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### CONNECTIONS INTRANET:

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect>

### CONNECTIONS INTERNET:

<http://ocfs.ny.gov/connect>

## NR Remediation Project: Coming to a District Near You

In March, 2012, OCFS began the *NR Remediation Project* to assist Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) in maximizing their federal and state reimbursement for foster care expenditures by rectifying expenditures that are non-reimbursable (NR). The project conducted a successful pilot in Region IV (Albany) and is currently targeting Region II (Rochester) and Region I (Buffalo), with longer-term plans to serve the remaining upstate regions. NYCRO, although not covered by this specific model, will be targeted at a later date.

The project assists each LDSS in addressing their NR's by incorporating a two-part approach. First, the OCFS regional NR team will conduct regional forums aimed at distributing general information about NR's and promoting mutual support. Secondly, the NR Remediation team will work directly with individual districts, assisting them in establishing a team of staff with a stake in NR remediation, led by a regional NR specialist. Ideally, LDSS NR teams should meet at least once a month to run NR reports and address problem areas.

The NR report lists instances where districts are not being reimbursed for expenditures, and categorizes these NR's into several areas including those noted in the box above. Many of these NR instances may be remediated. Districts have 22 months to retroactively adjust their records, where appropriate, and potentially revert many of their NR expenditures. District teams should also continuously reassess and refine business practices at each monthly meeting. Regardless of the level at which NR-related data and

### What Causes an NR?

NR's most commonly occur due to the following reasons:

- ⇒ Lack of Legal Authority within CCRS
- ⇒ No Foster Home Approval within the FAD Stage of CONNECTIONS
- ⇒ Paying over the Maximum State Aid Rate (MSAR)

information are input and processed, *communication* within districts or agencies is invaluable in maintaining a comprehensive NR prevention program.

Training concerning NR remediation is offered via Buffalo State College's Center for Development of Human Services (CDHS). An introduction to CCRS courses is being developed by the UAlbany Professional Development Program (PDP) and is expected to be available to district and agency staff state-wide in the near future.

The purpose behind this project, moving forward, is to help each district receive everything to which they are monetarily entitled. If data is entered and processed correctly, districts can potentially be reimbursed up to 50¢ from the federal government and 25¢ from the state for every dollar spent to maintain a child in foster care. Less money loss to expenditures is equivalent to more fiscal gain down the road, which enables everyone, regardless of their role within the district, to do their job better.

For more information about NR Remediation, contact Laura Turner at [Laura.Turner@its.ny.gov](mailto:Laura.Turner@its.ny.gov)

NYTD  
Requirements have  
altered basic  
functionality  
within  
CONNECTIONS

## NYTD Requirements Modify CONNECTIONS: Training Begins This Week

Deputy Commissioner of Child Welfare and Community Service Laura Velez and Nancy Martinez, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, issued a letter on February 27th, 2013 announcing the federal initiative, **National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**, which requires states to collect and report data to the federal government on youth receiving independent living services, surveying youth who are or were in foster care, and documenting tribal membership status of all youth in foster care.

A copy of the letter can be accessed at the following links:

[Letter to the Commissioner](#) (Intranet)  
[Letter to the Commissioner](#) (Internet)

As of **March 1st**, functionality within CONNECTIONS has changed to enable caseworkers to report the provision of independent living services to youth as well as to report tribal membership for all foster children.

State and voluntary agency staff are urged

to attend training that addresses modifications to CONNECTIONS as well as a survey of youth currently in or discharged from foster care. Training will be offered **between March 13th and 20th** and provided via **iLinc**. The complete schedule and registration procedures for the upcoming sessions are available at the following links:

[NYTD Training Information](#) (Intranet)  
[NYTD Training Information](#) (Internet)

Because registration is slightly different than the usual processes for iLinc classes, training coordinators should pay particular attention to the linked document.

Additionally, a Tip Sheet has been developed with a step-by-step overview of new functionality within CONNECTIONS and is available at the following links:

[NYTD Reporting Requirements](#) (Intranet)  
[NYTD Reporting Requirements](#) (Internet)

## Change to logic for the CCRS Legal JD/PINS indicator Impacts Data Warehouse Report



A minor change in the logic for the CCRS Legal JD/PINS indicator has been implemented.

Previously, only those children whose record explicitly showed an active JD or PINS adjudication were included. The Data Warehouse predefined report "CCRS Legal JD PINS Indicator Report" (located in the Child Welfare Services Folder) will now also include children whose record shows placement with a local district during

a JD or PINS hearing, even if there is no explicit entry of an adjudication.

**This change could significantly increase the number of children identified as JD or PINS in the above mentioned report in some local districts.**

If you have any questions on this change, please write the Data Warehouse mailbox at:

[data.warehouse@OCFS.NY.gov](mailto:data.warehouse@OCFS.NY.gov).

# CONNECTIONS Clue



## Seeing Double?

*“I was working on my service plan review letters for a case and when I printed out the letters for two recipients, they had the children listed twice. No other person invited had this. Why? What should we do about this?”*

*“I went to enter Health information on a child and found they were listed twice in the Health tab. Why?”*

*“I went to the Education tab to update information on a child, but found the child’s name listed twice in the grid. How did this happen?”*

*“When adding people to the Person Demographics tab in the FSI, the same person showed up twice. How do I get rid of the duplicate?”*

When a person has more than one current Primary address or phone number recorded in CONNECTIONS, some odd things can happen: They can show up twice in the FSI or on the Health tab, the Education tab, or in SPR letter print outs in an FSS.

### The solution?

Be sure there is only *ONE* current address or phone number marked as Primary. The old address and/or phone number needs to be end-dated to correct this. Once this correction is made, the duplicate listings will disappear!

## Don't Forget Past CONNECTIONS Clues!

Past CONNECTIONS Clues are available on the CONNECTIONS Website at:

Intranet: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/quicktip>

Internet: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/connect/quicktip>



## Coming Next...

### In Our Next Issue:

- ⇒ New CONNECTIONS Clue: Missing Progress Notes
- ⇒ PHR Transformation Follow Up Presentations

