## Builds Remain On Hold

The upcoming Family Assessment Response (FAR) and Reports Services builds remain on hold.

Enhanced FAR functionality in CONNECTIONS will be deployed soon after  the redeployment of Report Services.

The *CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin* will announce a new build schedule as soon as it is established.

## FAR Tip Sheets/Guidance Documents: Now Available

In preparation for the upcoming FAR Build, several guidance documents are now available. Please note that a second job aid, in blue, is new this week. This job aid is relevant to all CPS staff, not just those implementing FAR.

⇒ **Investigation Stage Summary and Transformed Investigation Windows Job Aid**
( Intranet / Internet )

⇒ Family Assessment Response (FAR) Build Job Aid ( Intranet / Internet )

⇒ FAR Impact Analysis (Intranet / Internet)

⇒ CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet : FAR Conversion Scenarios (Intranet / Internet)

In addition, three of the Post Transformation Technical Assistance Handouts have been updated to reflect FAR-related changes .

⇒ Reviewing Person History (Intranet / Internet)

⇒ Completing a Person Search (Intranet / Internet )

⇒ Reviewing Person History via FSS Stage (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 currently 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, April 16, 205 staff  have either registered for or attended the FAR training. Please note that once the build implementation date has been rescheduled, any staff who have already attended the training but wish to attend again closer to the implementation date will be able to do so.*

### 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 are now available that 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.

*To locate all CONNECTIONS Training courses in STARS/HSLC, search using only the following:*

♦ **Provider: SUNY Albany – PDP**

♦ **Content: Systems Connections**

*The date range will automatically be for the next 60 days, which is usually sufficient, but can be changed.*