

~ *The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY* ~
October 5 - 12, 2007



"In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue."



A Successful Implementation of Build 18.9.3...

Build 18.9.3 was successfully deployed the evening of September 28th. For your reference, the Build content is described in a Build Highlights/Build Release Notes document that is available on the CONNECTIONS intranet site. In addition, 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.

OCFS Data Warehouse News You Can Use About the NEW Cognos 8 Environment...

The new Cognos 8 environment is now open to all OCFS Data Warehouse users! Cognos 8 is the new OCFS Data Warehouse environment that brings reports and data from the Cognos PowerPlay/Impromptu and Cognos ReportNet environment into one location. The end result is one point of access for all your Data Warehouse needs.

If you have access to PowerPlay/Impromptu and/or ReportNet – you are already set-up for Cognos 8. For information on accessing Cognos 8 and setting-up the OCFS Data Warehouse tab, view the “Quick Reference Guide” for Cognos 8 on the Data Warehouse page of the CONNECTIONS Intranet site:
<http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/datawarehouse/dwaccess.asp>.

***Update: TrainingSpace Distance Learning Course ...
TrainingSpace Course: 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 titled, Access to CPS Investigation Stages by Voluntary/Contract Agencies, that was previously broadcast on 9/12/07.

Description of the Teleconference:

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 the 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.

It should be noted that pre-registration is required to take this course. 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>. We ask that you contact your local district or agency Staff Development Coordinator in order to register for this course.

About TrainingSpace

TrainingSpace is an online resource used by OCFS to provide local district, voluntary agency and state staff with access to online training materials and resources. TrainingSpace is available to all staff at their workstations at: www.trainingspace.org. To obtain access, staff need to have their Staff Development Coordinator or Training Coordinator register them in STARS for the particular course/materials in which they are interested. Once registered, this material will be available under the "My TrainingSpace" portion of the website. Users will be prompted for their network ID and LDAP password.

For additional information on the functioning and the administrative aspects of TrainingSpace please contact:

Dan Feinberg
518-956-7840 FAX: 518-956-7808

FOR TRAINING INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rebecca Stanley
Professional Development Program
Rockefeller College/University at Albany

*****Please Note:*** For those individuals that have not used this tool before, 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>. Please note that pre-registration for all courses is required.

A Clarification About Security...

A Note About Agency Access - With reference to SIR #6048

Prior to the implementation of Build 18.9.3, whenever any of the 7 Agency Access security options was 'Maintain', navigating to the case using Toolbar --> Case Search path did NOT enable the Events pushbutton in the Case Summary window after selecting a stage. However, the Events pushbutton in the Case List window was enabled. The Stage Events pushbutton should be consistent with the Case Events pushbutton.

After the implementation of the Build, the Events pushbutton within the Case Summary window is now enabled whenever the Events pushbutton in the Case List is enabled.

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...

- ***Friday 10/5/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 10/10/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday, 10/12/07*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM