

CONNECTIONS WEEKLY SYSTEM UPDATE

MEMO

To: Implementation Coordinators
From: CONNECTIONS Communications
CC: LAN Administrators, Keyusers, OCFS -Directors of Services,
CONNECTIONS Project Team
Date: August 8, 2002
Re: Weekly System Update--08/09/2002 Week's Activities

1. Case Management Staffing and Equipment Survey

On Wednesday 7/24/02, the CONNECTIONS Case Management Staffing and Equipment Survey and related reference materials were forwarded to all local districts and voluntary agencies. Since that time, some districts/agencies have reported difficulties accessing the survey. To address these difficulties we are providing a new URL address that can be used to access the survey. The address is:

<http://172.28.22.37/onlinesurvey/survey.asp>

Also, we are currently working to support access to the survey through the CONNECTIONS Intranet Site. Additional information will be sent regarding this access as soon as possible.

- In New York City ACS, Management Information Systems is coordinating the completion/submission of the survey. Any questions should be directed to Dan Sedlis, Chris Flynn or Henry Wells.
- CIAB sites will need to dial in and launch the Internet Explorer (found in Program Manager) in order to access the survey. After launching the Internet Explorer, the URL address <http://172.28.22.37/onlinesurvey/survey.asp> can then be entered (or copied and pasted) in the URL address area on the Web browser.

Again, we want to stress the importance of this survey. Districts and voluntary agencies should designate one person to complete and submit one survey per district or agency. The completed survey should represent the entire district or agency. Survey results will be used by the CONNECTIONS Project to assist in planning for the future.

A completed survey is due by 8/21/02. Until 8/21/02 you will be able to retrieve and update a previously submitted survey. If additional changes become necessary after 8/21/02 or if you need assistance completing the survey please contact the CONNECTIONS Communications Team.

2. Voluntary Agency NIS Projects

Network Integration Services (NIS) is an ongoing project coordinated with the NYS Office for Technology's Network Architecture Bureau intended to assist local districts, voluntary agencies and State agencies with the integration of State and local Networks. The main objective of the Voluntary Agency NIS initiative is to allow Voluntary Agency staff access to the CONNECTIONS application from Voluntary Agency PCs.

Additional Information regarding the NIS project is now available on the DFA-IT (Customer Support Services) Website <http://sdssnet5/hsasc/lisc/nis>.

3. CONNECTIONS Build 15.1

CONNECTIONS Build 15.1 is scheduled for release on the weekend of September 6, 2002. On Friday, July 26th, 2002, CONNECTIONS Build 15.1 Highlights and Training Support Information was sent to CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators, Directors of Services and Staff Development Coordinators.

Lab based training for Build 15.1 is being offered for two functional areas: **Vacancy Control** and **Local Data Maintenance**. Training is being offered from August 19 – September 6, 2002. Register for training as follows:

- Upstate Districts register using the announcement/schedule included in last week's mailing of the CONNECTIONS Build 15.1 Highlights and Training Supports information. The registration and schedule information is also posted on the CONNECTIONS Intranet Website and in the Public Folders.
- For NYC, ACS staff should contact Sandra Neville (212) 341-2665 to register for training. For Vacancy Control Training DFCS staff should contact Sydney McSweeney at (212)-676-6942. OPA staff should contact Jose Banez at (646)-935-1736.

In addition to the lab training, three new job aids are currently being distributed in hard copy and are available on the CONNECTIONS Intranet Site.

Over the next few weeks, additional materials regarding Build 15.1 Preview Application, Release Notes and distribution schedule will be sent to all districts and agencies.

4. CONNECTIONS Training Database

In preparation for the Build 15.1 enhanced training database, the CONNECTIONS training database will be unavailable effective Monday, 8/12/02. Neither lab-based training nor training database access (using the CONNECTIONS training database from district/agency workstations) will be

available. Beginning 8/19/02, the Build 15.1 enhanced training database will be enabled for Build 15.1 lab based training activities. Access will also be available from individual workstations for those with the appropriate training ID's and password.

5. CONNECTIONS Desktop PC Replacement Project

Recently, we announced that CONNECTIONS received approval from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to replace the remaining 25% of the CONNECTIONS baseline desktop personal computers. Communication materials are currently being developed to assist Local Districts and Voluntary Agencies with the next phase of the CONNECTIONS Desktop PC Replacement Project. We anticipate sending out those materials the week of 8/12/02. Rollout of the new personal computers is expected to begin in early September 2002.

Please Note: The above referenced desktop pc replacement project does not include supplemental equipment, CIABs, laptops, printers or servers.

6. CONNECTIONS System Down Time

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance CONNECTIONS will be unavailable on:

Friday, 08/09/2002 from 5:00 am - 7:00 am

Friday, 08/16/2002 from 5:00 am - 7:00 am

7. Microsoft Exchange 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, 08/11/2002 from 1:00 am - 6:00 am

Sunday, 08/18/2002 from 1:00 am - 6:00 am