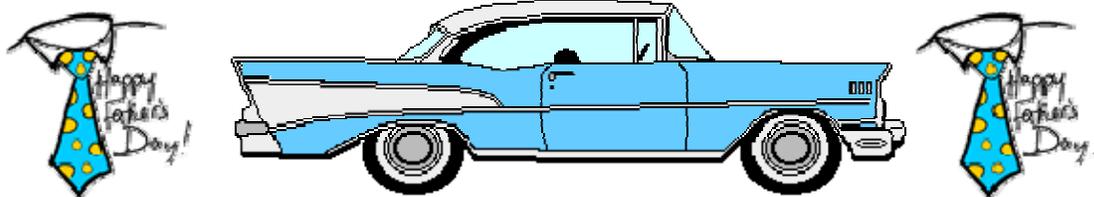


~ **The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY** ~

June 15 - 22, 2007



Changes to the New York State Case Management Model in CONNECTIONS...

On Thursday, June 7th, a letter signed by Larry Brown, Executive Deputy Commissioner, was forwarded to local district Commissioner's and agency Executive Director's advising them of forthcoming changes to the NYS Case Management Model in CONNECTIONS that will occur in September, 2007. The new functionality will support the ability for voluntary authorized foster care agency and contract preventive (VA/Prev) staff, with an appropriately assigned role in a case, to have full access to the comprehensive family case record in CONNECTIONS as originally designed. For your reference, a copy of the letter has been posted to both the Home and Implementation pages of the CONNECTIONS intranet website. The path to the letter is: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/> > Implementation > Build Information.

Just In Case You Were Looking...

for the Permanency Hearing Report Tip Sheet on the website, we are updating it to include the most recent information about the report and will be posting the revised version soon. But, in case you need info on the Permanency Hearing Report right now, you can look to the CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9 Job Aid - Permanency Hearing Report that is posted to the web on the Step-by-Step/Job Aids/Tips page!

A NEW GIS (General Information System) Message...

Eligibility Determination Requirement Changes re: Foster Care and Preventive

*****Please note that the information below is applicable to local districts only.***

A new GIS message (07-#004 – dated June 12, 2007) was communicated to Accounting Staff, Casework Supervisors, and Caseworkers about *Eligibility Determination Requirement Changes re: Foster Care and Preventive*.

The purpose of the communication is to provide information on changes to the funding eligibility determination requirements. These changes are intended to simplify the process.

- 1) Children in foster care must always have eligibility determinations

performed for Title IV-E and TANF-EAF. **The Title XX below 200% of Poverty eligibility determination is no longer to be performed for children in foster care.**

2) For in-home preventive services cases, a TANF-EAF eligibility determination is no longer required. Districts should continue to perform a Title XX Below 200% of Poverty determination for all in-home preventive services cases. The Title XX Below 200% of Poverty determination may be used for determining eligibility for TANF Direct 200% of Poverty services as well.

3) If any child in an in-home preventive services case is participating in the free or reduced price school lunch program, districts may consider the family to have met the financial eligibility requirements for Title XX below 200% of Poverty and TANF Direct 200% of Poverty services. Districts must verify participation in the school lunch program by obtaining appropriate documentation or an attestation from the parents or school district.

Please note that the Eligibility Manual for Child Welfare Programs will be updated to address these changes.

In addition, this communication serves as a reminder about claiming for preventive services, as follows: **Districts have the option to use a portion of their FFFS funds to support preventive services and to claim those services either as Child Welfare TANF-EAF and/or TANF Direct 200% of Poverty services (for further information, please see: 05 OTDA ADM 11 & 06 OTDA ADM 08).**

If districts still want to use the TANF-EAF claiming category, a TANF-EAF determination must be made for these cases. However, any district that currently uses the TANF-EAF claiming category must amend its FFFS plan in order to use the TANF Direct 200% of Poverty category to avoid having to make TANF-EAF eligibility determinations for preventive services.

If you have any questions about the content of this communication, please contact Dennis Lassi, from the Bureau of Financial Administration, at (518) 474-0131.

Training Database Refresh...

Just a quick note to let you know that, the training database will be refreshed on Monday, July 2nd and Tuesday, July 3rd. As a result of the refresh, the training database will not be available during this time.

An Update on the Citrix Server 4.0 Upgrade and the Status of Pilot Testing...

As some of you may remember, (those of you who have good long term memory, that is) we had reported on this initiative in the March CONNECTIONS Weekly

and, in keeping with the commitment of testing the technology prior to implementation, we are currently conducting pilot testing of the upgrade in local districts across the state. The local districts that have generously volunteered to be involved in the pilot are: Albany County; currently testing, Broome County; testing the week of June 4th, Saratoga and Warren Counties; testing the week of June 11th, the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register (State Central Register (SCR)) testing the week of June 18th. The statewide roll-out will begin on Monday, June 25th spanning a three-week period; completing the end of the week of July 9th.

Why are we doing this? Just as a refresher, the recommendation for this upgrade to the Citrix environment came from the CONNECTIONS Program Improvement Plan (CPIP) initiative. Our efforts, in collaboration with the Office for Technology (OFT) as well as Citrix Consulting Services began in November of 2006. The first “leg” of this journey began with the Citrix PN Agent Client upgrade to Version 9.23. The availability of this new Client, when coupled with the new version of Citrix, allows the user to take advantage of some new printing and session reliability features that are not available with the older versions of the Client and Citrix. (A plug here (if you have not done so already during the first leg of the journey): this is why it is important to update your version of the PN Agent at this time. Instructions for doing so are posted to the CONNECTIONS website on the System/Network page.)

We want to take a moment to advise you of *one* change that users will see upon implementation of the Citrix 4.0 Upgrade. Currently, when users log into Citrix and choose the ‘version’ of the application that they wish to view, they have two (2) choices (versions) – they can choose from either “CONNECTIONS Desktop 95%” or “CONNECTIONS Desktop Full Screen”. The only change that users will see when the Citrix 4.0 upgrade is implemented is that the “CONNECTIONS Desktop Full Screen” version will no longer be available as a choice. We are reducing the number of published applications from two down to one, and the default setting of that published application will be 95%. *However*, the user will have the option to modify the display screen size to Full Screen if they prefer this viewing version. In order to do this users will have to make a *one-time* PN Agent client configuration change, *prior* to logging into their CONNECTIONS Citrix session. We have posted a document to the website, on the System/Network page, that details instructions on how to perform this task. The instructions will also be sent to local district and voluntary agency LAN Administrators, Staff Development Coordinators, CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators and Resource Users next week. If you have any questions related to this upgrade we ask that you contact either your agency LAN Administrator or CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinator first, if these individuals are not available then we ask that you contact your CONNECTIONS Regional Office Implementation representative.

What Do I Do If I Receive SPAM???

In our on-going effort to keep our environment free of any “invaders” that pose a heightened security risk, not only to each individual, but to all of us who share the same system, we ask that if you get *any* SPAM, or *any* e-mail that is not appropriate, you forward the mail to the *SPAMHELP* mailbox. All you have to do is click on the un-opened copy of the SPAM email and copy it, then paste it, into a new e-mail document that you forward it to the address: SPAMHELP. You will then receive an automatic e-mail notifying you that they have received your e-mail and they will take it from there!

The IP Address of the New York State Office of the CIO Website Is Changing Effective June 20, 2007...

*****Please note that this notification is specific to local district LAN Administrators.***

Please note that on Wednesday, June 20th, the New York State Office of the CIO Website: <http://www.cio.state.ny.us> will be moved to a new IP address. This Web site will still be accessed through your Internet connection. In order to enable local district employees access to the new address, local district LAN Administrators should replace static DNS entries on the county network for this website with the new address.

Please note that the new IP address is contained in a separate communication that was forwarded to local district LAN Administrators on Friday, June 8th.

If you have any questions related to this communication please contact your OFT Customer Relations Manager at 1-866-789-4OFT (4638).

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

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

- Letter identifying changes to the New York State Case Management Model in CONNECTIONS
- The CONNECTIONS Weekly

Weekly System Maintenance... CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

- ***Wednesday, 6/20/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday, 6/22/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 6/27/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM