



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of March 20 - 27, 2009

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 Caseworkers



UPDATED Information on AFCARS

The data for the Children Served With Missing Clinical Diagnosis reports have been refreshed as of March 4th. Please note that we are expecting another refresh as of March 18th which should be available on Monday (3/23).

Children served in foster care during the October 1st through March 31st period will be included in the next AFCARS submission. Please make every effort to ensure that children receive a Clinical Diagnosis and the results are entered into CONNECTIONS by mid-April. Thank you!



OCFS Data Warehouse - Faster Casework Contact Reports

The OCFS Data Warehouse is pleased to announce that all of the reports in the Casework Contact Reports folder run at least **10 times faster** than before. It only takes a minute or two for data to appear!! This was no easy task - it took months of hard work from OCFS IT Reporting Solutions staff. We hope you agree that the end result was worth the wait. (Users who created their own Casework Contact reports will notice improved performance, as well.) To access the Casework Contact reports, follow these steps:

1. From Cognos 8, click on the "OCFS Data Warehouse" tab, if it is not already open. [For help accessing Cognos 8 or the OCFS Data Warehouse tab, view the Quick Reference Guide at: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/dwstep.asp>.]
2. Click on the link for the "Casework Contact Reports" folder.
3. Click on the link for the folder that displays. [Contract agency staff will see a "Voluntary Agencies" folder, LDSS staff will see a "Local Districts and Regional Offices" folder, and State staff will see both folders.]
4. Click on the link for the report that you want to run.
5. Complete the report prompts to run the report for any completed month.

General "Info to Know"



The Training Database

The training database will not be available on either Monday, April 6th or Tuesday, April 7th. They will be updating the info in the database during that time.

GIS

General Information System (09-005)

CCRS, WMS Changes to Support Permanent Guardian Legislation

TO: Directors of Services

FROM: Paul Gavry

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Directors of Services, Services Caseworkers and Supervisors, Data Entry Operators

SUBJECT: CCRS, WMS Changes to Support Permanent Guardian Legislation

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 9, 2009

CONTACT: OCFS-IT Customer Support at 1-800-342-3727

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services (LDSS) with information regarding CCRS, WMS changes to support Permanent Guardian legislation.

09-OCFS-ADM-05: New Statutes Affecting Kinship Care: Chapters 404 and 519 of the Laws of 2008 advised social services districts and voluntary authorized agencies about two new laws that relate to permanency and the appointment and legal rights of guardians and custodians. This ADM is available at: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>

The following system changes have developed in support of these laws. CCRS changes were implemented effective Monday, **March 9, 2009**. WMS changes were implemented effective Monday, **March 16, 2009**.

CCRS (effective 3/9/09)

- A new value: **83 Permanent Guardianship** has been added to Legal Activities table: *L300 Modifier B or C L500 Modifier B -- Dispositions*
 - Disposition 83 does not require Date Certain entry in MOD D
- A new value/closing reason: **591 Discharged to Permanent Guardian** has been added to Movements *Table 6- M990 and M999 Reason for Discharge/Closing*. Closing Reason 591 is allowed only when child status is In Care/04, Absent/06 or Trial Discharge/07

WMS (effective 3/16/09)

- A new value/closing reason: **591 Discharged to Permanent Guardian** has been added to table: *37 DENIAL/CLOSING REASON CODES*
- Closing reason **591** will auto close CCRS track with system generated M999

The CCRS and WMS Services coding guides have been updated to reflect these changes and are available in Public Folders at the following paths:

WMS Services Coding Guide:

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/ WMS Services reference documents*

CCRS Services Coding Guide:

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/CCRS reference documents*

For systems questions, please contact OCFS-IT Customer Support at 1-800-342-3727.

All GIS messages are available in Public Folders at the following path:

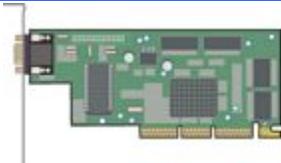
*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services Systems Reference Documents/ GIS (system change notices)*



NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

The following documents were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- **...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, 3/25/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 3/27/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner