~ The CONNECTIONS WEEKLY ~
November 3 ~ 10, 2006

Further Info on Build 18.9...

To keep everyone in-step with the status of our revised implementation plans for this Build, we wanted to let you know that we are in the process of reviewing the schedule, as well as the training plan for the Build and will advise you of their final status within the next few weeks. Our current plans for implementation remain to include all of the modifications and enhancements that we have presented thus far. As you are aware, we have begun our internal application testing phase and are committed to delivering a quality product that will perform within acceptable technical and practical standards. As such, we want to allow ample time to effectively test the new functionality prior to the release of the Build to users. For your reference, a letter (signed by William Travis, Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Information Technology) sent to local district Commissioners and voluntary agency Executive Directors, on Friday, October 27th, detailing the reason and status of the postponement of the Build is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet on the Home page.

An Update on the Requests for the Preview Environment...

Just to update you, we recently received a flurry of user requests for the Preview environment and have submitted them, as well as the previous requests, to our Tech team and they are in the process of working with OFT to implement the plan to input all of the user requests. It is anticipated that this will be completed within the next few weeks and we will let you know when Preview will be available!

Implementation Issues Compiled ~ Versions 1 through 18...

At the request of users, we have compiled all of the implementation issues, as well as their current status, that were included in all eighteen versions of these documents into one document. This version is posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet, and can be located on the Implementation page.

Looking for Build 18.9 Info...

Just as a reminder, the following documents have been created to introduce users to the new Build 18.9 functionality. They are all posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet and the paths to the documents are defined below.

o ***Build 18.9 Impact Analyses...***

Five ***NEW*** Impact Analyses have been developed and are posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet. The intent of these documents is to provide the user with a more through understanding of the specific functionality that is described in each. The documents identify the functional area of the application that is impacted, provide a brief description of current function/process, define what remains the same and highlights what business processes and functions will change following the implementation of the Build. The following are the titles of the Impact Analyses documents.

- Build 18.9 Permanency Hearing Report
- Build 18.9 FASP Assessment and Service Planning
- Build 18.9 FSS Interface between CONNECTIONS & WMS
- Build 18.9 Case Management ~ Education
- Build 18.9 FAD Adoption Subsidy Homes

The path to the documents is: *CONNECTIONS intranet (http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/) >* click on the Implementation button > look under Current Build Information CONNECTIONS Build 18 > Build Information > Build 18.9 Reference Documents.

o ***New!!!! Step-by-Step Guides & Job Aids...***

One Step-by-Step Guide and three *DRAFT* Job Aids were posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet this week. We have accelerated the release of these documents so that users will be able to get a "jump start" on reviewing the upcoming Build functionality. Please note that the Job Aids are in ***DRAFT*** format and will be revised as Build functionality is tested. The following are the documents that have been posted:

- *CONNECTIONS Step-by-Step Guide: Common Functions* ~ the purpose of this guide is to provide the user with step-by-step instructions to complete basic tasks that are common for most workers

In addition we have accelerated the release of three Build 18.9 Job Aids so that users will be able to get a "jump start" on reviewing the upcoming Build functionality. Please note that the Job Aids are in ***DRAFT*** format and will be finalized, and posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet in the final format, immediately prior to the release of the Build.

- *CONNECTIONS Critical Improvements System Build 18.9 Job Aid* ~ the contents provide a detailed overview of the system enhancements to the CONNECTIONS application released in Build 18.9
- *CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9 Job Aid Education* ~ this Job Aid provides users with a detailed overview of the Education module being introduced with a the implementation of CONNECTIONS Build 18.9.
- *CONNECTIONS System Build 18.9 Job Aid Permanency Hearing Reports* ~ this Job Aid contains information about the new functionality that will support the major changes introduced with the Permanency Bill (Chapter 3 of the Laws of 2006).

A fourth Job Aid, that will provide information related to the Health piece that will be implemented in the Build is currently in development and is scheduled to be released, in DRAFT, next week.

Build 18.9 Questions & Answers from the Forums…

As we had promised, we are in the process of compiling the questions, with their respective answers, from the Build 18.9 forums. Lots of good questions were asked, statewide, during these venues and we want to share them! Look for the Q & A's soon.

Question: Where Can I Easily Find CONNECTIONS Related Forms?….

Answer: On the CONNECTIONS intranet! In response to customer requests, there is a **NEW** button on the CONNECTIONS intranet that users can *"click"* to locate CONNECTIONS related forms. The button is located in the left hand navigational box, directly under the *FAQ* button. This gives users immediate access to Security forms and Equipment forms, as well as other forms that users may need from time-to-time.

The OCFS Data Warehouse New & Notes ~ October 2006…

Want to know about upcoming User Group meetings? Need more info about the SPRs Outstanding Detail Report? Puzzled about which FASP report to use? For answers to these questions, and to get info about other Data Warehouse activities, take a look at the October 2006 issue of the **OCFS Data Warehouse News & Notes**!

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet…

The following documents were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:

- The CONNECTIONS Weekly
- The OCFS Data Warehouse News & Notes ~ October 2006
- A Compilation of Implementation Issues ~ Versions 1 through 18

Weekly System Maintenance…
CONNECTIONS Application Downtime…

- ***Friday, 11/3/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday, 11/8/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday 11/10/06*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM