

THE CONNECTIONS WEEKLY

April 11 - 18, 2008



Successful Implementation of Investigation Conclusion Narrative Template...

Last Friday a revised Investigation Conclusion Narrative Template was deployed to address multiple instances where the Investigation Conclusion Narrative for an open investigation could not be edited. Since this deployment there have been no further reported instances.

A CONNECTIONS Update and How It Relates to You... Or, The Implementation of an Oracle Upgrade and What That Means...(Please note that this piece was in the Weekly dated April 4, 2008)

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!

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

For your reference, the April version of the AFCARS report, ‘Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis’ was posted to the Share Drive on April 4th. The report includes data as of March 26, 2008. ***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 Policy Directive: Informational Letter -08-OCFS-INF-04, Out-of-State Foster Home Documentation of Licensure for Title IV-E foster Care Eligibility

On March 27, 2008 the Informational Letter (INF) was released to provide supplemental guidance to local departments of social services (LDSS) and voluntary authorized agencies regarding documentation requirements applicable to foster homes located in other states in which children in the care and custody or the custody and guardianship of an LDSS are placed. At issue is the documentation of the licensure status of the foster home located in another state for the purpose of complying with Title IV-E eligibility requirements. This release complements the informational letter (07-OCFS-INF-06) issued by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) on July 25, 2007, addressing issues identified in the 2006 federal Title IV-E Eligibility Review. The Systems Implications section of the INF provides detailed guidance for properly documenting the licensure status in CONNECTIONS to be compliant with Title IV-E requirements.

Here is the link to access this and other policies on the OCFS intranet website:
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>

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

The updated version of the Build 18.9.6 Job Aid has been posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet. This job aid is intended to 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. Information was updated in the security section.

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 11, 2008*
- Build 18.9.6 Job Aid, Functionality for all Users of CONNECTIONS
- *The CONNECTIONS Weekly for the week of April 18, 2008*

Weekly System Maintenance...

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

- **Friday, 4/11/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Wednesday, 4/16/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 4/18/08** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM