FAR Build Postponed

As announced on Monday, March 10th, the Family Assessment Response (FAR) build scheduled for March 28 has been temporarily postponed while additional preparatory activities are assessed and completed. A new implementation date will be released as soon as possible. In addition, the "OCI and MPR Report Paths" build, described below in an supplementary article, has also been delayed. These deferments are not expected to be protracted and staff should continue to prepare for the full integration of FAR into the CONNECTIONS application.

FAR training, announced in previous *Build Bulletins* and posted to the Implementation page of the CONNECTIONS websites, will continue as scheduled. Staff who have already registered for training have three options: 1) attend registered training courses as planned, 2) reschedule training to attend a training session closer to the FAR build, once this date is established, or 3) attend the training as planned in the coming weeks and attend a second training closer to implementation as a refresher.

Please note that although training sessions scheduled closer to implementation will prioritize staff who have not yet attended a course, sufficient FAR training classes will be offered to accommodate all training requests. For staff who have registered for early training, please also note that two detailed job aids will be made available prior to the build that will serve as valuable resources in refreshing staff to FAR changes.

⇒ (1) *Introducing the Investigation Stage Summary and Transformed Investigation Windows Build Job* (available on the Intranet and Internet)

⇒ (2) *Family Assessment Response (FAR) Build Job Aid*, (posted in the coming days to the CONNECTIONS Implementation page at the following links: (Intranet / Internet)

FAR Build: Background

Comprehensive CONNECTIONS system support for Family Assessment Response (FAR) will be implemented with an upcoming build. With this upgrade, a new FAR stage will be incorporated into CONNECTIONS and various windows used for FAR and INV stages will be modernized. A FAR Impact Analysis has been developed that outlines these changes while also delineating the key impacts for all levels of affected staff, district policies and business processes.

Although the new FAR Stage will affect primarily those districts current participating in the FAR program, other changes will affect a broader range of staff using CONNECTIONS. The build will also modernize existing investigation windows, including Safety Assessment, Risk Assessment, and INV Progress Notes. These updated windows will now appear visually similar to the rest of the INV windows in CONNECTIONS, which feature a navigation pane and collapsible sections. The investigation window related changes are "look and feel" changes only—there will be no modification to window functionality or business rules.

In addition, there will no longer be a CPRS link on the NAVIGATION PANE of the My Workload tab; the Child Protective Record Summary window will no longer be available. Instead, the new Stage Summary window will provide CONNECTIONS users with access to specific view-only stage action windows for INV stages (i.e., Case Summary, Review Intake, High Priority Factors (NYC only), Allegations, Investigation Actions, Safety Assessments, Risk Assessment, Progress Notes, Local Protocol, and Investigation Conclusion).

The FAR Impact Analysis, training announcement, and training schedule are available on the CONNECTIONS Implementation webpage at the links below. Staff should routinely refer to this page and upcoming weekly CONNECTIONS Build Bulletins, where more information will be provided as the build approaches.

CONNECTIONS Implementation (Intranet / Internet)

FAR Training Announcement

Training Update: As of Wednesday, March 12th, over 200 staff have registered for the FAR training. An estimated 350 staff in FAR participating districts will be immediately affected by the FAR build.

Getting to Know the Family Assessment Response (FAR) Stage in CONNECTIONS

Build iLinc Training

This training is targeted to staff in the districts that participate in the FAR program. Registration for the classes is now available through the Human Services Learning Center. (HSLC: https://www.hslcnys.org/hslc/) In addition to the training, two Job Aids will be made available soon that will cover both the new FAR Stage in CONNECTIONS and other changes to CONNECTIONS that will affect aspects of CONNECTIONS, primarily for CPS workers.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to familiarize local district and voluntary agency workers whose agencies utilize the Family Assessment Response (FAR) approach with the new FAR stage in CONNECTIONS. Participants will learn about the components of a FAR stage and how to record information on the windows that comprise it, such as Family Led Assessment Guides (FLAGs), Action Plans, Safety Assessments, and the Risk Assessment Profile (RAP). Participants will also learn about track switching a FAR stage to an Investigation (INV) stage and the new Stage Summary window.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of completing this course, participants will be able to:

✓ identify changes arriving with the creation of the FAR stage in CONNECTIONS.

✓ maintain FAR stage allegations, progress notes, Safety Assessments, and the Risk Assessment Profile (RAP) in CONNECTIONS.

✓ record FAR-specific components in CONNECTIONS including the Family Led Assessment Guide (FLAG) and Action Plans.

✓ identify when a FAR stage must be track switched to an INV stage in CONNECTIONS and how to do so.

✓ describe how to access and navigate within the Stage Summary.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Local district and voluntary agency workers and supervisors responsible for recording FAR-related casework activities in CONNECTIONS.

TRAINING LENGTH

3 hours

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Prior to beginning this course, it is highly recommended that all participants be experienced with CONNECTIONS and complete the following courses:

• *Introduction to iLinc*

• *CPSRT*

• *NYC Integrated Core* (NYC workers only)

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration in STARS/HSLC is required.

Please note: There are no training fees charged to local district social services and voluntary agency personnel for CONNECTIONS trainings.

TRAINING HANDOUTS

The handouts for this training are accessible from the iLinc registration confirmation email. It is recommended that you print the course handouts prior to the training.

OCI and MPR Report Paths to Change

In conjunction with the FAR build, the path to access the certain reports will change, including the Open Caseload Inquiry (OCI) report and then Multiple Person Report (MPR) report.

Currently, all CONNECTIONS users have access to reports via the "CONNECTIONS Report" icon on the Citrix desktop. Workers with INV Stages on their caseloads also have access to a version of the OCI report from the left Navigation Panel within the user's Workload & To-Dos tab.

Following the upcoming FAR build, the "CONNECTIONS Report" icon will be removed from the Citrix Desktop, and users will no longer have the ability to generate any report from the this icon. Instead, the OCI report will only be available by going into a workload on the Workload & To-Dos tab and clicking on "OCI By Worker" on the left navigation pane beneath "Outputs" (and any other reports formerly accessed via the Reports Icon). This will generate the OCI report and display it in the "Reports" tab of CONNECTIONS. The MPR Report, which some users currently access via the Report icon, will be available via the left navigation pane from the Reports tab.

The look and feel of the actual report should remain the same. Please notify affected staff of this upcoming change.

Prior Access Option for Reports
(No longer available after FAR build)

Ongoing Report Access
(for OCI Report specifically)