

CONNECTIONS WEEKLY SYSTEM UPDATE



To: CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators
From: CONNECTIONS Communications
CC: LAN Administrators/Security Coordinators, Keyusers,
OCFS~Directors of Services, CONNECTIONS Project
Team
Date: November 12, 2004
Re: Activities for the week of 11/12/04-11/19/04

1. Update ~ Fail-over Test for the CONNECTIONS Production Application/Database Rescheduled

OFT and OCFS Technical Support have rescheduled the Fail-over test of the CONNECTIONS production application/database previously slated for *November 20th*. The test will now be performed Friday, November 19th, from 4:00AM to 7:00AM.

2. Training for Voluntary Agencies On the STARS System

The Office of Children and Family Services, in conjunction with the Center of the Development of Human Services (CDHS), is introducing an important enhancement to greatly ease registration for Build 18, and all other Department sponsored trainings for voluntary agencies. Currently, local districts register for training online through the STARS system. However, voluntary agencies are currently required to call or fax each training provider separately in order to register. Beginning in mid-November, voluntary agencies will be able to access STARS and register for training online. In addition, a special Build 18 module has been created within the STARS system to ease registration for this training for both local districts and voluntary agencies.

Initially, four orientation sessions to acquaint agencies with the use of the STARS system, have been scheduled; one for each of the upstate regions from Albany to Buffalo. The dates and cities of these sessions are as follows:

- *November 9--Buffalo*
- *November 18--Syracuse*
- *November 22--Rochester*
- *December 1--Albany/Rensselaer*

A two hour morning and a two hour afternoon session has been scheduled for each day. Orientation sessions for Regions 5 and 6 will be scheduled for January and February 2005. The attached document includes the exact times, addresses, contact person for registration, and other details of the sessions in Regions 1-4. If you cannot attend, please contact CDHS at the number provided in the document below to make alternative arrangements to receive the necessary information to enable your agency to access this new training registration tool.



STARS Orientation
Annoucement...

3. **Records Retention**

Records Retention completed successfully Tuesday, November 9th. The Expunged Reports should be visible on the Reports lists. Please note that the To Be Expunged reports ran on Wednesday, November 10th and should also be visible on the Reports lists.

4. **CONNECTIONS Training Information Update for Case Management Build 18**

Communication was forwarded to Implementation, Security and Backup Security Coordinators and Staff Development Coordinators from both Voluntary agencies and local districts, and Directors of Services as well as Executive Directors related to the training schedule for the Field Test, and Waves 1 through 3. This information is also posted on the CONNECTIONS website on both the Implementation and Training pages under the subheading of Build 18.

5. **CONNECTIONS System Down Time**

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance CONNECTIONS will be unavailable on:

Friday, 11/12/04 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Wednesday, 11/17/04 5:00 AM - 7:00AM

Friday, 11/19/04 from 4:00 AM - 7:00 AM*

****Please note the one-hour additional downtime.***

6. **Microsoft Exchange Mail Servers**

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance on MS Exchange E-mail 5.0 servers, all Exchange E-mail 5.0 servers will be unavailable on:

Sunday, 11/14/04 from 1:00 AM - 6:00 AM