~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
September 1 ~ 8, 2006

September 4, 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 25 ~ September 1, 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 are 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.

Completing the District Agency (DAP) Profile...

As you are aware, the District Agency Profile has been revised and updated! We ask that you complete the requested information contained on the Staff Build 18.9 page ~ Staff by Function ~ by **September 15th**. This information is critical to the training and support plan that we are developing for the implementation of Build 18.9. Please note that access to the DAP is maintained by either the agency Implementation or Security Coordinator. These individuals can give access to the DAP to agency personnel. If it appears that no one in your agency has access to the DAP you should contact your CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation team member.

A Head's Up About the Availability of the Preview Application...

Soon we will communicate information to agency Implementation Coordinators about the availability of the Preview application for designated individuals in both local districts and voluntary agencies. As you know, the Preview application provides users with an opportunity to practice using new CONNECTIONS Case Management functionality. Preview will operate a bit differently this time around in that we are requesting agencies to designate individuals that they wish to be granted access to the Preview application. Look for this letter by the middle of next week!

OCFS Data Warehouse News...

There have been updates to a few OCFS Data Warehouse documents to include recent Build functionality. The following documents have been updated:

- Comparison of the OCFS Data Warehouse Environments
- OCFS Data Warehouse Case Management (Build 18) FASP Reports Step-by-Step Guide
- OCFS Data Warehouse SSL-VPN Request for Cognos ReportNet Access
- OCFS Data Warehouse Quick Reference Guide for Cognos ReportNet

All of these documents are posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on both the Home and Data Warehouse pages.

Info on Build 18.8.5...

The implementation of Build 18.8.5 is scheduled for late September 29, 2006. 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 security attributes 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 Forums...

Just a note to look for information on the Build 18.9 Regional Forums that are being planned for the Fall. The Forums will provide detailed information on the new functionality that will be included with the implementation of Build 18.9.

Quick Tips...
WMS Interface Tips...
You cannot close a Services case in WMS when the CONNECTIONS case is still open. When a WMS case is linked to an open FSS stage in CONNECTIONS, the CCRS Indicator in WMS will be "Z". Once the CONNECTIONS stage is closed, the CCRS Indicator in WMS changes from a "Z" to a "Y", indicating that the WMS case may now be closed.

And...
The Office/Unit/Worker information for the Case Manager (from the *Staff Detail* window in CONNECTIONS) is sent to WMS; however, if the case is reassigned, the new Case Manager code is not automatically sent from the *Assign* window. The worker must perform either the Application Registration Maintenance process (before the case is open) or the WMS Synch Maintenance process (after the case is open) on the <u>Stage Composition</u> tab. The Center Office, Unit and Worker fields continue to be modifiable in WMS; however, CONNECTIONS information will override the changes made in WMS.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...
The following documents were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:
- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- OCFS Data Warehouse News and Notes
- Comparison of the OCFS Data Warehouse Environments
- OCFS Data Warehouse Case Management (Build 18) FASP Reports Step-by-Step Guide
- OCFS Data Warehouse SSL-VPN Request for Cognos ReportNet Access
- OCFS Data Warehouse Quick Reference Guide for Cognos ReportNet

Weekly System Maintenance...
CONNECTIONS Application Downtime...
- ***<u>Friday, 9/1/06</u>*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***<u>Wednesday, 9/6/06</u>*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***<u>Friday, 9/8/06</u>*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***<u>Wednesday, 9/13/06</u>*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM