



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of May 21- 28, 2010

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

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

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"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



CONNECTIONS Application and Training Database Downtime - *This Weekend*

The CONNECTIONS application and the CONNECTIONS Training Database will not be available this **Saturday, May 22nd, from 6:00 AM through 6:00 PM** - a downtime of 12 hours. This downtime is necessary in order to perform critical system updates.

In addition....

The CONNECTIONS Training Database will not be available on Friday, May 21st in order to support the scheduled system updates to CONNECTIONS production.

We ask that you please pass this information on to those in your agency who may be impacted by this. Thank you!



The Open Caseload Inquiry (OCI) Report Computer Based Training (CBT) Is Here!!!!

The Professional Development Program of SUNY (in collaboration with OCFS) is happy to announce that the OCI Report Computer Based Training CBT 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 CBT 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>



The Open Caseload Inquiry (OCI) Report Job Aid

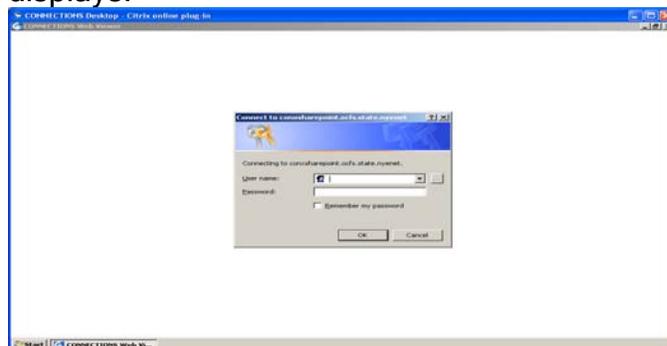
The OCI job aid is available!!! For your convenience, the link to the job aid is posted below. Please note that the job aid is also posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Home and Step-by-Step/Job Aid/Tips (Job Aid/Tips) pages.

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaides/OCI%20Job%20Aid%20%2017%2010.pdf>



Signing Into The Open Caseload Inquiry (OCI) Report

Occasionally when accessing the OCI report we have heard that the following screen displays:



This screen displays only occasionally when you happen to “hit” certain Citrix servers. If you enter your credentials again you should be able to access the OCI report. We have identified the issue causing this and are working with the Office for Technology and Microsoft to remedy this situation but wanted to let you know in case you might have experienced this situation.



The Multiple Person Report (MPR) Is Coming to the Western Region (the wild...wild...west)...

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

As has been announced in RIST meetings statewide, the “new” MPR (Multiple Person Report) is here!!

The Multiple Person Report will be “rolled out” to districts in the western region - specifically those in the Buffalo (Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Erie, Wyoming, Allegany, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties) and Rochester (Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Seneca, Yates, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties) regions to be available for use on **Friday, May 28th.** This report will be available to either one or two individuals that have been designated by each district to receive the report.

The style and the content of the report was tested at a few sites (Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties) in the Albany region earlier in May and was successfully “rolled out” in the Albany region (Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Washington, Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware, Greene and Columbia counties) on Friday, May 14th.

This MPR will be generated for each local district and will display all CONNECTIONS persons that appear to be candidates for the Person Merge process. 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, it 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.

As a support to the rollout we are in the process of developing an MPR job aid that will be available shortly and will let you know when it is posted to the CONNECTIONS website.

Your CONNECTIONS Regional Office Implementation person will be in contact with you to support this implementation.



OCFS Data Warehouse Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

See the  ***NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet*** section below for the **many** new postings on the Data Warehouse page.



10-OCFS-LCM-02 Federal Administration for Children and Families' Final Report on the 2009 Title IV-E Subsequent Primary Foster Care Eligibility Review

The purpose of this LCM is to inform local departments of social services that NYS was recently found to be in **substantial compliance** with federal Title IV-E child and provider eligibility requirements by the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF). This determination was based on the Subsequent Primary Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review (FCER), completed in Rensselaer during the week of August 31 - September 4, 2009. The federal report was issued on April 14, 2010. This LCM transmits this Final Report on the FCER.

Although New York State passed this Subsequent Primary Review, two error cases and several improper payments were found. This is important as federal Title IV-E eligibility reviews occur on a three-year cycle and the next review will have the same high compliance threshold of 95%. Therefore, this LCM is also a reminder that the state, local districts, courts, voluntary authorized agencies and other necessary partners must continue to work together to focus efforts on improving Title IV-E compliance, including improving case documentation. The attached Final Report sets forth the ACF findings on areas in need of improvement and areas of concern, as well as areas of strength.

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

*****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.



Please note that this piece pertains to local district and voluntary agency staff who are the Security Coordinators for their agency.
This piece was in the last edition of the CONNECTIONS NEWS.

There are new and improved features for the Business Function and Staff Security Reports in the Data Warehouse!

The improved features include:

- *Security Attributes for the associated Business Functions listed in the reports*
- *Ability to run reports for active staff only*
- *Ability to run reports in an "ungrouped" format for downloading into Excel*

The Business Function report has been modified to report all Business Functions (and associated staff) for selected Security Attribute(s).

The Staff Security Report provides a list of agency staff with Business Function, Security Attributes, and other security related information.

General "Info to Know"

@ **NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet**

- ...CONNECTIONS NEWS... <http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/>
 - *Course Announcement -- TS: Getting Acquainted with CONNECTIONS Updates - The New OCI Report*
<http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/training/NEW%20Course%20Announcement%20-%20Getting%20Acquainted%20with%20CONNECTIONS%20Updates%20The%20New%20OCI.pdf>
 - OCFS Data Warehouse Info: CPS Cube Reports
 - CPS Cube Report User Guide
<http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/datawarehouse/Abuse%20and%20Neglect/OCFS%20DW%20-%20CPS%20Cube%20Report%20User%20Guide.pdf>
- Reports**
- CPS Report Determinations During the Period
<http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/datawarehouse/Abuse%20and%20Neglect/CPS%20Report%20Determinations%20During%20the%20Period.pdf>
 - CPS Reports Processed During the Period
<http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/datawarehouse/Abuse%20and%20Neglect/CPS%20Reports%20Processed%20During%20the%20Period.pdf>
 - CPS Stages and Reports Current Status
<http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect/datawarehouse/Abuse%20and%20Neglect/CPS%20Stages%20and%20Reports%20Current%20Status.pdf>

- Allegations by Type
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Abuse%20and%20Neglect/Allegations%20by%20Type%20Description.pdf>
 - OCFS Data Warehouse Info: CCRS Reports
 - CCRS Cube Report User Guide
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/OCFS%20DW%20-%20CCRS%20Cube%20Report%20User%20Guide.pdf>
- Reports**
- In Care Summary Report by Year by District/Agency
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/In%20Care%20Summary%20Report%20by%20Year%20by%20District%20or%20Agency.pdf>
 - Admissions Summary Report by Year by District/Agency
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Admissions%20Summary%20Report%20by%20Year%20by%20District%20or%20Agency.pdf>
 - Discharges Summary Report by Year By District/Agency
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Discharges%20Summary%20Report%20by%20Year%20by%20District%20or%20Agency.pdf>

The following are *Updated Reports* that have replaced those previously posted to the Data Warehouse Reports page (page titled: *DW Reports*)

- Report Determinations by Allegation Type
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Report%20Determinations%20By%20Allegation%20Type.doc>
- Report Determinations by District, Allegation, & Year
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Report%20Determinations%20By%20District%20Allegation%20Year.doc>
- Security: Business Function Report
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Security%20Business%20Function%20Report.doc>
- Security: Staff Security Report
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/Security%20Staff%20Security%20Report.doc>



CONNECTIONS Weekly System Maintenance

**** Please note the additional application downtime...**

****Additional Downtime:**

- **Saturday, 5/22/10** from 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM - a downtime of 12 hours

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

- **Wednesday, 5/26/10** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 5/28/10** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services
Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner