THE CONNECTIONS WEEKLY
April 18 - 25, 2008

The Implementation of an Oracle Upgrade and What That Means…(Please Note that a more detailed item on this topic was included in the bulletins from April 4 and 11.)
In keeping with the idea of a *transformation*, we have begun to look at the infrastructure that "supports" the CONNECTIONS application and are looking to upgrade this. As a step to this end, we are upgrading the "base" of application, and will be implementing this upgrade on **Friday, May 2nd**. **There will be a downtime window of eighteen (18) hours – beginning Friday evening at 6:00 PM and concluding on noon on Saturday, May 3rd.** We are aware that this is a lengthier downtime than you are used to, and the reason for this is so that we can build in cushion time and make sure that the application is performing properly in the upgraded environment. Please be assured that before we implement this upgrade we will have "tested" it in various environments here at OCFS first – the local districts are just adding to a "real time" test. There will be more to come about the 'Transformation' and what it means to you in your daily work environments, so stay tuned!

Good News! The AFCARS Report: 'Children In Care With No Clinical Diagnosis'… An Updated Version… In previous bulletins we notified you of the availability of the April version of this monthly report. The report documents excellent progress state wide toward meeting the AFCARS standard of compliance of 90% of all children with a clinical diagnosis. Since the September, 2007 submission to the federal government, New York's rate of compliance has increased from 30% to 60%. There has been significant improvement both in New York City and in the rest of the state. This is encouraging news, but we need you to continue to input this information until we have reached at least a 90% compliance rate, and hopefully 100% of all children with the appropriate diagnostic information.

Please note that this report can only be accessed by a few individuals at the local district who perform this function and in order to access the report you need a designated password that has been assigned by OCFS. The new version of the report, like the last, is based upon the AFCARS population as extracted from CCRS. The report lists individual children who do not show the appropriate diagnostic information, along with CCRS and CONNECTIONS ID numbers, the case planner and case manager, and agencies that are involved, if applicable.

A reminder, to meet AFCARS requirements for each clinical diagnosis for a child in placement over 30 days, staff must enter at least one AFCARS diagnosis for any domain type <u>OR</u>, enter one of the following appointment types in the physical/medical domain:

- Well Child
- Initial Assessment
- Re-Assessment

with any diagnosis or a blank diagnosis.

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 April 25, 2008 (will be posted Tuesday, 4/22)*

Weekly System Maintenance...

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

- <u>Friday, 4/18/08</u> from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- <u>Wednesday, 4/23/08</u> from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- <u>Friday, 4/25/08</u> from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM

Please Note: Donna Cramer, the usual presenter of this information is out for several weeks as she recovers from a seriously broken arm and follow up surgery. While she is away, I will be producing the weekly bulletin. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Gerry Magnes