



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of January 2 - 9, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

CONNECTIONS Intranet site: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers

- **UPDATED** - *Q4-08 Improvement Plan ...pg. 1...more*
- *OCFS Data Warehouse News and Notes ...pg. 2...more*

General "Info to Know"

- **NEW** *Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet ... pg. 3...more*
- *Weekly System Maintenance ... pg. 3...more*

"Info to Know" for Caseworker



UPDATED - Q4-08 Improvement Plan Scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2009

UPDATED - CONNECTIONS Application Downtime

On the weekend of January 23, 2009, OCFS will implement the Q4-08 Quarterly Improvement Plan. The specific schedule of application downtime will be communicated soon.

Q4-08 Improvement Plan

Q4-08 will include important enhancements to the CONNECTIONS application that support programmatic changes, some ease of use enhancements, and several system improvements. The major ease of use enhancements included in Q4-08 are recommendations from the Child Welfare System Transformation Business Team. The enhancements come from collaboration between OCFS, local district and voluntary

agency casework and supervisory staff. Here is a list of the enhancement areas: Family Services Stage, Approvals, Permanency Hearing Report (PHR), Progress Notes, Investigation Stage, Foster and Adoptive Home Development (FAD), as well as System Messaging.

[UPDATED](#) - Q4-08 Highlights Document

Please note that this piece has been updated since the edition last week.

The *Q4-08 Highlights* document presents a high-level overview of programmatic and application modifications and enhancements. It is one in a series of tools that define and describe in detail the system changes and enhancements that will be included in this Quarterly Improvement Plan. The *Q4-08 Highlights* were sent to local district and voluntary agency CONNECTIONS Implementation, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Directors of Service, Resource Users and other key personnel. The Highlights document is also posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website and can be accessed via the following link:
http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q4_08_Highlights_1.pdf

Additional Q4-08 Tools

Other Q4-08 tools will be developed to aid in the implementation of these system improvements. These tools are listed below.

- Q4-08 Release Notes
- An update to On-line HELP
- An Impact Analysis document
- A Job Aid



OCFS Data Warehouse News and Notes

The December 2008 edition of the *OCFS Data Warehouse News and Notes* is now available and posted to the OCFS Data Warehouse page of the CONNECTIONS intranet!

This edition of the *News and Notes* presents articles on recent report enhancements, the status of the Cognos 8 migration, resource links, info about banner alerts, tips for troubleshooting and much, much more...check out the latest edition!

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Data%20Warehouse%20Newsletter%20-%20Dec%202008.pdf>

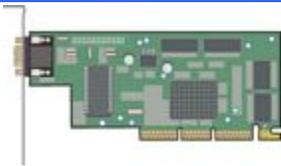
General "Info to Know"



NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

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

- **...CONNECTIONS NEWS...**
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>
- **OCFS Data Warehouse News and Notes**
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Data%20Warehouse%20Newsletter%20-%20Dec%202008.pdf>
- **Q4-08 Highlights document**
http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q4_08_Highlights_1.pdf



Weekly System Maintenance

Due to regularly scheduled system maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will not be available on...

- **Wednesday, 1/7/09** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 1/9/09** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services
Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner