



February 27, 2013

**New York State
Office of
Children &
Family
Services**

www.ocfs.state.ny.us

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY
12144-2834

Dear Commissioner & Executive Director:

In February 2008, the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a regulation requiring all states to collect data on youth transitioning out of foster care and collect outcome data for certain youth in this population by October 1, 2010. ACF stores this data in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) began collecting the data as required and submits files semiannually.

Effective March 2013, CONNECTIONS will begin to support the collection of data on independent living services provided to foster children in a manner that can be aggregated and reported to the federal government. Eighteen values have been added to the Services Needed window which is accessed from the Service Plan window as part of a FASP or Plan Amendment. These values contain an "IL" prefix in order to readily identify them.

Caseworkers should report the offering or provision of any of the above noted independent living services that apply to a child as soon as practical either in the next due FASP if it is eligible to be launched, or in a Plan Amendment. As the status of already offered services change (e.g., from Planned to Provided Direct) or as new services are offered/provided, these changes should be reflected in subsequent FASPs or Plan Amendment.

Also in March, CONNECTIONS will begin to support the required reporting of tribal membership as one of the demographic characteristics of youth receiving independent living services. This data element is captured as a Person Identifier on the Stage Composition window in the FSS.

OCFS has partnered with The Center for Technology (CTG) to conduct and collect outcome survey information. On March 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20, OCFS and CTG will host a series of webinars designed to train caseworkers on the new changes in CONNECTIONS. The webinars will also provide information about the reporting deadlines and requirements for NYTD. Registration is currently open in STARS.

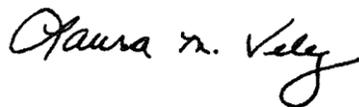
Additionally, CTG created a website (<http://nytd.ctg.albany.edu>) which contains important information regarding NYTD. We ask that you and your colleagues become familiar with the website and share that information with your staff. Case workers will play a key role in collecting the required NYTD data elements as well as informing our foster youth of the opportunity to participate in NYTD.



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Attached is the NYTD tip sheet that describes the changes to CONNECTIONS. Should you have any additional questions as to what system or screen to enter this information please contact Jack Nabozny at 518-402-3078, or your CONNECTIONS regional office representative. For program related topics, please contact your regional office representative.

Sincerely,



Laura M. Velez
Deputy Commissioner
Child Welfare and Community Service



Nancy Martinez
Director
Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis

Attachment

cc: Lisa Ghartey Ogundimu
Regional Office Directors
Director of Services
Jack Nabozny