

~The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY~
November 4 ~ 11, 2005



Build 18.6 Has Been Postponed...

Please note that the implementation of Build 18.6 is being postponed until further notification. Additional information regarding Build content and schedule will be communicated when both the content and schedule are re-visited.

System Latency Issue...

The CONNECTIONS Technical Team has been working to resolve recently identified system latency issues. Some of the reasons causing latency have already been resolved and the Tech Team is continuing to work to identify and fix the remaining issues. We will provide updates as these issues are resolved.

Planned Power Outage for the Veteran's Day Weekend (November 11-13, 2005)...

There is a planned power outage for 40 North Pearl Street, Albany, for the Veteran's Day holiday weekend. The purpose of this outage is to make necessary improvements to the cooling system in the Ten Eyck building, specifically in the Office for Technology (OFT) Data Center, located at 40 North Pearl Street, Albany.

The OFT Data Center houses OCFS network/server/email equipment, so there will be a major impact on most OCFS computer activity that weekend.

The power is scheduled to be shut down at 12:00PM (Noon) on Friday, November 11, 2005, and restored by 12:00PM (Noon) on Sunday, November 13, 2005. During that time the following will be unavailable:

- Outlook/Exchange Email access
- HSEN Network

- VPN access
- CONNECTIONS Application
- OCFS computer applications requiring internet/network connectivity

If you are located at a site other than 40 North Pearl Street, you may have local computer access, but will not be able to access any network functions such as email, file-shares (your H: drive), or centralized applications (CONNECTIONS, etc.). You may be able to logon locally to your PC and access items physically residing on your PC's hard-drive, but you should be aware that lack of network connectivity may result in unexpected errors.

We request that at close of business on Thursday, November 10, 2005 - you turn off your PC and any peripheral equipment attached to it (scanners, printers, etc.). At start of business, Monday November 14, 2005, you may power up the equipment and proceed with business as usual.

Thank you in advance for your patience and participation in this effort.

CONNECTIONS System Issue...

Please be advised that when the SCR takes a report, and a cross reference is found involving an OPN-CPS case or, an OPN services case containing an FSI stage that has not been progressed to FSS, CONNECTIONS will not allow a merge. When a CPS intake report is received under these circumstances, the SCR will make the intake report an Initial. When the intake information is categorized as Additional Information, the SCR cannot record it in CONNECTIONS. The SCR will verbal the information to the local district.

The SCR will issue an internal protocol to staff that, in the event of the above, they note the open case in Misc. to which we were unable to merge.

Several Documents Have Been Updated on the CONNECTIONS Website...

Just as an FYI...several documents have been updated to include current Build information. The following updated documents have been posted to the CONNECTIONS website:

- CONNECTIONS Build 18 Job Aid: Changes to CPS Functions– Version 1.3 revised September 22, 2005
- CONNECTIONS Build 18 Quick Start Guide – Version 1.4 dated September 19, 2005
- CONNECTIONS Supervisory Functions System Build 18 Job Aid – Version 1.2 dated October 4, 2005
- CONNECTIONS Step by Step Data Maintenance for Family Services Stages – Version 1 dated October 11, 2005
- CONNECTIONS Step by Step Guide: Training for CPS Workers revised September 15, 2005

Adoption Discharge and Finalization Checklist ~ Effective Post-Build 18.6...

A checklist that identifies the steps users should follow in CONNECTIONS, WMS and CCRS, when performing an adoption discharge or, finalizing an adoption was created based on an identified user need. The checklist was developed through the joint efforts of both the CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation Field Support staff in the Syracuse region and the CONNECTIONS User Acceptance Testing Team in Albany! We would like to thank those individuals on both of the Teams, especially, Janet Parry, Cindy Corlew and N. Madhan who spent numerous hours in the development, crafting, reviewing and testing of this document!

nyseWebstar Informational Update...

Webstar problem adding users to CONNECTIONS from 10/26/05 - 10/28/05

Please note that during the time period 10/26/05 - 10/28/05, there was a problem with nyseWebstar that prevented users from being added to the CONNECTIONS Application. As a result, any users who were added to the Application during this period will have to be added again. We regret any inconvenience that this issue may cause and thank you for your understanding.

WMS General Information System (GIS) Messages...

Please note that there have been several GIS Messages distributed recently. They are:

- WMS GIS 05-008 transmitted on October 3, 2005 regarding Services Systems case processing forms (CCRS and WMS)
- WMS GIS 05-009 transmitted on October 14, 2005 regarding Reporting of Income when authorizing Child Care in WMS (Services, CT 40)
- WMS GIS 05-010 transmitted on October 14, 2005 regarding New “Day Care” sub-goal: 1F Self Support: Employment-Child Care in lieu of Public Assistance
- WMS GIS 05-011 transmitted on November 1, 2005 regarding Services WMS Coding Guide updated to reflect Income Source Codes

All of the above referenced GIS Messages are available in the Public Folders:

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/ GIS (system change notices)*

The updated WMS Coding Guide is available in the Public Folders:

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/ WMS Services reference documents*

If there are questions related to these message you may contact OCFS ITOperations (1.800.342.3727).

“Did You Know....”

FASP Assessments and FASP Reassessments...

As you may be aware, not all items “carry-over” from one FASP to another. Those items that do not carry over are the Scales, Update Questions and Assessment Issues. The reason that these items do not carry over is because each FASP Assessment and Re-assessment should be a fresh description of what has occurred in the recent past (since the last FASP). If nothing has changed then workers need to re-evaluate the Service Plan, PPG etc. to attempt to support progress made. It should be noted that the items included on the FASP, as well as the FASP structure, were suggested and discussed in various user’s groups and then solidified by the OCFS Legal and Policy Bureaus.

For your convenience, a chart was created that identifies “What Comes Forward” from the Initial FASP to the Comprehensive and Reassessment FASP. The chart is posted to the CONNECTIONS website on the Implementation and Desk and Job Aid page.

When CONNECTIONS Will Be Unavailable...

- ***Friday, 11/4/05*** from 5:00AM - 7:00AM
- ***Wednesday, 11/9/05*** from 5:00AM – 7:00AM
- ***Friday, 11/11/05*** from 12:00PM (noon) through ***Sunday, 11/13/05,*** 12:00PM (noon) to implement the planned power outage