



..CONNECTIONS NEWS..

for the week of May 29 - June 5, 2009

Developing a more caseworker centric system

CONNECTIONS Intranet site: <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers

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General "Info to Know"

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****Please note the additional application downtime for Saturday June 6th from 8 AM until noon.**

"Info to Know" for Caseworkers



UPDATED INFO - Quarterly Improvement Plan - Q2-09

Q2-09, which is scheduled to be implemented on Saturday, June 27, 2009, will include important enhancements to the CONNECTIONS application that support programmatic changes, as well as several system improvements. The major ease of use enhancements included in Q2-09 are recommendations from the Child Welfare System Transformation Business Team. These recommended enhancements are based on a collaborative effort on the part of OCFS, local district and voluntary agency casework and supervisory staff. The following are the key areas of the application that will encompass the noted enhancements:

- **FASP improvements** - modifications to the Strength Needs and Risk scales, Safety Assessment (*an optional comment box will be available from the Safety Factors window when "No Safety Factors Present" is selected*), Needed Improvements/Changes tab, Strength Needs and Risk Scales - O and A Blocks and the Original Reason for Case Opening.
- **FAD improvements** - modifications to New Homes - SCR Database Check Dates.
- **Permanency Hearing Report improvements** - PHR mapping, pre-fills from a pending or in-process FASP, as well as additional pre-fill changes.
- **Other improvements** - placement information will be able to be updated in CONNECTIONS separately from CCRS, the Case Summary window will display CPS determinations, modifications to Progress Notes, To Do's and Person/Merge/Split.

The Highlights Document for the Quarterly Improvement Plan - Q2-09

The *Q2-09 Highlights* document was sent to local district and voluntary agency Implementation, Security and Back-up Security Coordinators, Directors of Service, Resource Users and other key agency personnel on Thursday, May 28th. The Highlights are also posted to the CONNECTIONS intranet website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link: http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/imp/build18/Q2_09_Highlights_final.pdf

This document presents a high-level overview of programmatic and application changes, modifications and enhancements.

Other Q2-09 Tools

In addition to the Highlights there will be other tools to aid in the implementation of this Quarterly Improvement. They are:

- Q2-09 Release Notes
- Update to On-line HELP
- Impact Analysis document titled: *Changes to the Family Assessment and Service Plan*
- CONNECTIONS Q2-09 Quarterly Improvements Job Aid

General "Info to Know"

GIS General Information System - #09-009 - New Income Eligibility Standards 6/1/09 - 5/31/10

To: Directors of Services, WMS Coordinators

From: Paul Gavry

Suggested Distribution: Casework Supervisors, Caseworkers and Day Care Workers

Date: 5/28/09

This is to advise that the new income standards to be used in determining eligibility for Services are scheduled to migrate to production and will be reflected in WMS Services case processing effective June 1, 2009.

The new income standards were promulgated in 09-OCFS-INF-03, issued on April 6, 2009 which can be found under "Informational Letters" here:

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/policies/external/>

The new standards are as follows:

Family Size	Income
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050
5	\$25,790
6	\$29,530
7	\$33,270
8	\$37,010

Add \$3,740 per person for family size over 8.

The new standards have been incorporated into an updated Eligibility Determination spreadsheet (*Version 10 Eligibility Worksheet 2009*) used in Title XX under 200% of poverty calculation. The updated spreadsheet is located in: *All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/Finance/Eligibility/ Automated Eligibility.*

The new standards will also be reflected in the Eligibility Manual for Child Welfare Programs, located in: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/eligibility/>

Program questions should be directed to the appropriate regional office, as noted in the INF.

Systems questions should be directed to OCFS IT Operations at 1-800-342-3727.

GIS messages are available in Public Folders at the following path:

*All Public Folders/dfa.state.ny.us/OCFS/TSU/ ***Services systems Reference Documents/ GIS (system change notices)*



Client VPN Cut-Off Date Extended to May 31, 2009

OFT Customer Notification - Juniper VPN Network Connect Client Migration (09-CNS-02)

Note that any device; PC, laptop or tablet, that uses Client VPN (currently Cisco) to connect to the HSEN network is required to make the change to the new Juniper Client by **May 31, 2009**. Any device that has not converted to the new Juniper Client after that date will not be able to connect. **The hardware that supports the Cisco client will be decommissioned on June 1st.** *NOTE: SSL VPN users WILL NOT be affected by this change.*

For further information please refer to either the OFT Customer Notification 09-CNS-02 [http://sdc.ofc.state.nyenet/crcc/crc/2009_crc_files/ciooft-09-CNS-2 Juniper VPN Final.doc](http://sdc.ofc.state.nyenet/crcc/crc/2009_crc_files/ciooft-09-CNS-2_Juniper_VPN_Final.doc) or, the previous edition(s) of the CONNECTIONS NEWS <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/projupdt/weekly/2009/CONNECTIONS%20Weekly%20-5-22-09--News--.pdf>

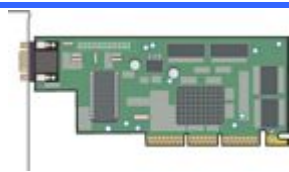
All technical issues should be directed to the OFT Coordination Center at 1 (800) 603-0877. Any other issues or questions can be directed to: *Mike Demars*, NYS OCFS - IT, 40 N. Pearl St. - 15 B, 518-402-3695, Michael.Demars@ocfs.state.ny.us



NEW Postings to the CONNECTIONS Intranet

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

- ...CONNECTIONS NEWS... <http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/>



Weekly System Maintenance

****Please note that additional application downtime for:**

- **Saturday, 6/6/09** from 8:00 AM - noon

Due to regularly scheduled system maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will not be available on...

- **Wednesday, 6/3/09** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM
- **Friday, 6/5/09** from 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM



Office of
Children & Family
Services

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