



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of June 12 - 19, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

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

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"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



AFCARS

The data for the Children Served With Missing Clinical Diagnosis reports (AFCARS period April 1st - September 30th) has been refreshed as of June 3rd. The next data refresh is scheduled for July 3rd ('as of' date July 1st).



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 28th. 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. 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"

GIS *General Information System - 09-#011*

New Suffix Code Regarding Undocumented Persons and Services to Victims of Domestic Violence

To: Directors of Services, WMS Coordinators

From: Paul Gavry

Suggested Distribution: Casework Supervisors, Caseworkers and Domestic Violence Staff

Date: 6/5/09

09-OCFS-ADM-06 issued March 2, 2009 advised of amendment to section 398-e of the Social Services Law (SSL) to provide that all aliens, including non-qualified or undocumented aliens, are eligible for residential services for victims of domestic violence. Residential programs for victims of domestic violence are now entitled to be reimbursed by LDSS for the provision of residential services to victims of domestic violence who are ***undocumented or non-qualified aliens*** within the limitations otherwise set forth in OCFS regulations. In order to appropriately claim and track Domestic Violence vendor payments made on behalf of non-qualified or undocumented aliens, a new suffix code "Y" has been implemented for use ***effective Monday, June 8***.

Suffix code "Y" is allowed as input with Purchase of Service (POS) code "23" (Services to Victims of Domestic Violence) ***only***. The new error message related to this edit is:

389 - SUFFIX Y ALLOWED ONLY WITH SERVICES 23

Other standard edits regarding Direct vs. POS service apply; i.e. input of suffix "Y" with POS 23 requires input of suffix "Y" with corresponding Direct service (23). System mnemonic for suffix "Y" is UNDALIEN.

Program questions should be directed to the appropriate regional office, as noted in the ADM. 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 Until June 30th

While the cutoff date has been extended twice, **the June 30th date is firm**. Please make sure you have migrated all devices with the Cisco VPN software to the new Juniper client.

If you are having technical issues, please call the OFT Coordination Center at (800) 603-0877. Software and instructions can be found at: <http://www.oft.state.ny.us/vpn/networkconnect.htm>.

Note: OFT has developed a software package, containing the Juniper client, that can be "pushed" over the network to a computer that is connected to the HSEN. This has been made available for a short period of time to assist with the successful completion of the project. This will only work for a device that is directly connected to the HSEN. Please contact Mike Demars for details at either: 518-402-3695 or, 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/>



Weekly System Maintenance

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

- [Wednesday, 6/17/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 6/19/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services
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