



CONNECTIONS Weekly Technical Bulletin

May 27-June 2, 2016

Weekly System Maintenance

Records Retention Run Successful

The quarterly Records Retention cycle was successfully deployed over the weekend of May 20th. Users identified as Records Retention recipients should now have access to the reports via the Reports tab of the CONNECTIONS application.

To determine the recipients of the two Records Retention reports in your district, contact the CONNECTIONS Application Help mailbox at ocfs.sm.conn_app@ocfs.ny.gov.

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will be unavailable on:

- **Friday, May 27, from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.**
- **Wednesday, June 1, from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.**
- **Friday, June 3, from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.**

New GIS Message: Respite Care and Services

A new General Information System (GIS) message is now available: **GIS #16-004: Respite care and Services**.

This purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to local departments of social services (LDSS) regarding the payment and reimbursement of respite care and services provided for foster children pursuant to 18 NYCRR Part 435.

For more detailed information, please see the GIS message in full, as well as past GIS messages, at the below website:

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/it/GeneralResources/GeneralResourcesDefault.asp>

Upcoming CONNECTIONS Build: Family Services Stage—Phase 4

The next build to the CONNECTIONS application is tentatively scheduled for implementation in early June and will include the modernization of the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP) and the Service Plan Review (SPR), as well as new functionality to support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

The FASP and SPR of the Family Services Stage (FSS) will be updated to a modernized user interface, consistent with other modernized CONNECTIONS modules such as Child Protective Services Investigation (INV) and Family Services Intake (FSI). Overall functionality, as well as security access rules, will remain essentially the same.

Additionally, new edits and windows will be introduced to further support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

A **Job Aid**, which provides an overview of the modernized and new windows in CONNECTIONS, as well as step-by-step instructions for certain tasks, is available on both the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

Additionally, an **Impact Analysis** is available on the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

Webinar Training, which began on April 11th, has concluded. If you are interested in training and your district or agency was unable to attend the previously offered course, please contact your Regional Implementation Specialist.

The most recent edition of the CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin, available on both the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#), provides more detailed information.