"ANNOUNCING": The Bridges to Health Home and Community Based Waiver Program...

Governor Eliot Spitzer and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Commissioner Gladys Carrión Announce Landmark Community Health Program for Children in Foster Care - **Bridges to Health**

The Bridges to Health (B2H) Home and Community Based Waiver Program was implemented effective January 1, 2008 through the joint efforts of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services and the NYS Department of Health, with input from the NYS Office of Mental Health and the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Bridges to Health is part of Governor Spitzer's Children's Agenda, aimed at improving opportunities for all of New York's children, including those with special needs.

The B2H Waiver Program will provide expanded and enhanced services to at least 3,300 foster children with disabilities, including children in OCFS custody. The B2H Waiver Program will be phased-in over a three year period and will include the enrollment of children in New York City and the Rochester and Albany regions in the first year. The program will then expand to the Syracuse and the Lower Hudson Valley regions in the second year, and to Long Island and the Buffalo region by the third year – providing services to the entire state.

B2H consists of three Waivers; B2H Serious Emotional Disturbances (B2H SED), B2H Developmental Disabilities (B2H DD) and B2H Medically Fragile (B2H MedF), that are designed to provide community-based health care services and supports to children in foster care, and to those that have been discharged from foster care, while in one of the three B2H Waivers. The program will also serve their families, including birth parents, foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and siblings. This program is the first of its kind in the nation.

Bridges to Health includes the following services; health care coordination; family and caregiver support; crisis management; intensive home care support; immediate crisis response services; accessibility modifications; and advocacy for the children's participation in school and other community activities. Once children are enrolled in the program, they may be eligible for services until they are 21 years old.

Information concerning a child's B2H enrollment must be entered in the Welfare Management System (WMS) to facilitate payment by Medicaid. In the coming months, functionality will be added to CONNECTIONS to allow workers to capture selected B2H information. System instructions will be made available on the OCFS CONNECTIONS intranet website at a future date. Additional B2H information is available on the OCFS website at: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/bridgestohealth.

Looking for Who Does What and When??? Or, "Who is on first or, second, and third"...

Well, look no further than the CONNECTIONS intranet website. All you have to do is click on the "Contact Us" button and look under the heading "How To Get Help" and you will find a number of links, phone numbers and contacts to help you with equipment issues, application issues, security issues and a host of other questions you may have!

A Bit of News from the OCFS Data Warehouse...
The Six National Indicators Report is Available for 2006...

The OCFS Data Warehouse Team is pleased to announce that 2006 data has been added to the CFSR PIP Six National Indicators report. As part of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process, the federal government established six data indicators for which there are national standards -- Recurrence of Maltreatment, Incidence of Abuse/Neglect in Foster Care, Length of Time to Reunification, Length of Time to Adoption, Stability of Placement, and Re-entry to Foster Care. In a continuing effort to support districts in the implementation of the State's CFSR PIP, the OCFS Data Warehouse maintains a report that replicates the six data indicators. For each indicator, data is provided on the national standard, New York's rate, and the rate for each county. Drill-through reports provide child-level data with key pieces of information to permit reviewing other dynamics of the indicator on a case-by-case basis.

Data Warehouse users can access the report through the Cognos 8 environment by following the steps below.
1. Login to **Cognos 8**.
2. Click on the **OCFS Data Warehouse** tab, if it is not already open. [If you do not see the OCFS Data Warehouse tab, use the instructions on the Quick Reference Guide at http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/dwstep.asp to add it.]
3. Click on **CFSR Program Improvement Plan**.
4. Click on the link for **Six National Indicators** with the report icon next to it.
5. At the report prompt, select the year **2006**.

6. Click on the **Finish** button to run the report. Please be patient; it may take a couple of minutes for the report to appear.
7. To view detailed data for an indicator, click on one of the blue hyperlinks in the report output.

For more information on the Six National Indicators, view the report write-ups at http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/datawarehouse/dwreports.asp.

A Letter from the Pen of Bill Travis to Commissioners and Executive Directors...
(Please note that this piece was included in the Weekly dated 12/28/07)

On December 27th Bill sent a letter to local district commissioners and voluntary agency executive directors thanking them for their cooperation and attention ensuring that their staff have an alternative method for access to the Human Services Enterprise Network (HSEN) in lieu of the Remote Access Server (RAS) decommissioning. Our joint efforts have been very successful in this transition! Read the letter in its entirety on the CONNECTIONS website! It has been posted to the *Home, Implementation and News for Users* pages.

New Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet...
The following document(s) were recently posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website:
- *The CONNECTIONS Weekly* for the week of December 21, 2007

Weekly System Maintenance...
Because of regularly scheduled system maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will not be available on...
- ***Wednesday, 1/9/08*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Friday, 1/11/08*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- ***Wednesday 1/16/08*** from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM