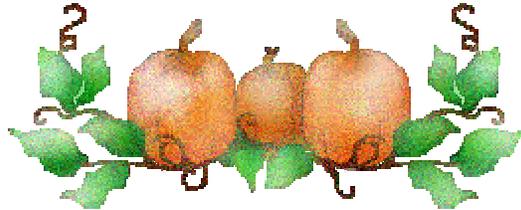


CONNECTIONS WEEKLY SYSTEM UPDATE



Frost on the Pumpkin and Vine

To: CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators
From: CONNECTIONS Communications
CC: LAN Administrators/Security Coordinators, Keyusers,
OCFS~Directors of Services, CONNECTIONS Project
Team
Date: November 19, 2004
Re: Activities for the week of 11/19/04-11/26/04

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. The CONNECTIONS Application will not be available during this time frame.

2. Update ~ Additional Training Date for Orientation for Voluntary Agencies On the STARS System

As previously announced, the Office of Children and Family Services, in conjunction with the Center of the Development of Human Services (CDHS), introduced an important enhancement to greatly ease registration for Build 18, and all other Department sponsored trainings for voluntary agencies. Beginning in mid-November, voluntary agencies will be able to access the STARS system and register for training online.

Initially, four orientation sessions, to acquaint agencies with the use of the STARS system, were scheduled, one for each of the upstate regions from Albany to Buffalo. One additional training date has been added in December. The remaining dates and cities of these sessions are as follows:

- *November 22--Rochester*
- *December 1--Albany/Rensselaer*
- *December 8--Buffalo*

The attached documents include 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
Announcement...



STARS Orientation
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3. **Update ~ CONNECTIONS Training Information for Case Management Build 18 for the Field Test and Waves 1 through 4**

Individual communications have been forwarded to Implementation, Security and Backup Security Coordinators, as well as Staff Development Coordinators from both voluntary agencies and local districts, and Directors of Services and Executive Directors, related to the training schedule for the Build 18 Field Test and Waves 1 through 4. This information is also posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet website on both the Implementation and Training pages under the subheading of Build 18. We would encourage those involved in the Field Test, as well as those districts and voluntary agencies involved in Waves 1 through 4, to register for training at this time.

4. **CONNECTIONS System Down Time**

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance CONNECTIONS will be unavailable on:

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

Wednesday, 11/24/04 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Friday, 11/26/04 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM

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

5. **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, 11/21/04 from 1:00 AM - 6:00 AM