



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of August 21 - 28, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

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

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers

- Two **NEW** Tip Sheets - CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet - Removal Updates & CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet Plan Amendments ...pg. 1...[more](#)
- CONNECTIONS Transformation Update - (The Summer 2009 NYPWA PowerPoint Presentation) ...pg. 2...[more](#)
- ****REVISED**** FAD Homes and SCR Database Checks ...pg. 3...[more](#)
- "Did You Know?" ...pg. 3...[more](#)

General "Info to Know"

- System Maintenance by NYS OGS - Involves ALL OCFS Applications, Including CONNECTIONS ...pg. 4...[more](#)
- **NEW** Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet ...pg. 4...[more](#)
- Weekly System Maintenance ...pg. 4...[more](#)

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



Two **NEW Tip Sheets...**

- CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet - Removal Updates
- CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet - Plan Amendments

Two **NEW** tip sheets have been developed! They are:

- *CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet - Removal Updates*
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/Tip%20sheets/Removal%20Updates%20FINAL%208-17-09.pdf>

- *CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet - Plan Amendments*
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaidess/Tip%20sheets/Plan%20Amendment%20Tip%20Sheet%20-%20FINAL%208-17-09.pdf>

The first **NEW** tip sheet on the topic of Removal Updates includes the answer to the question: “When should I use a removal update?” It also includes info on the removal update process, approving a removal update and printing a removal update.

The second **NEW** tip sheet on the topic of Plan Amendments defines what a plan amendment is, when a change should be documented, pre-launch preparation, how to launch a plan amendment, info on outcome and activity blocks and how to complete a plan amendment.

For your reference, both of these tip sheets are posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Job Aids and Tip Sheets page <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaidess/jobaidess.asp>.



***-- CONNECTIONS Transformation Update –
(The Summer 2009 NYPWA PowerPoint Presentation)***

During the NYPWA summer conference a workshop titled: *CONNECTIONS Transformation Update*, was presented by Sheila Poole, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services and William Travis, Deputy Director of the Division of Information Technology. The agenda of the presentation is highlighted below.

CONNECTIONS Transformation Update - AGENDA

- 2009 Transformation Updates / Accomplishments
 - Production Deliveries
 - Business Team
 - Technical Team
- 2009-10 Transformation Activities
 - Enhanced Reporting Capability -Albany County Pilot
 - PHR (Short Term and Long Term Improvements)
 - Casework Contacts
 - Training and Implementation Planning
- 2009 Security Update

Is your interest peaked? For more details about the status of the transformation, the complete PowerPoint presentation is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet and can be accessed via the following link:
http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/projupdt/2009%20NYPWA%20Conference_Summer_FINAL.pdf



****REVISED** FAD Homes and SCR Database Checks**

*****Please note that this piece was in the last edition of the CONNECTIONS NEWS.***

When a home in accepted-active status has a child turn 18 years old, or has a person over 18 years of age move into the home, the responsible FAD caseworker is required to obtain fingerprint checks for the new adult. When this occurs, and the worker has not received the results prior to the time the home's authorization period is scheduled to expire, the caseworker must request an emergency extension for the home to remain open. Prior to implementing the edit for NYS SCR Database Checks, the emergency extension was allowed as long as the fingerprint request sent date was recorded. With the implementation of the new SCR edit, whenever the emergency extension box is checked CONNECTIONS also looks for SCR Database Check sent dates for all foster parents in the home. If the dates are not entered the caseworker receives the following alert: "Cannot extend, all NYS SCR Database checks must be sent." The caseworker must then go to the Household Member Detail tab and enter the SCR Database check sent date for the foster parents and then the home can receive the extension. Although caseworkers have always been instructed to enter SCR Database Check information in CONNECTIONS, we had intended to lessen the impact on caseworkers by only having this edit look for SCR dates for newly opened homes. We are in the process of analyzing and resolving this issue and a SIR has been entered. Please note that if you encounter this issue and need assistance you can email the "*Application Help*" (*App Help*) mailbox at: ocfs.sm.conn_app@ocfs.state.ny.us.

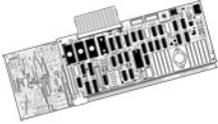


"Did You Know?"

"Did You Know?"...

Closing a case in CONNECTIONS does NOT automatically close the associated WMS case. The WMS case must be closed manually after the CONNECTIONS case has been closed. Therefore, you can close the case in CONNECTIONS when services end but keep the WMS case open long enough for outstanding bills to be paid without additional FASPs becoming due! Similarly, recording the child's discharge (M990) and closing the track in CCRS (M999) when services end will not affect the ability to pay outstanding bills and will increase the accuracy of time-in-care statistics.

General "Info to Know"



System Maintenance by NYS OGS - Involves ALL OCFS Computer Application, Including CONNECTIONS

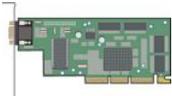
*****Please note that this piece was in the last edition of the CONNECTIONS NEWS.***

OCFS has been informed by the NYS Office of General Services (OGS) via the Office for Technology (OFT) that a required maintenance of electrical equipment in the building hosting OCFS computer systems will be occurring over the **October 2 - 4, 2009 weekend**. This will require an extended outage (24-32 hours) of **all** OCFS computer applications, **including CONNECTIONS**. Initial estimates indicate the downtime for CONNECTIONS will begin during the evening of Friday, October 2nd (between 8pm-12 midnight). It is expected that CONNECTIONS will be again available on Sunday morning, October 4th. More details will be shared as they become available.



NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

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Weekly System Maintenance

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

- [Wednesday, 8/26/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 8/28/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services
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