



## ..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

*for the week of November 7 - 14, 2008*

*Developing a more caseworker centric system*

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

### **FEATURED IN THIS EDITION**

#### ***"Info to Know" for Caseworkers***

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### ***"Info to Know" for Caseworker***



#### ***"Did You Know?" - The Goal of "Independent Living" Has Been Renamed***

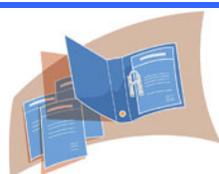
Although you still see "Independent Living" as a discharge planning goal (in CONNECTIONS), the name of this goal has been renamed "*Another Planned Living Arrangement with a Permanency Resource*" (however, in CONNECTIONS the name of the goal is renamed to: *Place in Another Planned Living Arrangement (Independent Living)*).

Section 430.12 (f), the section of Office regulations which governs services to youth who will be discharged to the community, has officially been amended and replaced the words "Independent Living" with the words "*Another Planned Living Arrangement with a*

*Permanency Resource*” when referring to this discharge planning goal. These regulations also define *Another Planned Living Arrangement with a Permanency Resource* - is a permanency planning goal to assist foster care youth in their transition to self-sufficiency by connecting the youth to an adult permanency resource, equipping the youth with life skills and, upon discharge, connecting the youth with any needed community and/or specialized services. An *adult permanency resource* is also defined in these regulations as a caring committed adult who has been determined by a social services district to be an appropriate and acceptable resource for a youth and is committed to providing emotional support, advice and guidance to the youth and to assist the youth as the youth makes the transition from foster care to responsible adulthood.

Caseworkers should refer to the Adolescent Services and Outcomes Practice Guidance Paper, issued by OCFS, which can be accessed at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/ddps/adolescent/resources.asp>. This practice guidance paper provides a new OCFS framework for assisting youth in foster care to make a successful transition from foster care to self-sufficiency - the intent of the discharge planning goal “*Another Planned Living Arrangement with a Permanency Resource*”. The practice framework focuses caseworker responsibility in assisting youth to achieve permanency and develop life skills.

CONNECTIONS requires caseworkers to document efforts made to identify an adult permanency resource for all youth in foster care and to document a youth’s progress toward developing a set of life skills when a foster youth is over the age of 14.



### *The Monthly Open Case Inquiry and Management Reports Will Be Run This Weekend*

The October OCI monthly reports will be run this weekend and will be available for designated staff, from the Report icon, on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. We will post next year’s schedule to the CONNECTIONS intranet site when it becomes available.

## *General “Info to Know”*

### **! ALERT - For Local District Child Protective Caseworkers From the NYS Central Register Regarding Primary/Secondary**

This information is communicated on behalf of the NYS Central Register on Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

Please note that the Primary county needs to notify the Secondary county prior to closing the Intake using the “*priority closure*” reason of Duplicate. Such notification will

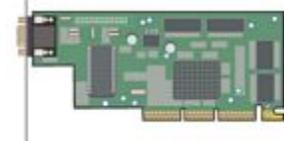
allow the Secondary county to view the Intake, which they would otherwise be unable to do, in the event the Primary county closes the Intake as a Duplicate.



### ***NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet***

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

- The CONNECTIONS NEWS <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>



### ***Weekly System Maintenance***

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

- [Wednesday, 11/12/08](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 11/14/08](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of  
Children & Family  
Services

Gladys Carrión, Esq.  
Commissioner