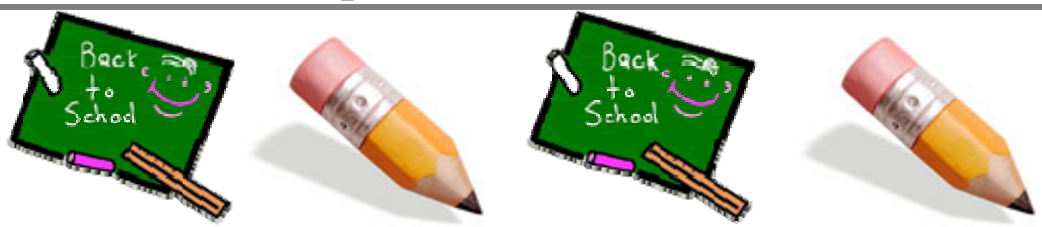
~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
September 7 - 14, 2007



Access to CPS Investigation Stages by Voluntary/Contract Agencies Teleconference…

Teleconference Date: September 12, 2007; 9:30 – 11:30AM

Provided by: NYS OCFS Bureau of Training & SUNY Training Strategies Group

Target Population:
Local DSS offices, Voluntary Agencies, and Contract Preventive and Protective Supervisory and Casework staff

Description of the Teleconference:
The OCFS is presenting a teleconference for Local Department of Social Services (LDSS), Voluntary Authorized Foster Care Agency and Contract Preventive Agency (Agency) supervisory and casework staff on the new functionality in CONNECTIONS that will support the ability for agency staff to access Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigation Stage information. The teleconference will include: a presentation by OCFS Legal and Policy staff on the history and statutory authority to access information in CPS cases, confidentiality standards, appropriate case recording, roles and responsibilities of both LDSS and Agency staff during the investigation process, and benefits of sharing CPS information; a walkthrough by CONNECTIONS staff on how to navigate to, and access, CPS Investigation stages via Implied Role; and a panel discussion that will include LDSS, ACS and Voluntary Agency staff. Topics will include current practices on sharing information; maintaining the integrity of the investigation process; maintaining the therapeutic relationship with the client and the service provider; expectations; and training/orientation needs. For your reference, the training announcement is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Home page.

A Bit of Post-Build 18.9.1 Info…

In our on-going effort to communicate issues as they are discovered, we recently forwarded two communications to district and agency Directors of Service, Implementation, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Resource Users as well as other key agency personnel. The first communication was the Build 18.9.1 Implementation Issues document; this was sent on Tuesday, September 4th and

the second was a CONNECTIONS Alert, sent on Wednesday, September 5th. Both of these documents include descriptions of implementation impacts that were recently revealed. For your convenience, both of these documents are posted to the CONNECTIONS Intranet on the Home page.

A Note About the Training Database…

The training database will be unavailable on Monday, October 1st as well as Thursday and Friday, October 4th and 5th.

Info from the OCFS Data Warehouse…

Announcing the Opening of the NEW Cognos 8 Environment…

The OCFS Data Warehouse Team is pleased to announce the opening of the new Cognos 8 environment! Cognos 8 combines reports and data from PowerPlay/Impromptu and ReportNet in one location. If you are already a Data Warehouse users, you can access Cognos 8 using the following URLs:

- *OCFS staff, Local Districts, and NIS agencies:*
  http://cognos.dfa.state.nyenet/cognos8 or,
  http://10.64.152.9/cognos8

- *SSL VPN agencies:*
  https://rc1.oft.state.ny.us/ocfs

Here is a list of resources to assist you with Cognos 8:

- Quick Reference Guide – Make sure to read the section on "Adding the OCFS Data Warehouse Tab." For your convenience the Guide is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website on the OCFS Data Warehouse page.
- Predefined Report List – Shows which predefined reports are currently available and which are still in development. This document will continue to be updated in the User Tools folder of the OCFS Data Warehouse tab in Cognos 8. For your convenience the Guide is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website on the OCFS Data Warehouse page.
- Basic Training for Cognos 8 (Coming soon) – An interactive online simulation of the Cognos 8 environment will be available shortly.

The PowerPlay/Impromptu and ReportNet environments will continue to be available as users transition to Cognos 8. In addition, documentation is being developed to assist those who need help rebuilding their saved reports in Cognos 8. If you have any questions you can contact the Data Warehouse team at: data.warehouse@ocfs.state.ny.us.

Selecting a Default Printer…

Printing in CONNECTIONS…

Last week we forwarded instructions on how to select a default printer in order to be able to print in CONNECTIONS. Please note that if you do not have a default printer selected, you will be unable to print in your Citrix Session; thus, unable to

print in CONNECTIONS. The instructions will also be posted to the CONNECTIONS website on the System/Network page.

CONNECTIONS Tip…

Where can I find the CONNECTIONS Job Aids?

Click on the URL for the CONNECTIONS intranet: http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/, then click on the Step-by-Step/Job Aids/Tips button in the box on the left hand side of the Home page - this brings you to the page that has the Step-by Steps on it. They are grouped by target audience and labeled by title.

A Note About the DAP…

Just a note that the DAP (District Agency Profile) was not available, due to maintenance, for a few hours late Wednesday (September 5th) evening (5:00PM) through 10:00AM Thursday morning. We just ask that if you made any changes to the DAP info for your agency during that timeframe, you double check to make certain that the changes have registered.

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, 9/12/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday, 9/14/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 9/19/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:oo AM