



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of January 30 - February 6, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

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

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers

- *A Successful Implementation - Q4-08 Improvement Plan ...pg. 1 ...more*
- *A NEW Informational Letter 09-OCFS-INF-01 Health Care Coordination for Children in Foster Care: Approaches and Benefits ...pg. 3 ...more*

General "Info to Know"

- *General information System Message - 09-001 - Chaffee Amendment Medicaid Coverage for Youth 18 to 21 Years of Age Discharged from Foster Care ...pg. 3 ...more*
- *CIO/OFT Customer Notification 09-CNS-01 DNS and WINS Configuration Updates for Locally Managed Devices ...pg. 5 ...more*
- *NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet ... pg. 7 ...more*
- *Weekly System Maintenance ... pg. 7 ...more*

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



A Successful Implementation - Q4-08 Improvement Plan

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, OCFS successfully implemented the fourth Quarterly Improvement Plan, Q4-08! Q4-08 includes important enhancements to the CONNECTIONS application that support programmatic changes, some ease of use enhancements, and several system improvements. The major ease of use enhancements included in Q4-08 are recommendations from the Child Welfare System Transformation Business Team. The enhancements come from collaboration between OCFS, local district and voluntary agency casework and supervisory staff. The following

list highlights the enhancement areas: Family Services Stage, Approvals, Permanency Hearing Report (PHR), Progress Notes, Investigation Stage, Foster and Adoptive Home Development (FAD), and System Messaging.

A high level overview of the Ease of Use enhancements included in Q4-08 are:

- FASP improvements to reduce navigation steps for the Caseworker. These include reordering of components to be consistent across areas, opening windows with expanded information immediately available and combining multiple messages into one display.
- Upgraded display of FASP Due Dates; “FASP is Overdue” messages will be implemented.
- Navigation requirements in the FASP Case Planner Summary and draft areas, designed for coordinating multiple workers’ contributions to a FASP, will be streamlined when cases have only a Case Planner and a Case Manager and no other workers assigned.
- Progress Notes ‘Sort’ button was changed to support ‘New Using’ functionality for easier and more readily identified use; enhanced the sorting features on the Progress Notes List grid.
- Eliminated pop-up messages that slow a workers flow through entry of Progress Notes, Risk and Safety Narratives.
- ACS Only Impact - Eliminated redundancy in the existing Child Protective Recording Transmittal (CPRT) -- the ACS Local Protocol and Progress Notes. This significantly reduced the CPRT recording requirements for ACS Child Protective Workers.
- Added a method to identify an “Amended Hearing Date,” when a rescheduled permanency hearing date is entered on the Court Information window.
- Lifted the restriction for entering Education information prior to the start of the academic year.
- A new FAD Closure Reason was added to support implementation of the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006, which took effect on October 1, 2008. This legislation requires the mandatory disqualification of prospective foster/adoptive parents who were convicted of certain categories of felonies. Also, beginning October 1, 2008, if a current foster/adoptive parent is convicted of a crime in this category their certification/approval must be terminated. To support recording this in CONNECTIONS, a new code, “Criminal History - Mandatory Disqualifier”, was added to the drop-down closure reasons on the FAD Close Home window.

Q4-08 Tools To Use

- **Q4-08 Highlights**
http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q4_08_Highlights_1.pdf

- Q4-08 Improvement Plan Release Notes
http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q4_08%20Release%20Notes%20_Final.pdf
- Q4-08 Quarterly Improvement Plan Impact Analysis - *Allowing the Investigative Actions Task to be Optional*
http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q4%20IA%20Investigation%20Actions%201-09-09-_final.pdf
- Q4-08 Job Aid
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/Q4-08%20JAFinal.pdf>
- An update to On-line HELP (within the CONNECTIONS application)

INF A *NEW* Informational Letter 09-OCFS-INF-01

Health Care Coordination for Children in Foster Care: Approaches and Benefits

**** This piece was in last week's edition of the CONNECTIONS NEWS.**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has just issued the following new Informational Letter number: 09-OCFS-INF-01, titled: Health Care Coordination for Children in Foster Care: Approaches and Benefits.

The purpose of this INF is to transmit to social services districts and voluntary authorized agencies a practice guidance paper, "Health Care Coordination for Children in Foster Care: Approaches and Benefits." This paper, developed by the OCFS in conjunction with Welfare Research Incorporated (WRI), describes the lessons learned during a four-year pilot project and provides social services districts and voluntary authorized agencies with useful information regarding health care coordination for children in foster care.

You can access this and other OCFS policies on the OCFS intranet website with this link: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>.

General "Info to Know"

GIS General Information System - #09-001 -

Chafee Amendment - Medicaid Coverage for Youth 18 to 21 Years of Age Discharged from Foster Care

**** The information below pertains to local districts only.**

DATE: 01/26/09

TO: Directors of Services

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Directors of Services, Foster Care Supervisors,
Directors of Medicaid

SUBJECT: Chafee Amendment - Medicaid Coverage for Youth 18 to 21 Years of Age
Discharged from Foster Care

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2009

CONTACT: OCFS-IT Customer Support at 1-800-342-3727

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services (LDSS) with information regarding Medicaid coverage for youth from 18 to up to 21 years of age who are final discharged from foster care.

Effective January 1, 2009, the Chafee Amendment, under Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2008 amended section 366 of the Social Services Law (SSL) by adding a new subdivision (3-a), provides that a youth who was in the custody of the Commissioner of the local department of social services or the Commissioner of the Office of Children and Family Services on or after his or her 18th birthday will receive Medicaid until the youth's 21st birthday without regard to income or resources. The youth must still meet Medicaid citizenship/immigration status and residency requirements.

The LDSS must initially authorize Medicaid for one year for any such youth 18 to up to 21 years of age who has been final discharged from foster care and remains a resident of New York State. The New York State Department of Health is developing system support which will identify these youth. Further information will be forthcoming. Until system support is developed, the LDSS must manually track these youth to ensure continued Medicaid coverage.

If the child has moved from one district to another district in New York State, Luberto provisions apply. For further information regarding Luberto provisions, please see 08 OHIP/LCM-1, "Continued Medicaid Eligibility for Recipients Who Change Residency (Luberto vs. Daines)".

The OCFS Data Warehouse report "*Children with Discharges during the Period - with District Prompt*" provides a detailed list of children discharged during a selected period. This report can be filtered on age to obtain the children that were discharged at age 18 and above. This report can be used to track Chafee eligible youth until automated system support is in place. Your district's designated Data Warehouse user can generate this report as needed.

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

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 \(system change notices\)](#)

****PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PERTINENT TO AGENCY LAN ADMINISTRATORS.**

NUMBER: 09-CNS-01

TITLE: DNS and WINS Configuration Updates for Locally-Managed Devices

DATE ISSUED: January 20, 2009

Overview

CIO/OFT's Customer Networking Solutions (CNS) upgraded the servers for Domain Name Systems (DNS) & Windows Internet Name System (WINS). New servers have been added to the environment and some old servers have been removed to improve the quality of this service. There are IP address changes associated with these server migrations (see the "Details" portion of this Notification). Network and server administrators who configure devices to point to CIO/OFT managed DNS & WINS services will need to update their device configurations in order to utilize the appropriate DNS & WINS servers.

Services Impacted *

Any device manually configured for CNS managed DNS & WINS services are potentially affected by these changes. Devices that obtain DNS and WINS server information via DHCP are **unaffected** and can disregard this Notification.

Some of the old servers that provide DNS & WINS services were replaced with new servers on new IP addresses. Network and server administrators who configure their devices manually to point to DNS & WINS may not be aware that the IP addresses have changed and should follow the directions in the "Details" portion of this Notification.

**Please note that CNS printers do not use DNS or WINS and should not be configured to use these services.*

Audience

CNS customers who configure their own devices for DNS and WINS resolution

Assistance

For local districts:

If you have any questions or concerns related to this Notification, please contact the Coordination Center at 1-800-603-0877 or send an email to: oft.sm.cns.coordination.center@oft.state.ny.us

For voluntary agencies:

Questions regarding this notification should be directed to either mailbox:

- Internal: ocfs.sm.deployment

- External: ocfs.sm.deployment@ocfs.state.ny.us

Customer Action Required: Yes

Network and server administrators who configure devices to point to CIO/OFT managed DNS & WINS services will need to update their device configurations in order to utilize the appropriate DNS & WINS servers. Please see the “Details” portion of this notification for those servers that need to be removed and the new ones that should be added.

Details

Customer Networking Solutions upgraded the DNS & WINS servers. This upgrade requires IP address changes associated with these server migrations (summarized below). Network and server administrators who configure devices to point to CIO/OFT managed DNS & WINS services will need to update their device configurations in order to utilize the appropriate DNS & WINS servers.

Please remove servers listed under the “Remove” heading below, and add the servers listed under the “Add” heading below.

Remove

Old CNS DNS servers that will need to be removed include the following servers:

172.17.148.21
172.17.148.22
170.123.217.9
170.123.213.9

Old CNS WINS servers that will need to be removed include:

172.17.148.13
170.123.217.13
170.123.213.13

Add

Active CNS core DNS servers:

172.16.96.22
172.16.96.23
172.16.8.22
172.16.9.22

Active CNS core WINS servers:

172.16.96.110
172.16.100.24
172.16.96.99
172.16.8.110
172.16.8.109
172.16.9.20

If there is a local CNS domain controller, it should include the following:

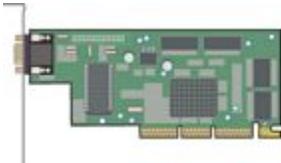
172.16.96.22, 172.16.96.23, 172.16.8.22 and 172.16.9.22, “The IP address of your local domain controller.”



NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

The following document(s) was 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, 2/4/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 2/6/09](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner