



FAR Build Postponed: Rescheduled for June 6th, Extended Outage: 10 PM to 6 AM

Issues were identified late in the testing process, and there was insufficient time to correct the issues and test the solutions to a sufficient degree of certainty. As a result of issues identified late in the testing process, the Family Assessment Response (FAR) build originally scheduled for last Friday, May 30th has been delayed one week to allow for more thorough retesting. The implementation has been rescheduled for the evening of June 6 with a system outage from 10 PM to 6 AM.

In addition, there will be a change in the schedule for when certain FAR cases will be converted to the new functionality. In prior communications it was announced that open FAR cases would be converted during a regularly scheduled, morning maintenance window from 4AM-7AM several days after the initial implementation of the new FAR functionality. Instead, all INV stages with the Family Assessment Response check-box checked that are not assigned to the 'Closed FAR' workload will be converted during the time of the initial build implementation on Friday night, June 6th between 10PM-6AM. More detailed information will be made available soon on the CONNECTIONS Web Sites at the links below.

Please note that the FAR Build, while most prominently affecting the local districts and voluntary agencies participating in the FAR program, will also contain noticeable changes to the look and feel of INV stages that will affect all CPS workers. The Child Protective Record Summary (CPRS) will be replaced with a new window, the Stage Summary Window, which displays read-only version of the data entry windows.

For more information on the FAR Build and available training, see the CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin on both the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

Two New FAR-Related Business Functions

In preparation for the upcoming Family Assessment Response (FAR) Build, two new business functions (BFs) have been deployed which must be assigned in order for staff to access details of a FAR stage, are as follows:

- 1) VIEW CLOSED FAR – This business function, when paired with the Access All District BF, allows a worker to view closed FAR stages through the Case Summary path. It is recommended that this BF be assigned to all CPS caseworkers, supervisors and managers and to other workers that the district wishes to have access to closed FAR stages. *Similar to View Unfounded/View Indicated.*
- 2) VIEW OPEN FAR – This Business Function, when paired with the ACCESS ALL DISTRICT BF, allows a worker to view an open FAR stage and the corresponding INT stage through the Case Summary path. It is recommended that this BF be assigned to all CPS caseworkers, supervisors and managers and to other workers that the district wishes to have access to open FAR stages. *Similar to View Under Investigation.*

Conversion of Existing FAR Cases

The upcoming FAR build will not immediately convert existing FAR stages to the new, modernized format. Following the build, both **closed** and **open** existing FAR stages will be converted to the modernized format, starting with open FAR Stages converting on the evening of the build migration, June 6th. Subsequently, closed FAR stages will be migrated in phases beginning the week after the initial build migration and continuing into mid-July. The conversions will be scheduled by region, and will occur on Wednesdays and Fridays in the normal 4 AM to 7 AM CONNECTIONS maintenance windows.

A more detailed conversion schedule will be made available in the coming days.

FAR Tip Sheets/Guidance Documents

In preparation for the upcoming FAR Build, several guidance documents are now available.

- ⇒ Investigation Stage Summary and Transformed Investigation Windows Job Aid (*relevant to ALL CPS staff*) ([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 on June 6th. 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](#))

What's Next? CCRS/Activities Window Build

The next CONNECTIONS initiative, which is scheduled for implementation in early August, will feature the transfer of **Child Care Review Services (CCRS)** functions into CONNECTIONS. Staff who enter or view data in CCRS will be presented with a “windows-style” interface that will use more intuitive tools such as dropdown menus and language-based choices to supplement codes as they appear in the current CCRS system.

This new window will be accessible to CONNECTIONS users with the appropriate security profiles and case roles from within the CONNECTIONS application and will be referred to as the **Activities Window**.

The CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin will begin to highlight CCRS/Activities Window implementation soon and updates will continue up to the implementation date.