

## **SUMMARY OF POST-IMPLEMENTATION BUILDS 5 THROUGH 15**

The following is a summary of the updated functionality related to Builds 5 through 15.

### **BUILD 5**

Build 5, released 10/11/97, updated the existing functionality related to the following: corrected the condition which caused an MA/AB Child drop down list to exclude 17 year old children; corrected the condition that caused duplicate allegations to be created upon merging two persons; corrected the condition the caused the Certification/Authorization dates to be updated incorrectly; updated and corrected the Assign window to populate the county field on both the stage table and the Case table when re-assigning a case; corrected the decisions which resulted in erroneous search results; corrected the condition which resulted in a data access error when searching on certain cases; updated conditions related to batch search errors within the Clearance &RFI windows; corrected the condition which resulted in the 'freezing' of the Reauthorization window when approving a 'to do'; corrected several conditions related to the Intake window 'save' function; corrected the condition which allowed workers to simultaneously modify an intake; corrected and updated conditions related reports/letters generated from the Outputs window including the IRI reports, Unauthorized Request for Information report, Person Data Report; updated the condition which caused the Person Merge window to incorrectly update the allegations against the Alleged Subject; modified the CONNECTIONS/MS Word interface to improve stability.

### **BUILD 6**

Build 6, released 11/15/97, updated the existing functionality related to the following: corrected the condition that prevented a closed Administrative Review from being reopened; corrected a BICS interface problem; edited the batch module to ensure that the cases being merged have at least one principal in common; implemented a revised search algorithm and AKA name search functionality to improve "hit" rate; corrected conditions that relate to closure dates of FAD homes; corrected and updated various issues related to the Intake window; improved performance on person search when gender and address are entered as search criteria; corrected the conditions that caused a primary name that has been marked 'Invalid' to display on outputs and be returned by Person Search; corrected several output reports including, the Person Data Report and the Intake Report.

### **BUILD 7**

Build 7, released 12/13/97, updated the existing functionality related to the following: removed an edit that prevented a case merge; corrected conditions regarding the Clearance/RFI; corrected the conditions which causes the reopened homes to be assigned to the default worker; modified the dialogue to allow users to save and assign a report as well as, modifying the dialogue to prevent multiple people from modifying the same Intake simultaneously; corrected conditions related to the call decision window; corrected conditions related 'data access' errors regarding the Person Detail window; corrected the condition that caused the community districts and zones to be populated incorrectly as well as correcting other logic errors with regard to the Resource Directory; corrected the condition which caused incorrect names and phone numbers to be displayed and printed with regard to the Facility Information Report and the Request to Schedule Fair Hearing Report; corrected the condition which prevented the NYC CIN number from being displayed on the Person Data Report; added a subset of the Release 4 security attributes to enable functions that include these attributes to be created/updated.

### **BUILD 8**

Build 8, released 12/7/98, updated the existing functionality related to the following: modified the Assign window to return a person selected during a Staff Search to the top of the list; corrected the condition that caused the message "Data has been modified by another user" to be issued erroneously; corrected the condition which prevented principal's that do not have a primary address from being displayed on the case composition window; add an edit to the batch process to ensure that the "Merge From" and "Merge To" cases have at least one principal in common;

corrected the condition which causes a Dr. Watson error to be issued when canceling out of the Clearance dialogue; modified the print program such that it does not print exception for requests that have a status of 'OTHE' or '4190'; corrected the condition that created a data access error when the user attempted to reject on the Home Licensing Window; corrected the condition which prevented contract services from being generated for FAD's that have out of state addresses; added an edit to prevent users from being able to reauthorize a home more than 90 days prior to the 'Auth To' date; corrected the condition which allows certain blocks to overlap shifts; updated the notices of Indication; corrected the condition that prevented designees from having unit access when navigating through Person Merge/Split and Case Merge/Split; corrected the condition where the Unit Approver was not able to merge people in a case on the workload of a person in their unit.

#### **BUILD 9**

Build 9, released 3/27/98, updated the existing functionality related to the following: corrected the condition which prevented some workers from reviewing unfounded investigations, even when the worker has View Unfounded security attributes; corrected the condition which caused the same individual to appear multiple times in a Case Composition for a FAM stage; modified Case Merge to display a warning message to display a warning message when both cases contain worker safety issues; modified Case Merge/Split to display the correct system status message when splitting multiple merges; modified the Contract Service window to disable the Details push button if the contract has no budget limit; enhanced the Contract Services window to display the decode of the Service contracted along with the service line item; modified the Home Demographics window to populate the Setting and Status fields when accessed from the Event List window; corrected the condition that prevents a fatality report from being merged into an existing case; corrected the condition which prevented the user from executing person search on CIN when additional parameters was selected.

#### **BUILD 10**

Build 10, released 8/1/98, updated the existing functionality related to the following: corrected errors in the Administrative Review dialogue; modified the Allegation List and Detail windows to prevent the same individual from being listed as both an Alleged Subject and MA/AB child in the same report; corrected the condition which caused a data access error when approving investigation conclusion if there is no person in the stage with a date of birth; modified case search to allow search on cases that were closed as a result of a merge; modified and corrected various conditions related to the Clearance, Appeals and RFI windows; corrected the condition which prevented one from entering a total budget for Foster Care or Adoption Subsidy services; modified and corrected several conditions related to FAD activities and outputs; corrected and modified several conditions related to the Intake window; created the Open Case Inquiry (OCI) Report as an online workload tracking tool; corrected the condition which allowed an individual to have no person category; corrected conditions within the Person Merge/Split windows related to duplicate rows added to the database, difficulties merging within a case and wrong error message displays for certain Person Merges; changed Service Code Literals to match the services in the BICS/WMS manual; modified and corrected several conditions related to security within the application; modified the architecture to display a progress bar while a form is being generated; modified the architecture function that will predict when a Dr. Watson error is about to occur.

#### **BUILD 11**

Build 11, released 10/31/98, updated the existing functionality related to the following: corrected the condition which would, in some situations, allow the wrong county to be in the Address following a Code-1 validation; modified and corrected conditions related to the Administrative Review including the logic implemented in Build 10 to properly store allegation snapshots when multiple Administrative Reviews are recorded for the same investigation; modified Security to prevent LDSS staff from withdrawing allegations entered at intake; implemented more specific error messages to facilitate the diagnosis of approval password errors; modified Call Log Search and Monitor functions to prevent sensitive cases from being displayed unless the user has the

proper 'View Sensitive' Business Function Profile, is a designee of the person with 'View Sensitive' or is the original Intake worker; modified Case Merge/Split Batch program to correctly update the Records Retention table; modified and corrected several conditions related to the Clearance functionality; corrected the condition which allowed Save and Submit to be enabled before all required fields in the window are complete; corrected the condition which caused a Data Access Error to occur when navigating through certain converted IAB Investigations that have no facility information; corrected and modified several conditions relative to Intake functions; changed the sort order on the Report List window; modified the Subject Amend letter to allow for Build 10 changes to Administrative Review; modified filtering of the Summary of Intake and Summary of Investigation Reports to be based on a worker's Security; modified and corrected several conditions regarding Records Retention; modified the edit that ensures a unique vendor ID to be executed under all circumstances; corrected the condition which prevented a person from being deleted by Records Retention batch if they are included as a match in a clearance request; corrected the condition which prevented phonetic keys from being generated in the Staff Detail window if a person's name is updated; modified the Unit Access function to provide the proper access to any cases that have stages assigned to units without approvers; modified the Word protection level to allow workers to use the Find capability in reports.

### **BUILD 12**

Build 12, released 3/4/00, updated the existing functionality related to the following: corrected and modified several conditions related to Administrative Review stage including, modifying the Administrative Review to unseal investigations when an Administrative Review changes an investigation from an unfounded to an indicated; corrected the condition that caused time-outs when merging specific cases; adjusted the sort order in the Clearance Results window to be more consistent with the person search results; modified the Stage Progression window to prevent the user from progressing an intake stage which doesn't have a case id associated with it; modified the sort order on the Report List window to group reports by the status, date, name and description; modified the Change Case/Stage Name window to prevent time-outs when a case has more than 40 stages; modified and corrected several conditions related to the FAD including: modifying the FA Home License window to prevent rejected changes to this window from appearing in the window as Accepted-Active, modifying the FA Home License window to show the most recently approved certification dates if re-authorization is rejected; modified several conditions related to Intake including: modifying the Call Summary window to perform a new set of edits which will check the database to ensure that certain critical data exists before allowing an intake to be assigned, submitted or merged, modifying the Call Log list to use the correct date and time of assignments to find calls not acknowledged within 30 minutes of assignment, modifying the Call Entry window to track the date and time an intake is started; redesigned the Intake and IRI reports; modified several conditions related to the Investigation including: modifying the OCI report to use the most recent approval date when there is more than one approval; modified the Person list window to allow users to access the 24 hour Fatality Document or 30 Day Fatality Summary Report on a closed case; modified the Person Search window to unduplicate person search results when using Person ID; standardized the Person Search exact name search function to return all individuals if their DOB's are within 5 years of the input DOB; modified and corrected several conditions related to the Resource Directory including: modifying the Resource Detail window to prevent users from closing agencies when they have active facilities; and modified security conditions and logic.

### **BUILD 13**

Build 13, released 10/30/00, updated the existing functionality related to the following: modified the windows in the CONNECTIONS Application for ease of use, the windows were re-sized to allow more data to be viewed on a window; the default screen resolution was changed on all CONNECTIONS workstations to 800x600; the widgets (e.g. pushbuttons, scroll bars) were spread out on the windows; the list box size was increased on all appropriate windows; the 5000 limit on the number of names that could be evaluated by the system in a phonetic Person Search was eliminated, this change ensures that the system returns good potential matches or, exact matches on all searches, even those on the most common names; the number of results that the

system displays for one Person Search was increased from 50 to 65; due to the window re-sizing, more information will show in the Person Search List so less horizontal and vertical scrolling will be necessary and the number of results in the Person Search List will increase from 5 to 10; the columns in the list box were reordered; Districts have the ability to print a report showing all of the results of a particular search so that the results can be scrutinized 'off-line' and compared to other systems; four new assignment alerts were added to the TO-DO List, these alerts will serve to inform case workers, their supervisors and case managers of new assignments and assignment changes on their cases; new maintenance capabilities were made available to allow Districts to correct inaccuracies in CPS Case Status, these included the ability to reconcile converted FAMILY (FAM) Stage cases and Indicated Open cases and a way to prevent inadvertent closings when a 'subsequent' report is unfounded in an indicated open case; alerts were added to notify the secondary worker that the investigation conclusion has been submitted for approval, this gives the secondary worker a chance to review the determination and provide updates if necessary, prior to determination; improvements were made in the text, form and content of the CPS IAB letters; the CPS Day Care/Foster Care letters have been improved to modify document protection, correct inconsistencies and add necessary identifying information; the criteria necessary to generate Investigation letters has been modified to better reflect case practice; a High Priority Indicator has been incorporated to support NYC requirements to track high priority cases; modifications to FAD licensing windows were made to conform with current policy; modifications to the FA Home Certificate and Approval letter were made; modifications to the FA Close Home window were made to facilitate compliance with the Federal ASFA requirements; the Assign window had been modified to accommodate situations where a FAD case is assigned to a Voluntary Agency worker, the Case List and Case Summary window will show the agency code of the Voluntary Agency. On 7/12/01 additional enhancements to the system were implemented, these include: the implementation of Citrix server/network technology that changed the way local PCs interact with the CONNECTIONS network and servers which allows for easier and more reliable distribution of software upgrades and functionality to the field, the expeditious development and distribution of solutions when software problems are identified and a greater flexibility in how the remaining portions of the Application can be designed.

#### **BUILD 14**

Build 14, released 12/14/01, updated the existing functionality related to the following: numerous improvements were made in the Person Search windows and processes in order to assist users in entering search criteria, and in the quality of person search data; the Person Search window was redesigned to aid in the selection of search type (phonetic or exact) and identification of search criteria; navigation from the Person Search window has also been improved in order to allow access to the Case List directly from the Search window; the "Exact" Person Search process has been enhanced for added flexibility in identifying search criteria and the ability to "validate" an address that has been entered as search criteria, thereby improving the likelihood of matches against the database; "Phonetic" Person Search has been improved in order to return search results more logically ordered based on user defined criteria, the limit of 65 results has been eliminated and improvements have been made in searches for hyphenated names; the data from which search results are generated has been improved for those names converted to CONNECTIONS from the Legacy System and for scoring and identification of exact, estimated and converted dates of birth; changes related to secondary worker assignments to allow secondary workers to view closed stage information in a case, additionally, a supervisor of a secondary worker can change secondary worker assignments, and a Secondary Assignment indicator has been added to the Case Summary Window; a number of "common" CONNECTIONS windows and functions have been enhanced, these changes include: the addition of a Case Search by Stage ID; ease of use enhancements were made on the Assigned Workload and To Do windows to support greater flexibility for workers and supervisors, this includes new "sorts", revisions and additions to the columns on staff and case to-do windows, and a new column titled "Stage Start Date" on the Assigned Workload window; changes to the Event List window were made to facilitate navigation from the list to the event detail and back to the same row on the list; many CONNECTIONS windows were resized to increase the amount of information visible to the user and minimize scrolling; the CONNECTIONS Online Help system

was updated; the CONNECTIONS toolbar was modified to display the name of the individual who is logged on to the Application and the system environment in which the user is working; the implementation of the Child Protective Record Summary which is a new case recording/review tool available for familial and institutional abuse CPS cases, the CPRS provides a structured format in which to view CONNECTIONS information, and record progress notes and supervisory comments; a redesigned and enhanced "Help" capability was rolled-out with the CPRS which includes a comprehensive range of options that integrate system information, application navigation, and case practice guidelines; modifications to the Investigation Conclusion Narrative include changes to the template used by CPS workers in familial cases which has been modified to compliment the new Notes template in the CPRS and reduce redundancy in case recording; legal definitions and standards for determination have also been included to assist workers to record an allegation-specific summary of the outcome of a CPS investigation; the Investigation Conclusion Narrative template for IAB cases has also been revised to compliment the new IAB Notes template in the CPRS; the local save capability also referred to as "Enhanced Narrative Locking" is supported in the CPRS and the Investigation Conclusion Narrative, this capability will assist CPS workers if they are prevented from saving information when two CONNECTIONS users are working on a narrative simultaneously; a new alert message was implemented to notify workers when the phone number or address information for a Reporter/Source is the same as that for a principal in the same report; Local District and Regional Office workers, with the Call Log Business Function Profile, will gain access to the Call Log window (currently used by the SCR) in a "view-only" capacity to help track CPS reports assigned to their respective districts/regions by the SCR, improvements have also been made to the Call Log window and Call Log List Report; automatic change in the address and phone number for a 'related' person, the related person's previous address and phone number will automatically be end-dated with the current date and retained by the system as the historical address and phone number; modifications to the reports and the recording of DOA/Fatality allegations, improvements have been made to the windows, reports, and processes associated with fatalities; modifications have been made in some of the windows supporting the FAD process in order to improve overall ease of use and utility of the windows; new system capabilities have been made available to identify and correct duplicate homes that have been added in the system inadvertently; home closure reason codes were modified; new system capabilities have been added to allow for the creation and storage of Fingerprint Notification Letters in CONNECTIONS, two new letters will be available in Spanish and English; restrictions and new system alerts have been added in order to restrict and track secondary worker activities related to maintaining, transferring, or closing a FAD Stage.

#### **BUILD 15**

Build 15, released 5/19/02, updated the existing functionality related to the following: the CONNECTIONS search functionality was expanded to support a phonetic address search capability in Person Search, Resource Search, and Foster and Adoptive Home Search; several enhancements have been made in Person Merge and Split, these enhancements were geared toward improving data quality and system ease of use; modifications have been made throughout the CONNECTIONS system to meet new federal reporting standards for the collection of multiple races for an individual and for the use of new ethnicity categories; additional system identifiers (e.g. Stage ID, Resource ID, Case Name) were uniformly added to several CONNECTIONS windows in order to improve overall system utility; the implementation of statutory changes in retention periods applying to all legally sealed unfounded investigations whose corresponding intake was reported after 2/12/96; two new dates have been added to Events to expand information available on the Event List; an enhancement to improve support for the supervisory review process by providing workers with easier access to supervisory comments concerning work returned after supervisory review; implemented new functionality that allows local staff under specific circumstances, and with appropriate security, to make corrections to individuals added to the system in error; to support New York City's community-based programming initiative, Community District (CD) will be maintained at the individual and stage level for all New York City addresses, regardless of case assignment; the implementation of the Foster and Adoptive Home Record Summary (FRS) which is a new case recording/review tool that provides

a comprehensive view of FAD information that has been recorded in CONNECTIONS, the FAD Record Summary becomes the on-line mechanism for the creation and updating of Home Study Narratives and contact information; the implementation of the FRS Help which features context sensitive help for all elements of the FRS including tabs, grids, buttons and individual fields, this feature also includes index and search functions that provide alternate means of finding information, interactive graphics and hyperlinks that will take the user directly to related information such as definitions and procedural guideline; the local save option, also referred to as "Enhanced Narrative Locking", will allow workers to save their work locally if someone else is making modifications to the document at the same time; modifications to the Home Demographics window to improve utility of this window; the implementation of a new "Remove Person-Left Home" option to aid in the recording of persons leaving a FAD home; changes related to FAD Homes in emergency status to support regulatory requirements; medical and fingerprint dates are now able to be recorded for all applicable members of a foster/adoptive home; the implementation of system edits that will bring the CONNECTIONS Application in line with existing regulatory requirements; system edits have been added to the F/A Home License window to ensure that Setting and Program Type as entered in the system comply with regulatory requirements; a new FAD Home Closure Report includes a narrative in which workers record the reasons for home closure, as well as basic home demographics and the home closure decision; numerous changes have been made to streamline the FAD dialogue and simplify system navigation needed to create and maintain a FAD home; a system enhancement to expand the definition of jurisdictional access to system information, the system will maintain a record of historical jurisdiction in order to allow access if a worker in the District/Agency was ever assigned to a stage in the case; modifications to the Person Detail window to streamline the process for changing and/or adding individual demographics in CONNECTIONS, the Person Detail window has been modified to include two new menu items on the Options menu thus enabling workers to view and update the majority of demographic information in a single window, a new Reports menu has also been added that will support access to the 30 Day Child Fatality Summary Report and 24 Hour Fatality Summary Report; modifications to Person Maintenance have been added to allow Local District staff to make corrections to individuals; a new task has been added to the Investigation Task List to allow users to navigate to one window to maintain primary address and phone information for multiple people in a stage; the implementation of an easier process for changing assignments made in the Investigation Stage; the implementation of a new Alert for a unit approver, if work is submitted for approval to anyone other than the Unit Approver, the Unit Approver will be issued an Alert, this Alert applies to all tasks that are Saved & Submitted for approval; the CPS Notification letters (Notice of Existence and Notice of Indication) have been updated including the wording in the Notice of Indication Letter which has been modified so that it is correct for either confirmed or non-confirmed subjects, the heading sections were increased to accommodate the letterhead for individual counties, all references to DSS have been replaced with OCFS, the SCR address has been updated and the letter is justified; changes have been made to the Priority Closure Window in order to prevent "Additional Information" and "Duplicate Reports" from being split into a single stage case. On 9/6/02 additional enhancements to the system were implemented to include: the introduction of the Vacancy Control functionality that provides ACS, ACS contract Agencies and Local Districts with the ability to track bed vacancies in Foster Boarding Homes and Congregate Care Facilities for children needing placement; several windows were created to support this functionality including: Vacancy Control Search, Vacancy Control Facility Search Results, Vacancy Control Bed Detail, Vacancy Control Bed Maintenance and Vacancy Control Closed to Intake; the implementation of the Vacancy Control-CD/Borough Award provides NYC/ACS workers with the ability to maintain data that tracks which agencies have been awarded a neighborhood based service contract; three new business functions were developed to support Vacancy Control: Vacancy Search, Vacancy Maintain, Vacancy Award/Close; two reports were created to track placement and notify individuals of 'closed to intake' status changes applied to facilities; the Online Help feature was updated to reflect enhancements made to the system as a result of the implementation of Vacancy Control; the implementation of the Local Data maintenance window allows local users to correct information in closed CPS/IAB Investigation or FAD stages, this includes the implementation of four data maintenance functions: Person Demographics, Add/Relate Person, Allegation

Maintenance and Investigation Conclusion Maintenance; the implementation of two new business functions related to Local Data Maintenance, Maintain Closed Investigation and Maintain Closed Person Demographics.