

~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
August 18 ~ 25, 2006



The CONNECTIONS Program Improvement Plan Update...

The CONNECTIONS PIP (CPIP) team continues to monitor the system to track performance and asks that if users experience any issues with the application they report them to the NYS OFT Enterprise Help Desk at 1-800-NYS (697)-1323. The CPIP team thanks you for your continued assistance in this regard!

Activities for the week of August 11 ~ 18, 2006

It should be noted that Post Build 18.7.4 timings have been conducted on the following application activities; FSS Progress Notes Print, FSS Progress Notes Search, Person Search in the FSI, Log On, FASP Safety Assessment, FASP Risk Assessment, Workload, Case Search, Navigate Approval To DO-FASP, Person Merge-Save and the timings conclude that for the majority of these activities the timings Pre-Build 18.7.3 scaled longer than those Post-Build 18.7.4. Significant improvement in timing recall was seen with the FSS Progress Notes Print function. Please note that the sites where the timings were calculated are sites that have an HSEN connection to the network. For your review, the timings will be posted on the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Home page. We caution those that access this document that it be used by agencies as a reference point only. If your agencies performance is deemed "slow" we ask that you, as you normally would in the course of business, contact the OFT Enterprise Help Desk to report this issue.

The Revised District Agency (DAP) Profile...

We are pleased to announce that the District Agency Profile has been revised and updated! Earlier this year we canvassed the user community, as well as CONNECTIONS Implementation staff members, to ask which areas of the DAP were most useful, as well as other areas that they thought would be important information to collect. Since that time Implementation staff have been busy revising and editing the DAP to accommodate user/team needs. The DAP now has an advanced Search capability, users can search on both the alphabetic name of the agency or district or, search using the agency/district code. The Contact page has also been revised to include the CONNECTIONS Implementation Lead, as well as email information on the contacts listed. Another feature of this revision is the ability that agencies/districts now have access to the contact information of each agency/district listed in the DAP. The modifications are too numerous to identify in this piece so why don't you check the DAP out for

yourself! As previously, the DAP can be accessed from the CONNECTIONS intranet, directly from the Home page.

Revised SPAM Security Information...

For your information, there is a revised SPAM security info document posted to the Security page of the CONNECTIONS intranet. As you know, SPAM (unsolicited, unwanted emails) have become an increasing problem for OCFS staff. The document describes how to determine SPAM and what to do if you receive this type of mail.

Builds...Builds...Builds... Builds...Builds...Builds...Builds...

Build 18.8.5 Info...

The implementation of Build 18.8.5 is scheduled for late September '06. This Build is scheduled to include changes to CONNECTIONS to support a new process for SCR Database Checks that will impact the State Central Registry only. Additionally, several fixes to CONNECTIONS application functionality are included. Among these are: new stages on the workload will no longer remain grey following access, pagination will be supported within the INV stage CPRS Progress Notes, the copy Progress Notes feature will be supported from an Initial INV to a subsequent INV when there is an FSS in the case and from an FSS to an INV, and correction of the Address Validation functionality in the Resource address detail. This build will also add new business functions to support Build 18.9. The Build Release Notes, which are expected to be available by the beginning of September, will have a detailed description of each fix.

Build 18.9 Info...

As you are aware, the implementation of Build 18.9 is scheduled for December 2006. For a highlight of the information on the content of the Build we refer you to the handout that was presented at the NYPWA conference which is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website, on the Home page.

WMS Information...

Office/Unit /Worker Code in CONNECTIONS Linked in WMS

This notification was communicated on Monday, August 14th, in the form of an OCFS General Information System (GIS) message to local district Directors of Service and WMS Coordinators, to advise that, effective August 14, 2006, Office/Unit/Worker code can no longer be updated in WMS (WSUWK1) if the case is linked to CONNECTIONS (CCRS indicator is "Z"). The Case Manager for these cases can now only be updated in CONNECTIONS. The Family Services Stage should be reassigned to the new Case Manager who should, in turn, re-synch CONNECTIONS with WMS.

To further define this message please refer to the following information:

CONNECTIONS > WMS - Establishing the Case Manager and Access Permissions

- ***CONNECTIONS Office/Unit/Worker Code:*** This data (O/U/W) is entered in the Staff Detail window in CONNECTIONS. When a Case Manager is assigned to a case, their O/U/W code is passed to WMS in the CONNECTIONS/WMS Interface transactions for that case (initiating app reg, saving demographic changes or by pressing the WMS SYNCH button). The CONNECTIONS Case Manager's O/U/W becomes the Office/Unit/Worker in WMS. It is important to make certain that all Case Managers in CONNECTIONS have unique O/U/W codes entered in Staff Detail as this data drives legacy batch reports and the WMS discrepancy report.
- ***WMS User ID/Password:*** A local district worker's User ID must be recognized by the legacy WMS system (Albany Production) in order to initiate CONNECTIONS/WMS Interface transactions. The accounts are authorized by your local TTSS coordinator and are not related to the O/U/W IDs described above. Since an attribute of the User ID also determines online legacy print output, if your WMS ID is not known to WMS and linked to a printer, reports may not print to the appropriate printer. Please note that when a Voluntary Agency user saves demographics on a CONNECTIONS case that is linked to WMS, the User ID of the Case Manager will determine where WMS online reports print.

Did You Know...

That, upon approval of an INV stage that is indicated and closed with an open closure reason, an FSI is created and placed on the workload of the primary worker. The FSI should be stage progressed so that the initial FASP may be completed within 7 days of the date of indication. When the FSI is created and not immediately stage progressed, the entry of the application date on the FSI, which post dates the date of indication, will affect the FASP due cycle. The system is using the date of application, rather than the earlier CID trigger date of the date of indication. If the application date and the date of indication are not the same this may result in the CID and the FASP due cycle being out of synch. It is recommended that in this circumstance, users not enter the date of application in the FSI stage. The date of application may be entered upon stage progression to the FSS on the FASP tab. This will keep the FASP due dates and the CID in synch.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...

The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- SPAM Security Information document

Weekly System Maintenance... CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...

- ***Friday, 8/18/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM

- **Wednesday, 8/23/06** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 8/25/06** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- **Wednesday, 9/1/06** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM