



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of May 22 - 29, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

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

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"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



Quarterly Improvement Plan - Q2-09

Q2-09, which is scheduled to be implemented on Saturday, June 27, 2009, will include important enhancements to the CONNECTIONS application that support programmatic changes, as well as several system improvements. The major ease of use enhancements included in Q2-09 are recommendations from the Child Welfare System Transformation Business Team. These recommended enhancements are based on a collaborative effort on the part of OCFS, local district and voluntary agency casework

and supervisory staff. The following are the areas of the application that will encompass the noted enhancements:

- **FASP improvements** - modifications to the Strength Needs and Risk scales, Safety Assessment, Needed Improvements/Changes tab, Strength Needs and Risk Scales - O and A Blocks and the Original Reason for Case Opening.
- **FAD improvements** - modifications to New Homes - SCR Database Check Dates.
- **Permanency Hearing Report improvements** - PHR mapping, pre-fills from a pending or in-process FASP, as well as additional pre-fill changes.
- **Other improvements** - placement information will be able to be updated in CONNECTIONS separately from CCRS, the Case Summary window will display CPS determinations, modifications to Progress Notes, To Do's and Person/Merge/Split.



The Highlights Document for the Quarterly Improvement Plan - Q2-09

The *Q2-09 Highlights* document presents a high-level overview of programmatic and application changes, modifications and enhancements. It is one in a series of tools that define, describe and detail the system changes and enhancements that will be included in this *Quarterly Improvement Plan*.

The *Q2-09 Highlights* document will be available on Thursday, May 28th.

In addition, other tools to aid in the implementation of this Build will be: an Impact Analysis, a Job Aid, Release Notes and modifications to On-line Help, which will include details about the system enhancements.



NEWS from the OCFS Data Warehouse

- ***A NEW Report - Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact Summary Report***
- ***Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact Summary Report FAQ's***
- ***Changes to the Tracked Child and Biological Parent Contacts Reports***
- ***Children Served With Missing Clinical Diagnosis FAQs***

- ***AFCARS***

The data for the Children Served With Missing Clinical Diagnosis reports has been refreshed as of May 13th. Please note: the AFCARS period is now April 1st - September 30th.

- ***Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact Summary Report (Casework Contacts Report)***

The OCFS Data Warehouse team is pleased to announce a new report, called the ***Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact Summary***. The report provides a count of the number of children with a CONNECTIONS Program Choice of 'C' (Placement), who have been in foster care for an entire month with no "successful" face-to-face Progress Note Casework Contacts entered in CONNECTIONS. (A "successful" contact is defined as one where the child is marked as both the Focus and Participant.) You can drill-thru from the summary report to a detail report containing more information about these foster care children with no successful contacts. Data for these reports is refreshed the 15th of each month as well as at the end of each month.

The ***Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact Summary*** report is located in the Casework Contact Reports folder on the Cognos 8 OCFS Data Warehouse tab. District, agency, and State staff with access to the OCFS Data Warehouse can run the new report by following 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 "Foster Care Children - No Successful Contacts Summary" report.
5. Complete the report prompts to run the report.

To view more information on the report such as report background, report purpose, target users, classification, prompts and more, a descriptive summary of this report is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website on the Data Warehouse page. The link below will take you directly to the document.

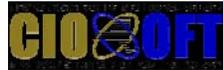
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Caswork%20Contacts%20Reports/Foster%20Care%20Children%20-%20No%20Successful%20Contact.pdf>.

- ***Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)***

The OCFS Data Warehouse team has prepared a document that answers the most frequently asked questions about the ***Foster Care Children - No Successful Contact*** report. The FAQ document is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Data Warehouse page and can also be accessed by clicking on the link below.

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Caswork%20Contacts%20Reports/Foster%20Care%20Children%20-%20No%20Successful%20Contact%20FAQ.pdf>

General "Info to Know"



Client VPN Cut-Off Date Extended to May 31, 2009

OFT Customer Notification - Juniper VPN Network Connect Client Migration (09-CNS-02)

Note that any device; PC, laptop or tablet, that uses Client VPN (currently Cisco) to connect to the HSEN network is required to make the change to the new Juniper Client by **May 31, 2009**. Any device that has not converted to the new Juniper Client after that date will not be able to connect. **The hardware that supports the Cisco client will be decommissioned on June 1st.** *NOTE: SSL VPN users WILL NOT be affected by this change.*

All technical issues should be directed to the OFT Coordination Center at 1 (800) 603-0877. Any other issues or questions can be directed to: *Mike Demars*, NYS OCFS - IT, 40 N. Pearl St. - 15 B, 518-402-3695, Michael.Demars@ocfs.state.ny.us

Overview

CIO/OFT's Customer Networking Solutions is migrating from the Cisco VPN Client to Juniper Network Connect VPN. The new VPN solution is a web-based network access method that establishes a connection to the state network using a standard web browser. The new VPN client is coupled with an endpoint defense module called Juniper Host Checker. This component ensures that the accessing machine is a member of either the HSEN or NYS active directory domain, and it requires that the Symantec Protection Agent is installed and running. Please read this notification in its entirety for more information and installation instructions.

Services Impacted

All HSEN and CIO/OFT (OA) Cisco VPN users will be impacted by this change. If administrative rights have been granted, users can install and begin using the new client immediately. If administrators are not certain that VPN users have administrative rights and are interested in granting them, view the document "Granting Administrative Access to Laptop Users."

Audience

This notice has been distributed to LAN Administrators and Local Security Administrators who support HSEN and OA Cisco Client VPN users for remote network access. Please inform your VPN user community accordingly.

Customer Action Required: Yes

The new VPN solution requires all users of the HSEN or OA Cisco Client VPN solution to download a software installer package available at www.oft.state.ny.us/vpn/networkconnect.htm.

To ensure a successful installation, all requirements and steps listed on the web page need to be followed. Support documentation can also be found on this web page.

Details

CIO/OFT's Customer Networking Solutions is migrating from the Cisco VPN Client to Juniper Network Connect VPN. The new VPN solution is a web-based network access method that establishes a connection to the state network using a standard web browser. The new VPN client is coupled with an endpoint defense module called Juniper Host Checker. The software

package provided (www.oft.state.ny.us/vpn/networkconnect.htm) will install the Juniper Installer Service, the Symantec Protection Agent, and the SCCM client.

Before installing the software package:

- The account installing the software must have administrative privileges on the local workstation.
- The computer must be a state asset and a member of the HSEN or NYS domain.
- The Cisco VPN Client should be uninstalled

Once the package has been installed; the user must proceed to the Juniper VPN appliance to complete the Network Connect Installation as described in the Network Connect Installation Guide (available at the link provided above).

Attachment

Granting Administrative Access to Laptop Users



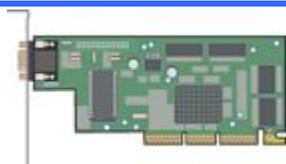
09-CNS-02
JuniperVPN _ Attach_



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, 5/27/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 5/29/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner