

THE CONNECTIONS WEEKLY

April 4 - 11, 2008



A CONNECTIONS ALERT About Preview...

Just as an “FYI”... a communication was sent out yesterday to local district and voluntary agency Directors of Service, Implementation Coordinators, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Resource Users and other key agency people about the need to perform maintenance within the Preview environment – please note that this will include a refresh of the database as well - and, therefore, Preview will not be available on either Friday, April 4th or, Monday April 7th. Preview will again be available beginning Tuesday, April 8th. We ask that you spread the word within your agency as well....thank you!

A CONNECTIONS ALERT About Downtime for Friday, April 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM...Related to the Investigation Conclusion Narrative...

Another “FYI”...again, yesterday, we sent out another communication to local district and voluntary agency Directors of Service, Implementation Coordinators, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Resource Users and other key agency people about issue regarding the Investigation Conclusion Narrative. The text of that communication follows:

“Since the implementation of Build 18.9.6, we have been made aware of multiple instances where the Investigation Conclusion Narrative for an open investigation cannot be edited. For the past few weeks instances of un-editable templates were fixed as they were reported to either App HELP or the OFT Enterprise Help Desk. In order to perform a data-fix to remedy the issue on a permanent basis we need access to the CONNECTIONS application, therefore, **the application will not be available on Friday, April 4th, from 6:00 through 8:00 PM.** If you need a further description of this issue, please refer to The CONNECTIONS Weekly, dated March 28, 2008.”

A CONNECTIONS Update and How It Relates to You...

Or, The Implementation of an Oracle Upgrade and What That Means...

As many of you are aware, Bill Travis (the Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Information Technology) and Sheila Poole (the Associate Commissioner of the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services (CWCS)) have been partnering in meeting with various venues across the state about the transformation of CONNECTIONS and

the direction that the project is taking in collaboration with CWCS (they presented a workshop at the 2008 Winter Session of NYPWA on this very topic!). As an aside, you can view the content of their presentation on the CONNECTIONS intranet site. It is titled as: *NYPWA/CHILD Welfare Systems Transformation Workshop Handout* and is posted to the Home page under the sub-heading of: NYPWA Winter Conference 2008 - but I have digressed...now how does this all affect you? Well, in keeping with the idea of a *transformation*, we had begun to look at the infrastructure that “supports” the CONNECTIONS application and are looking to upgrade this. As a step to this end, we are upgrading the “base” of application, and will be implementing this upgrade on Friday, May 2nd. There will be a downtime window of eighteen (18) hours - beginning Friday evening at 6:00 PM and concluding on noon on Saturday, May 3rd. We are aware that this is a lengthier downtime than you are used to, and the reason for this is so that we can build in cushion time and make sure that the application is performing properly in the upgraded environment. We will also be doing a unique collaboration with a few local districts, in that we will be asking them to “test” the application, on Saturday, after it has come back “on-line” - so to speak, to make certain that all is well. We see this as a great opportunity to partner with all of you who use the application daily! Please be assured that before we implement this upgrade we will have “tested” it in various environments here at OCFS first - the local districts are just adding to a “real time” test. There will be more to come about the ‘Transformation’ and what it means to you in your daily work environments, so stay tuned!

Training News...

Three New CBT's Are Available...

Three, count ‘em, three!!!! NEW CBT’s are available. They are on the following topics:

- Updated Health
- Data Maintenance
- FASP

We are currently working on the distribution plan and have delivered a few to various venues across the state. We’ll keep you posted regarding the arrangements for distribution.

An Updated Version of the CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9.6 Job Aid...

Just a note that we will be posting an updated version of the Build 18.9.6 Job Aid to the CONNECTIONS intranet soon. Just a reminder that the Job Aid is the third job aid in support of the implementation of Build 18.9.6 functionality and provides the caseworker with a detailed overview of the CONNECTIONS system and the enhancements that were introduced in the Build. The job aid contains information about modifications in the following areas:

- Foster and Adoptive Home Development (FAD)
- Out of State SCR Check Window
- Family Assessment and Service Plans (FAPSs) - including the Service Plan Review
- Life Skills Assessment Comments Window
- Health Services
- Permanency
- Progress Notes
- Security

The AFCARS Report: 'Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis'.. An Updated Version...

For your reference, a ***new*** version of the AFCARS report, 'Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis' will be posted to the Share Drive by c.o.b. today (April 4th). ***Please note that this report can only be accessed by a few individuals at the local district who perform this function and 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. A reminder, to meet AFCARS requirements for each clinical diagnosis for a child in placement over 30 days, staff must enter at least one AFCARS diagnosis for any domain type OR, enter one of the following appointment types in the physical/medical domain.

- Well Child
- Initial Assessment
- Re-Assessment

with any diagnosis or a blank diagnosis.

OCFS Data Warehouse Quarterly News and Notes - March 2008...

(This piece was in The CONNECTIONS Weekly date March 28, 2008.)

The Data Warehouse News and Notes for the first quarter of 2008 has been posted to the CONNECTIONS Data Warehouse News & Notes page. This quarters issue contains a write up of the new Casework Contact Summary Reports along with some new refresh procedures.

Due to the many recent changes in the Data Warehouse team, we ask that all correspondence be sent to the data.warehouse@ocfs.state.ny.us mailbox to receive our prompt attention.

A CONNECTIONS "Quick Tip"...

The *Removal Tab* is not supported in the CCR, thus there is currently no path to enter the removal information in the CCR stage. It is important to record removal information in the CWS stage before moving to the CCR for freed children. A fix will be implemented in a future Build to support the Removal Tab in the CCR so that historical AFCARS removal information can be recorded for children who where freed prior to the implementation of Build 18.9.6.

Communications Team Info...

We would like to bid a fond farewell to Marie Wiley. Marie has worked with Communications for a few years now and is moving onto another position within OCFS. Her talents and creativity will be missed...we wish her well in her new endeavor!

THANKS for all that you have done on the Communication Team! Congratulations, Marie...maybe you can be a "guest" writer for us sometime!

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 April 4, 2008*

Weekly System Maintenance...

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

- **Friday, 4/4/08 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
and from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (see the piece above on the Investigation Conclusion Narrative)
- Wednesday, 4/16/08 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- Friday, 4/18/08 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM