



## ..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

*for the week of June 5 - 12, 2009*

*Developing a more caseworker centric system*

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

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



#### *The WMS Discrepancy Report*

***\*\*Please note that this piece pertains to local districts only.***

The WMS Discrepancy Report, which identifies the differences that exist between demographic information in WMS and CONNECTIONS, was successfully run this past

weekend. Those designated (local district) report recipients should be able to access the Discrepancy report from their *Report* icon in CONNECTIONS.



## ***UPDATED INFO - 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 key areas of the application that will encompass the noted enhancements:

- **FASP improvements** - modifications to the Strength Needs and Risk scales, Safety Assessment (*an optional comment box will be available from the Safety Factors window when "No Safety Factors Present" is selected*), 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 Q2-09 Impact Analysis - Changes to the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP)***

The Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP) provides a consistent structure to assist workers to conduct thorough, focused assessments and reassessments of child and family functioning throughout the life of a case. The FASP guides the development and documentation of the plan of needed changes, services, and outcomes that a family must achieve to maintain children safely, achieve permanency, child well-being and to reduce or eliminate the need for services.

The *Q2-09 Impact Analysis - Changes to the FASP* describes the changes that will be made within the FASP, when Q2-09 is implemented. The document provides a brief description of the current function, identifies what remains the same and what will be new, as well as identifying implications and considerations. This document is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Home page at the link below:

[http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2-09%20Impact%20Analysis%20\(3\).pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2-09%20Impact%20Analysis%20(3).pdf)

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

The *Q2-09 Highlights* document was sent to local district and voluntary agency Implementation, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Directors of Service, Resource Users and other key agency personnel on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Highlights are also posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2\\_09\\_Highlights\\_final.pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2_09_Highlights_final.pdf)

This document presents a high-level overview of programmatic and application changes, modifications and enhancements.

### ***Other Q2-09 Tools***

In addition to the Highlights there will be other tools to aid in the implementation of this Quarterly Improvement. They are:

- Q2-09 Release Notes
- Update to On-line HELP
- Impact Analysis document titled: *Changes to the Family Assessment and Service Plan*
- CONNECTIONS Q2-09 Quarterly Improvements Job Aid

## ***General "Info to Know"***



### ***Scheduled CONNECTIONS Application Downtime for 6/6/09***

As noted in the previous CONNECTIONS NEWS, as well as in the "Weekly System Maintenance" piece below, there will be application downtime on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 AM through 12 noon; a downtime of four hours. During this time we will install an ORACLE patch in order to update the CONNECTIONS Production database. We thank you for your understanding!

## ***GIS General Information System - 09-#010 - PA/FS Code on Case Type 13 (ADC-FC)***

To: Directors of Services, WMS Coordinators  
From: Paul Gavry  
Suggested Distribution: Casework Supervisors, Medicaid Supervisors  
Date: 6/22/09

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services with an explanation of a WMS enhancement that is scheduled to become operational on the Welfare Management System (WMS) on June

22, 2009.

As noted in DOH's *WMS-CNS Coordinator letter for the 9.2 migration*, the PA/FS Code field will no longer be an allowable entry on Case Type 13 (ADC-FC). This field is not applicable to this case type. Existing ADC-FC cases with a PA/FS Code will be systematically cleared.

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

For your reference, 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)*

## **GIS** *General Information System - 09-#009 - New Income Eligibility Standards 6/1/09 - 5/31/10*

To: Directors of Services, WMS Coordinators  
From: Paul Gavry  
Suggested Distribution: Casework Supervisors, Caseworkers and Day Care Workers  
Date: 5/28/09

This is to advise that the new income standards to be used in determining eligibility for Services are scheduled to migrate to production and will be reflected in WMS Services case processing effective June 1, 2009.

The new income standards were promulgated in 09-OCFS-INF-03, issued on April 6, 2009 which can be found under "Informational Letters" here:  
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>

The new standards are as follows:

Family Size	Income
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530
7	\$33,270
8	\$37,010

Add \$3,740 per person for family size over 8.

The new standards have been incorporated into an updated Eligibility Determination spreadsheet (*Version 10 Eligibility Worksheet 2009*) used in Title XX under 200% of poverty calculation. The updated spreadsheet is located in: *All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/Finance/Eligibility/ Automated Eligibility.*

The new standards will also be reflected in the Eligibility Manual for Child Welfare Programs, located in: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/eligibility/>

Program questions should be directed to the appropriate regional office, as noted in the INF.

Systems questions should be directed to OCFS IT Operations at 1-800-342-3727.

For your reference, 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)*

## **UPDATE – Client VPN Cut-Off Date Has Been Extended Through June**

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 the end of June. Any device that has not converted to the new Juniper Client after that date will not be able to connect.

**NOTE: SSL VPN users WILL NOT be affected by this change.**

*For further information please refer to either the OFT Customer Notification 09-CNS-02 [http://sdc.oft.state.nyenet/crcc/crc/2009\\_crc\\_files/ciooft-09-CNS-2 Juniper VPN Final.doc](http://sdc.oft.state.nyenet/crcc/crc/2009_crc_files/ciooft-09-CNS-2_Juniper_VPN_Final.doc) or, the previous edition(s) of the CONNECTIONS NEWS <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/projupdt/weekly/2009/CONNECTIONS%20Weekly%20-5-22-09--News--.pdf>*

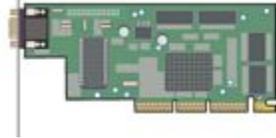
All technical issues should be directed to the OFT Coordination Center at 1 (800) 603-0877. Any other issues or questions can be directed to: *Mike Demars*, NYS OCFS – IT, 40 N. Pearl St. - 15 B, 518-402-3695, [Michael.Demars@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:Michael.Demars@ocfs.state.ny.us)



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

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

- **...CONNECTIONS NEWS...** <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>
- **The Q2-09 Impact Analysis - Changes to the FASP**  
[http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2-09%20Impact%20Analysis%20\(3\).pdf](http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2-09%20Impact%20Analysis%20(3).pdf)



## *Weekly System Maintenance*

**\*\*Please note that additional application downtime for:**

- [Saturday, 6/6/09](#) from 8:00 AM - noon

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

- [Wednesday, 6/10/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 6/12/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



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Commissioner