

# CONNECTIONS WEEKLY UPDATE

## Activities for the Week of March 18-25, 2005



### 1. CONNECTIONS Case Management (Build 18) Update

- **CONNECTIONS Case Management (Build 18) Implementation Schedule and Preview Update**

The following schedule identifies the current dates for the implementation of Preview as well as the implementation (production) of Build 18.

- **4/11/05** - Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Waves 1 and 2 and the Tioga Department of Social Services
- **4/25/05** – The Preview environment is available for use by Waves 6E and 7. The Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 3 through 6W.
- **5/2/05** - Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Waves 3 and 4.
- **5/16/05** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Waves 5 and 6W.
- **5/23/05** - The Preview environment is available for use by Waves 8, 9 and 10. The Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 6E and 7.
- **6/6/05** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Waves 6E and 7.
- **7/11/05** – The Preview environment will be available for use by Waves 11 and 12. The Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 8, 9 and 10.
- **7/18/05** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Waves 8 and 9.
- **8/8/05\*** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Wave 11.
- **8/15/05** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Wave 10.

- **8/22/05** - The Preview environment is available for use by Wave 13. The Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 11 and 12.
- **9/19/05** – The Preview environment is available for use by Wave 14. The Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 12 and 13.
- **9/26/05** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Wave 12.
- **10/17/05** – The Preview environment will be refreshed for Wave 14.
- **10/24/05** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Wave 13.
- **11/21/05\*** – Day 1 implementation (production) of Build 18 for Wave 14.

\* **Please note:** *The production and Preview dates for Waves 11 and 14 are under currently under review.*

- ***Preview Release Notes***

It should be noted that the Release Notes for CONNECTIONS Case Management (Build 18) Preview, which identify the remaining SIRS and suggested workarounds, was forwarded under a separate cover. The Preview Release Notes are posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet website.

- ***Build 18.1***

The current scheduled implementation date for this Build is April 1, 2005. The descriptive content of the changes, fixes and enhancements to application functionality will be forthcoming in Build 18.1 Release Notes. Please note the downtime for the implementation of this Build will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM.

- ***Changes, Fixes and Enhancements to the System***

As you are aware, communication has been forwarded related to planned and implemented changes, fixes and enhancements to application functionality. The communications that were forwarded the preceding week are attached and also posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet site on the Implementation page.



- ***FSS/FSI Units Update***

Prior to the implementation of Build 18, each district, agency and borough production CONNECTIONS application was populated with the units for Family Services Intake (titled FSS/FSI units). It was necessary to create these units so that voluntary agencies will

be able to forward FSI's for approval/progression to an FSS to local districts and, local districts can send FSS's for acceptance by voluntary agencies. It appears that these units do not currently exist for some districts/agencies. If the FSI/FSS units were created for your district/agency, we ask that they not be deleted and that the titles of these FSS/FSI units not be changed. Please note that CONNECTIONS Field Support staff will be working with districts and agencies who do not have these units established.

- ***Citrix Client ~ Program Neighborhood (PN) Agent Update***

As you are aware, the entry point into Citrix (CONNECTIONS Production and Training environment) has been changed via the installation of the Program Neighborhood (PN) Agent. The PN Agent was distributed statewide to both local districts and voluntary agencies, via a Tivoli push.

The following sharepoint ~ [\\fnpcfs0a1abv\ocfsshare\](#) ~ has been created to allow access to the PN Agent to those agencies that were inaccessible by the push. Please note that if you must have Administrator access in order to download the PN Agent from the sharepoint. After accessing the sharepoint you will have to double click on Citrix.exe, and reboot the machine when the install has been completed. Then the user can log back in with their own NT ID. It should be noted that once the PN Agent is installed a user will just have to click on the desktop ICON, select the appropriate ICON to enter the application, and the CONNECTIONS application will load up. One of the benefits of using the PN Agent is that there is no need to login a second time to access the application.

Please note that if users are experiencing issues with the PN Agent they should call the NYS OFT Enterprise Help Desk (1-800-NYS-1323).

**Instructions for NIS Agencies Regarding Loading the PN Agent**

The following sharepoints should be used when loading the PN Agent on NIS machines.

- For NIS agencies without DNS, the share point would be - [\\172.16.102.83\ocfsshare](#)
- For NIS agencies that have OFT Corp DNS zone transfers setup, after the server is added to the upload zone dfa.state.ny.us, the share point would be - [\\fnpcfs0a1abv.dfa.state.ny.us\ocfsshare](#)

- **Wave 10 Training Information**

The attached document, regarding Wave 10 training, was forwarded to Implementation Coordinators, Directors of Services, Executive Directors and Staff Development Coordinators and is posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet website.



Build 18 Training  
Wave 10 training 3-2

## **2. CONNECTIONS Build 18 Job Aid: Interfaces and Conversion Issues ~ Revised Version**

The job aid attached below provides information about the processes of interfacing and conversion between CONNECTIONS and the legacy systems that are being introduced with Build 18.

The job aid is posted on the CONNECTIONS website on the Desk/Job Aid page and in Public Folders (All Public Folders > dfa.state.ny.us > CONNECTIONS > Build 18 Implementation Information.

Please note that the version attached below is a revised version dated, February 28, 2005, and contains some changes and additions that were not included in the November 8, 2004 version that was previously distributed in hard copy to staff attending CONNECTIONS training.



Interfaces &  
Conversion Issues Jo

## **3. Changes to Investigation Conclusion Closure Reasons**

The attached document details the *new* Investigation Conclusion Closure Reasons that were introduced with the implementation of Build 18 on February 28, 2005. This document includes expanded definitions of the Conclusion Closure Reasons.



Changes to  
Investigation Concl..

## **4. CONNECTIONS Case and Financial Management Confidentiality Teleconference**

There will be a teleconference on March 31, 2005 provided by the NYSOCFS, NYS OCFS/Bureau of Training and SUNY Training Strategies Group, on the topic of CONNECTIONS Case and Financial Management Confidentiality. The goal of the teleconference is to help both local district and voluntary agency staff gain a better understanding of the current standards of confidentiality, as they will apply to electronic financial and case management when Build 18 is implemented. The teleconference will provide helpful information regarding access to, and sharing of,

information, external communication vs. electronic case records, progress notes, the caseworker's role in CPS investigations, and how computer security systems support confidentiality. Please note that an update on implementation activities, as well as an update on the schedule will also be discussed during the teleconference. A copy of the announcement and downlink sites is attached below. The announcement is also posted on the OCFS intranet website <http://sdssnet5/ohrd/distancelearning/satellite/announcements/536.pdf>.



Web announcement  
Final approved.doc



Downlink Site  
Contacts.htm

## **5. *Proposed Regulatory Amendments for Standards for Uniform Case Records (UCR) (18 NYCRR Part 428, et.al.)***

This notification is to inform you that a notice of Proposed Rule making has been filed on the aforementioned regulation. The notice appeared in the March 2nd, 2005 State Register. The public comment period began on that date and ends on April 18, 2005. The complete text of the regulation is posted on the OCFS Internet/Intranet site for forty-five consecutive days. The following links will connect you to the site where the regulation is posted.

<http://sdssnet5/ocfs/> (look under "What's New")

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/> (look under "What's New")

## **6. *Migration of the Oracle Name Server Traffic to a New Address***

The document attached below was forwarded by the OFT Customer Relations communications on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The communication defines the migration of the Oracle Name Server. The document identifies contacts that users may direct questions to.



CRC-051  
oracle\_name\_server\_

## **7. *WMS General Information System (GIS) Messages***

The attached messages, regarding Build 18 Services case processing issues, were posted to the WMS General Information System (GIS) on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 and Tuesday, March 22, 2005.

Please note that this mailing has also been posted to All Public Folders>dfa.state.ny.us>OCFS>TSU>\*\*\*Services systems reference Documents>GIS (system change notices).

Please refer to the attached for instructions related to any additional WMS processing anomalies or questions.



BLD 18 GIS.doc (28 Update on Build 18  
KB)  
Services ca...

## 8. **Office for Technology (OFT) Event Calendar**

The Event Calendar is an online calendar of technology related events and activities across New York State available to both state and local staff. The calendar can be accessed from the Office for Technology Customer Relations website at the following URL: <http://sdssnet5/crcc/> and then clicking on the ICON for the Event Calendar. CONNECTIONS related activities are also included on the calendar.

## 9. **eMedNY**

On March 24, 2005 the New York State Department of Health implemented eMedNY, which is the replacement Medicaid Management Information System. Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) will begin using eMedNY on March 28, 2005. The attachment identifies further specifics with regard to contact information.



eMedNY

INQUIRIES.3.18.05.d

## 10. **CONNECTIONS System Down Time**

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance CONNECTIONS will be unavailable on:

**Friday, 3/25/05 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM**

**Wednesday, 3/30/05 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM**

**Friday, 4/1/05 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM**

**Friday, 4/1/05 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM ~ additional downtime  
for the implementation of Build 18.1**