

THE CONNECTIONS WEEKLY

March 14 - 21, 2008



The Successful Implementation of Build 18.9.6!!!

CONNECTIONS Build 18.9.6 was successfully implemented on Friday, March 7th.

Questions About What Was in the Build...

Questions about what's in the Build? Please refer to the CONNECTIONS Build 18.9.6 Release Notes that were forwarded on Friday, February 22nd. The Build Release Notes, which are posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website on both the Home and the Implementation pages, identify the specific content of the Build. As you are aware, the focus of this Build was on most of the remaining, short term FIT recommendations, additional user requests and system support for mission critical tasks and legislation.

Please note that the following information was included in the Weekly dated March 7, 2008.

Resource Information for Build 18.9.6 - Two NEW Job Aids...

- *The CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid - Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS)*
- *The Bridges to Health System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid*

In support of the introduction of the new functionality that was implemented in Build 18.9.6, the Professional Development Program, Rockefeller College, University of Albany developed two NEW job aids - the *CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid - Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS)* and the *Bridges to Health System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid*. For your reference, these resource tools are posted to the Job Aids page of the CONNECTIONS intranet. *The CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid - Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS)* provides a detailed overview of the CONNECTIONS system changes being introduced with Build 18.9.6 and specifically information about updates to the Tracked Child Detail and Finalize Adoption windows that accommodate the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). *The Bridges to Health System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid* details the CONNECTIONS system changes being introduced with Build 18.9.6 - specifically information about Bridges to Health (B2H). The job aid contains information about accessing B2H functionality, viewing, recording and modifying B2H information and generating the B2H Waiver Services Projected Budget Report.

Also, to be released shortly, is a job aid that reviews the other enhancements that are contained in this Build. This job aid will identify the area of the application affected and describe the efficiency offered by the new functionality. We encourage you to take a look at these resources as references as you navigate through the new functionality. And...we'll keep you posted about when the third job aid will be released as well!

An Impact Analysis: Entering AFCARS Data in CONNECTIONS...

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) consists of a number of data elements that states are required to report to the federal government on a semi annual basis. With the implementation of Build 18.9.6, OCFS will be able to capture data pertaining to: conditions associated with the child's removal; foster home composition; and a child's adoption. An Impact Analysis titled ***Entering Data Required for AFCARS*** discusses what stays the same, what is new or changing and the implications/considerations of additional required documentation. The Impact Analysis also includes a mapping document of the AFCARS elements. For your reference, the impact analysis document is available on the CONNECTIONS intranet site on both the Home and Implementation page.

CONNECTIONS Build 18.9.6 / FAD...

Child Abuse and Maltreatment Information Maintained by a Child Abuse and Maltreatment Registry Administered in Other States

We are just letting you know that a communication was sent to Directors of Services and local district and voluntary agency Implementation Coordinators yesterday and the purpose of the communication was to remind you that, with the implementation of the upcoming Build - Build 18.9.6 - which will be rolled out this Friday, March 7th, the following requirements are supported in FAD: recording inquiries to child abuse and maltreatment registries outside of New York State for prospective foster or adoptive parents and other persons age 18 or over who reside in the home of the applicants, who have resided in another state within the past five years of the application for certification or approval; and recording the results of the inquiries.

OCFS promulgated regulations on this subject to comply with the federal **Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006**. Please note that the regulations took effect on October 1, 2006, and the Notice appeared in the State Register on October 18, 2006.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act requires that whenever a person applies for certification or approval as a foster or adoptive parent, or any other person over the age of 18 who resides in the home of such applicant resided in another state or states in the five years preceding the application for certification or approval, the licensing or approving agency must request child abuse and maltreatment information maintained by the child abuse and maltreatment registry administered in the previous state(s) of residence.

For your reference, here are the citations on the regulations by topic:

- ***For foster parent certification/approval:***
 - 18 NYCRR 443.2 (b) (5), (6), (7), (8), and (15)
 - 18 NYCRR 443.2 (f) (11) and (14)

- 18 NYCRR 443.2 (i)
- 18 NYCRR 443.7 (e)
- 18 NYCRR 443.10 (b) (1) and (c) (1)
- For adoptive parent approval:
 - 18 NYCRR 421.11 (g) (2)
 - 18 NYCRR 421.15 (c) (7)
 - 18 NYCRR 421.16 (p)
 - 18 NYCRR 421.19 (e) (4) (v)

The following link: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/policy-issues/State_Child_Abuse_Registries.pdf contains contact information in other states for the purpose of compliance with the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. The list was prepared by the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning at Hunter College School of Social Work. It is not complete but may be updated over time.

The attachment below is an additional list of contact information in other states. It includes all states, but was not prepared for the purposes of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act.



State hotlines.doc
(70 KB)

Please Note: Clarification was recently issued by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the definition of “state” for the purpose of conducting out-of-state state central register checks on persons required to have such checks and who have lived in a state other than New York State within the previous five years prior to application. The definition of “state” includes: the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

UPDATED Info About AFCARS and CCRS - How Do They Intersect???

AFCARS Information - Health Report: ‘Children in Care With No Clinical Diagnosis’...

Please note: *The information in the two pieces below applies to only a few individuals at the local district who perform this function. In order to access the report you need a designated password that has been assigned by OCFS.*

Please be aware that the information used to report AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) elements to the Federal government is taken from multiple systems. The original population is determined by children who have an open track in CCRS (Child Care Review Services) and a program choice of *Placement*. Children listed on the Health Report titled ‘Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis’ are from this population. If after you review this report (‘Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis’), you believe that a child is listed incorrectly, you should check the status of the child in CCRS and make certain that the child’s program choice is updated in CONNECTIONS to reflect their current situation. Program Choices are: *A (Preventive Non-mandated), B (Preventive Mandated), C (Placement) and D (Protective).*

More Info About the AFCARS Report: ‘Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis’...

For your reference, a **new** version of the AFCARS report, ‘Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis’ (dated 3/13/08), has recently been posted to the Share Drive. **Please**

note that this report can only be accessed by a few individuals at the local district who perform this function. In order to access the report you need a designated password that has been assigned by OCFS.

The new version of the report, like the last, is based upon the AFCARS population as extracted from CCRS. This time, however, we define "in care" as those children in care on the last day of the period or, whose discharge was entered anytime during the period. This will differ slightly from the last version, where we defined "in care" as those children in care on the first day of the period or, whose admission was entered anytime during the period.

Another change in this version is that we now include those children in care *less than 30 days*. We include them now because by the end of the period they will have been in care at least 30 days.

You will notice that there are a small number of children with little or no CONNECTIONS information. This happens for two reasons:

1. About 30 children in the AFCARS population as extracted from CCRS have a CIN that does not exist in CONNECTIONS.
2. A few hundred children in the AFCARS population as extracted from CCRS have a CIN in CONNECTIONS, but that child has never been tracked in a CONNECTIONS Family Services Stage.

Bridges to Health (B2H) - What Is It? Where Do I Go to Find More Info??? ***(Please note that this piece was in the Weekly dated March 7, 2008.)***

In previous Weekly's we have described the Home and Community Based Waiver program - Bridges to Health (B2H), but now we have included information about this program directly on the CONNECTIONS intranet site on the Home and Implementation pages. The following list highlights the information that you will find about B2H on the CONNECTIONS intranet site:

- WMS Medicaid Eligibility Fact Sheet
- Upstate - B2H CONNECTIONS/WMS System Instructions
- Instructions for Input of B2H Waiver in WMS Restriction/Exception Subsystem
- B2H Restriction/Exception Instructions
- Restriction/Exception Error Messages

Please note that the Downstate - B2H CONX/WMS System Instructions are forthcoming.

It should be noted that this information is also posted to the OCFS internet site: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/>. Just click on the *Bridges to Health* button on the left hand side of the page within the *Providers & Staff* box and....there is also a job aid titled: *The Bridges to Health System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid*, for your reference as well (see a description of the job aid included in this Weekly in the piece above titled: **Build 18.9.6 Info You should Know**).

"Tip O' the Week..."

Just remember that...if a child is Discharged on a Trial Discharge, that the child should remain tracked with a Program Choice of Placement until the Final Discharge.

What Do You Think That the Following Numbers Represent???

14,806 - 14,798 - 13,898 - 14,597 - 14,635 - 14,690 - 14,304 - 14,632 - 14,470 - 13,535.
Think hard...the answer is at the bottom of the Weekly. Don't peek!!!

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet..

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

- *'Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis' report description*
- *The CONNECTIONS Weekly for the week of March 7, 2008*

Weekly System Maintenance...

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

- **Friday, 3/14/08** from 4:00 AM* - 7:00 AM
Please note the additional one hour of downtime for the NYS Central Register only.
- **Wednesday, 3/19/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 3/21/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Answer: The number, in ascending order, of the individuals who have accessed the CONNECTIONS application weekly, since the first week of 2008....the numbers are rising so that means that more and more of you are working in the application successfully!