

# **CONNECTIONS WEEKLY**

## **April 29-May 6, 2005**

### ***Day 1 Implementation for Waves 3 and 4!***

Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Day 1 implementation of Build 18 for Waves 3 and 4. This implementation includes the Departments of Social Services of Chemung, Steuben, Broome, Chenango, Madison, Schulyer, Seneca, Yates, Livingston, Ontario Monroe and Wayne counties and twenty-four voluntary agencies.

### ***Build 18.2 Is Coming!***

Build 18.2 is scheduled for Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The enhancements and fixes in the Build will be forwarded to Implementation Coordinators and Directors of Services by Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This document will also be posted on the Implementation page of the CONNECTIONS website. Please note that the anticipated downtime for this Build will be from 6:00 PM, Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> through 12:00 AM, Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, please log out of the CONNECTIONS Application by 5:45 PM, Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Save the Date!***

Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> is Day 1 implementation of Build 18 for Waves 5 and 6 West. Just a reminder, Preview will not be available on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> as the Preview environment will be refreshed for Waves 6 East and 7. On Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> Preview will be available for use by Waves 8, 9 and 10 and a refreshed Preview environment will be available for Waves 6 East and 7.

### ***Supervisory Training for Build 18 Cancelled***

The half-day Supervisory Training Course for Build 18, offered through the SUNY Training Strategies Group, has been cancelled. After input from all involved stakeholders, including local district and voluntary agency staff, it was decided that the information that supervisors need from this course could be transmitted most efficiently in a special, Supervisor's Job Aid, which is being developed now and will be issued within the next two weeks. The Supervisor's Job Aid will be posted on the Desk & Job Aid page of the CONNECTIONS intranet site and will also be included, as an attachment, in the CONNECTIONS Weekly.

This change will not only provide supervisors with the necessary information they need to use the new system functionality effectively, but will reduce the time they need to be out of the office for Build 18 training, thereby further freeing them to meet their demanding schedule commitments. Additionally, it will free training staff to support the implementation of the Build by providing additional training in other ways.

### ***Conversion Planning Report Info***

As of Thursday, May 5, 2005, the Conversion Planning report will no longer be run for those counties that have been implemented (converted) with Build 18 functionality (Waves 1-4). The report will still be available to those involved in Waves 5 through 14. Moving forward, the report will use the Data Warehouse as the source for CONNECTIONS data. A new Conversion Planning report will be generated as of the end of day May 5th to synchronize the report to the data. The next iteration of the Conversion Planning report will be generated as of Thursday, May 19th (which is the third Thursday of the month), please note that all the following month's Conversion Planning reports will follow on the third Thursday of the month.

### ***PN Agent***

There appears that there may still be issues with either the use of, or the downloading of, the PN Agent. If you have successfully downloaded the PN Agent and are having issues using it (you are receiving error messages) we ask that you please phone the NYS OFT Enterprise Help Desk (1.800.NYS(697).1323) for remediation.

### ***Dragon Naturally Speaking Software is Available...***

A letter (dated April 27<sup>th</sup> regarding information on the availability of Dragon Naturally Speaking (version 8.0) software was emailed to Commissioners, Directors of Services and CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators. Please note that the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has purchased and is making available 2,500 licenses of this software to local districts. Dragon Naturally Speaking is a voice recognition software, designed to assist staff in entering narrative data into computer applications, such as CONNECTIONS. For a copy of the letter and a question/answer document please see the Home page of the CONNECTIONS intranet website.

### ***CONNECTIONS System Down Time***

- Friday, 4/29/05 from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- Wednesday, 5/4/05 from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- Friday, 5/6/05 from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- Friday, 5/6/05 from 6:00 PM through 12:00 AM May 7th