~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
June 22 - 29, 2007

The Citrix Presentation Server 4.0 Upgrade and Regional Schedule…

As you are aware, we have reported on this initiative in the past few CONNECTIONS Weekly's, as well as when the "first leg" of the implementation began with the *Citrix PN Agent Client Upgrade*, in March 2007. We have completed testing the *Citrix Presentation Server 4.o Upgrade* in local districts across the state and are now preparing for the statewide roll-out to begin on Monday, June 25th. This next phase of the upgrade will span 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 in March, with the *Citrix PN Agent Client Upgrade to Version 9.237*. The availability of this new Client, when coupled with the new version of Citrix, which will be rolled-out regionally beginning June 25th, allows the user to take advantage of some new printing and session reliability features that are not available with the older versions of the Citrix PN Agent and Citrix servers.

** Just a reminder, that if you have not already upgraded the Citrix PN Agent Client to Version 9.237, we recommend that you do so prior to June 25th. The instructions describing how to upgrade the Citrix PN Agent Client are posted to the CONNECTIONS website on the System/Network page, under the heading Citrix Information.

What will users see with the Citrix Server 4.0 Upgrade?

We want to take a moment to advise you of *one* change that users will see upon implementation of the Citrix Presentation Server 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 Server 4.0 Upgrade is implemented is that the "CONNECTIONS Desktop Full Screen" and "CONNECTIONS Desktop 95%" choices will no longer be available. These

choices will be *replaced* by one icon labeled: "CONNECTIONS Desktop", that users should click on to access the CONNECTIONS application. 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 modify the display screen size to full screen, 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 (Selecting Screen Size in Citrix 4.0) to the website, on the System/Network page, under the heading Citrix Information, that details instructions on how to perform this task. The instructions have also been sent to local district and voluntary agency LAN Administrators, CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators and Resource Users.

The Regional Schedule

As we upgrade from Citrix MetaFrame XP to Citrix Presentation Server 4.0, we will be migrating users to the new platform by region. The following is a listing of the schedule. The dates listed are the dates when users will begin using the new platform.

- **Regions III and IV** – Monday, June 25th
- **Regions I and II** – Wednesday, June 27th
- **NYS State Central Register (SCR)** – Wednesday, June 27th
- **Region V** – Thursday, July 5th
- **Region VI** (particular sites in the Bronx and Brooklyn) – Monday, July 9th
- **Remainder of Region VI** – Thursday, July 12th

Questions?

If you have any questions related to this upgrade we ask that you contact either your district or agency LAN Administrator or, your district or agency Implementation Coordinator first, if these individuals are not available then we ask that you contact the NYS OFT Enterprise Helpdesk at 1.800.697.1323.

GIS (General Information System) Messages…

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

For your reference, GIS messages are available in the Public Folders:
*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/ GIS (system change notices)*

APP-REG, CONNECTIONS and 100+ Matches

A new GIS message (07-#005 – dated June 20, 2007) was communicated to Caseworker Supervisors, Caseworkers, Data Entry Operators and MILs, about *APP-REG, CONNECTIONS and 100+ Matches.*

With implementation of CONNECTIONS Build 18, the ability to create a WMS application for Child Welfare Services directly in WMS was disabled. Application Registration is conducted in CONNECTIONS via the CONNECTIONS/WMS interface. As a result, users are no longer able to enter a known CIN directly into the WMS application. This has created an issue, particularly with individuals with common names, where known CINs do not appear on the WMS clearance report because there are over 100 possible matches.

OCFS has developed a "work around" to address this issue. The workaround was described in a recent *CONNECTIONS Weekly*. If the known CIN for an individual does not appear on the WMS clearance report because there are over 100 possible matches, we ask that you contact Tina McCarthy at 1-518-402-3068 or, e-mail Tina.McCarthy@ocfs.state.ny.us for assistance.

NYC/District 66 ONLY: 8P Authorization Dates

A GIS message (07-#006 – dated June 22, 2007) was communicated to Case Work Supervisors, Caseworkers, Data Entry Operators, MILs about *8P Authorization Dates.*

GIS – 05 #014, issued 12/30/05, described the availability of Purchase of Service (POS) code (**8P**) for use in authorizing room and board payments for PINS Remands (**NYC/District 66 only**).

Note: 8P POS is authorized in conjunction with DIR 25/Preventive Mandated. Details regarding 8P edits are contained in GIS – 05 #014.

This is to advise that the following edit change regarding POS 8P will go into effect as of 6/25/07:

- 8P POS authorization period cannot overlap 61 or 62 authorization period, regardless of the respective Provider/VIDs used.
  - **NEW** error message: ***834*** - "8P AUTHORIZATION PERIOD CAN NOT OVERLAP 61 OR 62 AUTHORIZATION PERIOD."

For systems issues/questions regarding WMS, please contact OCFS-IT-Customer Support at 1-800-342-3727.

BICS questions should be addressed to Maureen Godwin or Nancy Pare.

Eligibility Determination Requirement Changes re: Foster Care and Preventive

A 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.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet…

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

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly

Weekly System Maintenance…

CONNECTIONS Application Downtime…

- ***Wednesday, 6/27/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday, 6/29/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 7/4/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM