

~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
September 28 – October 5, 2007



Build 18.9.3...

As you are aware, Build 18.9.3 is scheduled to be deployed the evening of September 28th, from 6:00 PM – midnight. Please note that the CONNECTIONS application will be unavailable for this six hour window while the Build is being deployed. The Build content will be described in a Build Highlights/Build Release Notes document that will be communicated this week. For further information on the content of the Build please refer to the teleconference materials that were distributed to conference participants on Tuesday, September 11th.

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.

TrainingSpace Distance Learning Announcement...

**Access to CPS Investigation Stages by Voluntary/Contract Agencies
September 12th Teleconference...**

Provided by the SUNY Distance Learning Project this TrainingSpace Course is a recording of a teleconference previously broadcast on 9/12/07.

The Office of Children and Family Services presented 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 included:

- a presentation by OCFS Legal and Policy staff on the history, statutory authority to access of 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 included LDSS, ACS and Voluntary Agency staff.

Topics included 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.

Pre-registration is required. The training schedule for this course is posted in the Statewide Training Automated Registration System (STARS). The Internet address for the STARS website is: <http://stars.bsc-cdhs.org>.

Contact your local district or agency staff development coordinator for registration.

****Please Note:** Instructions for accessing TrainingSpace will be forwarded to Staff Development Coordinators and LAN Administrators at a later date.

Update: Foster Care Case Recording Training...

This full-day, instructor-led training is intended for new foster care caseworkers and focuses on case recording requirements in CONNECTIONS for Foster Care workers. Training covers the components in CONNECTIONS that are specifically required for Foster Care workers and includes discussion on programmatic and policy aspects of Foster Care Issues in the Family Assessment and Service Plan, Health Services, Education and Permanency Hearing Reports. Discussion is accompanied by hands-on demonstrations and practice exercises using CONNECTIONS.

This course is intended for new foster care caseworkers. Prior to attending this course, it is highly recommended that all participants attend either the *CONNECTIONS Case Management for Child Welfare Workers Training*, or *CORE*. If you have previously completed Build 18.9 training, you do not have to attend this training.

The training schedule for this course is posted in the Statewide Training Automated Registration System (STARS). The Internet address for the STARS website is: <http://stars.bsc-cdhs.org>. Pre-registration for all courses is required.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

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

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- The Build 18.9.3 Highlights/Release Notes document

Weekly System Maintenance...

CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

*****Please Note the additional downtime for deployment of Build 18.9.3 from 6:00 PM – Midnight.***

- *****Friday 9/28/07*** from 6:00 PM – Midnight
- ***Wednesday, 10/3/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday, 10/5/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM