



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of June 11 - 18, 2010

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

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"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



The Multiple Person Report (MPR) Info...

** Please note that this report is for local districts only.

Info About the MPR

The Multiple Person Report has been successfully "rolled out" across the state. **This report is available to either one or two individuals that have been designated by each district to receive the report.** The MPR is generated for each local district and displays all CONNECTIONS persons that appear to be candidates for the Person Merge process. The improved design of the **new** MPR identifies more possible matches than the old MPR Report. For each district, the report displays people having more than one occurrence of the same: Full Name, Sex and Date of Birth. For each person, the report shows the address of the person, the number of cases involving that person; the report

indicates if another county is involved with cases that include that person, displays the PID, corresponding WMS CIN (if available), full name, sex, and date of birth of the person, the case status, a case ID and includes the ID of the worker on the case. It should be noted that all people with “UNKNOWN” in the name field have been filtered out of the report, as have people in sensitive cases.

[Info About the MPR Job Aid](#)

As a support to the rollout we have developed an MPR job aid that has been distributed to our CONNECTIONS Implementation staff to forward to those “MPR assigned staff” in the districts.

FAR -- CONNECTIONS Family Assessment Response (FAR) Job Aid for Participating Districts & The Family Assessment Response Questions and Answers Document

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

The [FAR job aid](#) and the [Family Assessment Response Questions and Answers](#) document have both been posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Home and Step-by-Step/Job Aids/Tips (Job Aids/Tip Sheets) pages. For your convenience, the links for both documents are posted below.

- [FAR job aid](#)
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/Family%20Assessment%20Response%20Job%20Aid%20Updated2.17.10.ppt>
- [Family Assessment Response Questions and Answers](#)
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/FAR%20QA%202%2017%2010updateCOMMENTS.pdf>

FAR -- Family Assessment Response (FAR) Data Is Now Available In The OCFS Data Warehouse!

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

Late in 2008, several counties were approved to use an alternative approach with families for some of their CPS maltreatment reports. This alternative approach, known as Family Assessment Response (FAR), is considered a CPS response even though no determination is made as to whether or not there is some credible evidence of maltreatment. The intent of FAR is to promote child safety and family well-being through enriched family engagement. As of May 10th, predefined Data Warehouse reports that count CPS intakes or investigation will include FAR reports. Allegation cube reports will now have a disposition of FAR. User-created reports that count CPS reports, CPS determinations and CPS allegations may need to be changed to accommodate these FAR assessments.



The Open Caseload Inquiry (OCI) Report Web Based Training (WBT) Is Here!!!!

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

The Professional Development Program of SUNY (in collaboration with OCFS) is pleased to announce that the OCI Report Web Based Training (WBT) titled: [TS: Getting Acquainted with CONNECTIONS Updates - The New OCI Report](#), is now available through Training Space!!!

The purpose of this course is to provide Local District and Voluntary Agency casework and supervisory staff with detailed instruction on how to access and use the new version of the Open Caseload Inquiry (OCI) report. Proceeding at their own pace, learners will discover the features of the new report, how to customize it to meet individual needs and details of the information contained on the report. You can read all about the WBT by clicking on the link to the training announcement posted to the CONNECTIONS website: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/training/NEW%20Course%20Announcement%20-%20Getting%20Acquainted%20with%20CONNECTIONS%20Updates%20The%20New%20OCI.pdf>

General "Info to Know"



Records Retention Report Runs Will Resume Soon

** Please note that this piece is for local districts only.

Last April, you were notified that this process had been temporarily suspended because of a need to retain such records due to the pending federal litigation. That issue has been resolved, and the suspension is now lifted. The purging of unfounded case records will resume very soon. We are in the process of developing a schedule of the Records Retention runs and will communicate it when we have solidified the run dates - which is expected by early next week. The schedule will include the plan to "catch up" with Records Retention since it has been "on hold" for a number of months. The plan entails the initial run to purge what was reported on the last 'To Be Expunged' report (from 12/19/2008), as well as the recurring sequence of 'To Be Expunged Reports', and a subsequent purge every 5 weeks or so until we are "caught up". As you know, there are designated Records Retention report recipients in each district and these are the individuals who will receive direct communication related to the schedule and the plan.



Upgrade to Microsoft Office 2007

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

Over the upcoming summer, OCFS Division of Information Technology (IT) will be upgrading all OCFS workstations (PC's and laptops) from Microsoft Office 2003 to Microsoft Office 2007. This will include Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access. All groups within OCFS IT have been working together to ensure a smooth upgrade and have completed extensive testing of all known items that may interact with the newer version of Microsoft Office.

"Pilot A" - upgrading all workstations for OCFS staff located at 40 N. Pearl St., Albany, occurred on June 1st. Following an evaluation of this, **"Pilot B"** will consist of all workstations at 52 Washington St., Rensselaer, with the upgrade occurring on June 12th. Again, IT will review any issues that may have occurred prior to proceeding with the rest of the schedule.

The schedule is as follows:

- June 1st 40 N. Pearl St.
- June 12th 52 Washington St.
- June 23rd remainder of Region 4
- July 22nd Region 1
- August 19th Region 2
- September 16th Region 3
- October 14th Region 5
- November 11th Region 6

All upgrades will occur outside of normal business hours. Because Office 2007 has many new looks and features, IT has coordinated with the Bureau of Training to have training classes begin around the times of deployment. There will also be time after the deployment for further trainings. Bureau of Training has been mailing these schedules to all staff. If OCFS staff have any questions or concerns regarding the upgrade to Microsoft Office 2007 they may send email to: ocfs.sm.it.office2007



NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

- ...CONNECTIONS NEWS... <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>



CONNECTIONS Weekly System Maintenance

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

- [Wednesday, 6/16/10](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- [Friday, 6/18/10](#) from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



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