

THE CONNECTIONS WEEKLY

January 11 - 18, 2008



Planned Upgrade of the IDS Search Software...

The planned upgrade of the IDS Search software is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 18, 2008 from 6:00pm through 2:00AM Saturday, January 19, 2008.

The IDS search software is being upgraded to a higher version. IDS Search software supports Person Search, Resource search and FAD Home search in the CONNECTIONS application. There are no user impacts expected to result from the implementation of this upgrade. Please note that the CONNECTIONS application will be unavailable during this timeframe.

DRAFT Administrative Directive...

Changes associated with CONNECTIONS Build 18.9: (Health, Education and Permanency Hearing Report Modules)

We are pleased to announce that the DRAFT ADM Changes associated with CONNECTIONS Build 18.9: (Health, Education and Permanency Hearing Report Modules) has been sent to both districts and voluntary foster care agencies for review and comment. Comments are due back to OCFS (Michelle Rafael) by January 16, 2008. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this endeavor.

OFT Customer Relations Memos...

07-CNS-08 NOTIFICATION: NYENET DNS FINAL STEP

On December 7, 2007 CIO/OFT retired the Statewide DNS servers configured with the names and IP addresses listed below.

Retired: NS6 - 10.48.0.6
NS7 - 10.48.0.157 and 10.48.0.158

Notification was given (OFT Bulletin 07-CNS-08) and migration steps were taken to ensure that all NYeNet participants of the Statewide DNS use the new DNS IP addresses.

New: 10.53.35.190
10.53.35.222

This Notification is being distributed to inform customers of the final step in the migration process, which requires customers to remove the retired DNS addresses from their DNS configuration as outlined in the Customer Action portion of this Notification.

08-ISO-01: BULLETIN BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION

The Office for Technology (CIO/OFT) does not accept biometrics for use as a dual authentication solution where strong authentication is required (e.g., remotely accessing restricted information). Please note that examples of biometrics include palm or fingerprint identification, retinal scan and voice recognition.

Additionally, as the Bulletin states “...biometric technologies are **not** supported on the Human Services Enterprise Network (HSEN) and biometric devices should not be used to circumvent established authentication methods for State operated equipment”.

Please read the CIO/OFT Customer Bulletin for more information and inform users as needed.

For full text of the above reference Memos, see the OFT Customer Relations Bulletins posted on the CONNECTIONS website on the Systems/Network page.

[The Bridges to Health Home and Community Based Waiver Program...](#)

[Governor Eliot Spitzer and the Office of Children and Family Services \(OCFS\) Commissioner Gladys Carrión Announce Landmark Community Health Program for Children in Foster Care - Bridges to Health](#)

(Please note that this piece was included in the Weekly dated 1/4/08)

The Bridges to Health (B2H) Home and Community Based Waiver Program was implemented effective January 1, 2008 through the joint efforts of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and the NYS Department of Health, with input from the NYS Office of Mental Health and the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Bridges to Health is part of Governor Spitzer’s Children’s Agenda, aimed at improving opportunities for all of New York’s children, including those with special needs.

The B2H Waiver Program will provide expanded and enhanced services to at least 3,300 foster children with disabilities, including children in OCFS custody. The B2H Waiver Program will be phased-in over a three year period and will include the enrollment of children in New York City and the Rochester and Albany regions in the first year. The program will then expand to the Syracuse and the Lower Hudson Valley regions in the second year, and to Long Island and the Buffalo region by the third year - providing services to the entire state.

B2H consists of three Waivers; B2H Serious Emotional Disturbances (B2H SED), B2H Developmental Disabilities (B2H DD) and B2H Medically Fragile (B2H MedF), that are designed to provide community-based health care services and supports to children in foster care, and to those that have been discharged from foster care, while in one of the three B2H Waivers. The program will also serve their families, including birth parents,

foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and siblings. This program is the first of its kind in the nation.

Bridges to Health includes the following services; health care coordination; family and caregiver support; crisis management; intensive home care support; immediate crisis response services; accessibility modifications; and advocacy for the children's participation in school and other community activities. Once children are enrolled in the program, they may be eligible for services until they are 21 years old.

Information concerning a child's B2H enrollment must be entered in the Welfare Management System (WMS) to facilitate payment by Medicaid. In the coming months, functionality will be added to CONNECTIONS to allow workers to capture selected B2H information. System instructions will be made available on the OCFS CONNECTIONS intranet website at a future date. Additional B2H information is available on the OCFS website at: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/bridgestohealth.

A Bit of News from the OCFS Data Warehouse...

The Six National Indicators Report is Available for 2006...

(Please note that this piece was included in the Weekly dated 1/4/08)

The OCFS Data Warehouse Team is pleased to announce that 2006 data has been added to the CFSR PIP Six National Indicators report. As part of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process, the federal government established six data indicators for which there are national standards -- Recurrence of Maltreatment, Incidence of Abuse/Neglect in Foster Care, Length of Time to Reunification, Length of Time to Adoption, Stability of Placement, and Re-entry to Foster Care. In a continuing effort to support districts in the implementation of the State's CFSR PIP, the OCFS Data Warehouse maintains a report that replicates the six data indicators. For each indicator, data is provided on the national standard, New York's rate, and the rate for each county. Drill-through reports provide child-level data with key pieces of information to permit reviewing other dynamics of the indicator on a case-by-case basis.

Data Warehouse users can access the report through the Cognos 8 environment by following the steps below.

1. Login to **Cognos 8**.
2. Click on the **OCFS Data Warehouse** tab, if it is not already open. [If you do not see the OCFS Data Warehouse tab, use the instructions on the Quick Reference Guide at <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/dwstep.asp> to add it.]
3. Click on **CFSR Program Improvement Plan**.
4. Click on the link for **Six National Indicators** with the report icon  next to it.
5. At the report prompt, select the year **2006**.
6. Click on the **Finish** button to run the report. Please be patient; it may take a couple of minutes for the report to appear.
7. To view detailed data for an indicator, click on one of the blue hyperlinks in the report output.

For more information on the Six National Indicators, view the report write-ups at <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/dwreports.asp>.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

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

- *The CONNECTIONS Weekly for the week of January 4, 2008*
- *CIO/OFT 08-CNS-001 NYeNET DNS Final Reissued*
- *CIO/OFT 08-ISO-01 Biometric Authentication*

Weekly System Maintenance...

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

- **Wednesday, 1/16/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 1/18/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Wednesday 1/23/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Additional Downtime is scheduled for the upgrade of the IDS software...

CONNECTIONS will be unavailable from...

- **Friday, 1/18/08** from 6:00 PM thru 2:00 AM **Saturday, 1/19/08**