

CONNECTIONS WEEKLY

August 5-12, 2005



Build 18.4 Is On The Horizon!!!

Build 18.4 is scheduled for release the weekend of August 18th. The contents of the Build will be communicated by August 15th.

Wave 10 Implementation Info...

Monday, August 15th is Day 1 of implementation for the Nassau and Suffolk Departments of Social Services as well as thirteen voluntary agencies.

Save The Dates...

As a point of note, on Monday, August 8th, the program that runs after conversion that closes cases with no open stages but open status, will be run for those districts in Waves 8 and 9. Monday, August 29th is Day 1 implementation of Build 18 for participants of Wave 11.

Preview Dates of Note...

On Monday, August 22nd, the Preview environment will be available for Wave 13 and the Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 11 and 12.

Virtual Private Network (VPN) Access for State Owned Laptops...

Just to let you know, a communication was forwarded to all OCFS LAN Administrators on Tuesday, August 3rd regarding information on VPN access for State owned laptops. The two documents that were communicated are posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet site on the Home, Implementation and System/Network pages of the CONNECTIONS intranet.

OCFS Data Warehouse Changes....

There are a few changes within the OCFS Data Warehouse to take note of:

- **OCFS Data Warehouse login process has changed.** Previously, the OCFS Data Warehouse could be accessed by typing the URL <http://ocfsdatawarehouse> into the address line of Internet Explorer. Please note that after July 19th, users of the OCFS Data Warehouse will need to have, at the minimum, the PN Agent software installed on their machines. There are a number of configurations that can be used with the

PN Agent to meet the needs of both the District and Voluntary Agency users.

- If you do not already have the PN Agent installed on your machine, please contact your Local Area Network (LAN) Administrator or call the NYS Enterprise Helpdesk to have them remotely install the agent onto your machine.
- If you already have the PN Agent installed and it contains entries to CONNECTIONS, but not to the OCFS Data Warehouse, please reboot your machine to refresh the PN Agent.
- If you already have PN Agent installed on your machine, but your agency is using the agent to point to an internal application rather than to CONNECTIONS, please use the following URL to log into the OCFS Data Warehouse: <https://ocfcitrixwi.ocfs.state.ny.us>

If, after July 19th you login using the 'old' login process you will be connected to the 'old' Citrix server, which contains outdated report cubes and catalogs. The instructions to successfully login using the PN Agent are posted on both the Home and OCFS Data Warehouse pages of the CONNECTIONS intranet.

- **Data Warehouse users must upgrade reports on their T drives.** The OCFS Data Warehouse software has been upgraded to Cognos v7. Although the Data Warehouse Team has already upgraded all the pre-defined user reports, users will have to upgrade any PowerPlay and Impromptu reports that they have saved to their T:\ Drives. It is extremely important that users save back-up copies of their reports before attempting to upgrade them. For step-by-step instructions we refer you to the document posted to the OCFS Data Warehouse page of the CONNECTIONS intranet to upgrade Impromptu reports. Please note that instructions for updating PowerPlay reports will be sent once the PowerPlay cubes are available in the new environment.
- **The CFSR PIP Reports have a new look.** Instructions regarding how users can now access details for each of the six national CFSR PIP indicators through one main Six National Indicators report are available on the OCFS Data Warehouse page of the CONNECTIONS intranet.

If you should have any further questions regarding the OCFS Data Warehouse we encourage you to contact the Data Warehouse Team at data.warehouse@ocfs.state.ny.us.

“Quick Tip...”

Submitting a FASP for Approval...

Please note that the identified procedure is for a Case Planner to submit the FASP for approval; the FASP will first go to their Unit Approver and then to the Case Manager. However, if **any** supervisor from a voluntary agency goes into the Case Planner's workload and submits a FASP for approval, it will go directly to the Case Manager for approval. This process will then bypass the Case Planner supervisory approval process.

The Uniform Case Record (UCR) Regulations Are Now in Effect!!!

The child welfare regulations amending the Uniform Case Record (UCR) and supporting the associated components of CONNECTIONS were filed on July 14, 2005. They appeared in the August 3, 2005 State Register, and became effective as final regulations as of that date. The regulations, among other things, also change the time frame for Title IV-E re-determinations from every six months to every twelve months; establish a new provision to provide standards regarding access to foster care records by adults who were non-adopted former foster children; and establish procedures for the transference, notification and plan requirements concerning foster care records when a voluntary authorized agency ceases operation.

When CONNECTIONS Will Not Be Available...

- Friday, 8/5/05 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- Wednesday, 8/10/05 from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- Friday, 8/12/05 from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM