday, January 26, 2007.

A Note About Internet Explorer 7.0...

A communication was forwarded to local district and voluntary agency LAN Administrators, Implementation, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Resource Users, Directors of Services and various other user groups on Wednesday, January 24th, on behalf of the Office for Technology, to inform you of problems that have been discovered when HSEN browser applications are run on equipment housing the newly released Microsoft Internet Explorer version 7.0.

Microsoft recently released Internet Explorer version 7.0 as an upgrade to its current Internet Explorer software. OFT asks that you refrain from upgrading local equipment, or purchasing local equipment with Internet Explorer version 7.0 if that equipment will access State HSEN browser applications. They caution that **no state equipment should be upgraded by agency LAN**

Administrators. OFT is currently analyzing this issue and further information will be forthcoming as they proceed toward a resolution.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- Cognos 8 Migration Frequently Asked Questions document
- the report on Portable Technology
- a DRAFT version of the Health Services Job Aid
- a link to the nyseWebstar Manual

Training Database System Maintenance...

CONNECTIONS Training Database Application Downtime...

In order to provide necessary Build 18.9 updates to the CONNECTIONS training database, the training application will be unavailable from Wednesday, February 28th at 4:30PM through the weekend. The training database will be available for training on Monday, March 5th.

Weekly System Maintenance...

CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

- ***Friday, 1/26/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 1/31/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday 2/2/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM