



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of June 19 - 26, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

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

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"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



NEW Info on the Quarterly Improvement Plan - Q2-09

As you are aware, Q2-09 is scheduled to be implemented on Saturday, June 27, 2009. The exact time of implementation will be announced early next week.

What Will Be Changed?

The following are the key areas of the application that will be enhanced:

- **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.

Other Documents That Describe The Changes In More Detail

The Q2-09 Impact Analysis - Changes to the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP)

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 and can be accessed by clicking on 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 presents a high-level overview of programmatic and application changes, modifications and enhancements that will be included in Q2-09. This document is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet and can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2_09_Highlights_final.pdf.

CONNECTIONS Q2-09 Quarterly Improvements Job Aid

This *Job Aid* provides a detailed overview of the CONNECTIONS system changes and enhancements introduced for Quarter 2, 2009 (Q2-09). The Job Aid is intended for CONNECTIONS users on different levels, and assumes familiarity with the CONNECTIONS System. This document is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet and can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/Q2%2009JobAid%20final%206%2019%2009.pdf>

General "Info to Know"



Casework Contact Progress Notes Review

On May 11, 2009, Commissioner Carrión sent a letter to Local District Commissioners and Voluntary Agency Executive Directors regarding OCFS's plan aimed at improving New York State's performance on conducting caseworker visits (contracts) with children in foster care in order to meet the requirements of the federal Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 and state regulations. There are several components to the

plan: systems improvements; practice and documentation standards, which may result in needed training; and access to technology.

Each OCFS Regional Office is currently developing a plan to review the progress notes in cases for which casework contacts with the child were not recorded. Cases will be identified through CONNECTIONS reports. A meeting to discuss the findings will be held, and in conjunction with your staff, a plan of action, if warranted, will be required.

This initiative will commence immediately with an anticipated completion by September 30, 2009. Cases where the local social services district provides direct foster care will be reviewed first, followed by a review of cases where the voluntary agency is the assigned case planner and thus responsible for completing casework contacts with the child. The size of the district or agency will be determined by the number of children in foster care. Then the size (small, medium or large) will be used to determine the number of cases to be reviewed. Five cases will be reviewed in small districts/agencies, ten in medium sized, and twenty in large. A total of four recent months of progress notes will be reviewed for each child.

Staff from the Regional Office will be in contact with your Director of Services or Program Director to provide more specific details and arrange for a meeting to discuss the process.

 **UPDATE – Client VPN Cut-Off Date Has Been Extended Until June 30th**

While the cut-off 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/>
- CONNECTIONS Q2-09 Quarterly Improvements Job Aid



Weekly System Maintenance

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

- [Wednesday, 6/24/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 6/26/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



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Services
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