CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin

New CONNECTIONS Enhancements: April 22, 2020

A new CONNECTIONS Build, scheduled for implementation on Wednesday, April 22, during the normal morning maintenance window, will include the below enhancements and changes, many of which originated via application change requests submitted from the field.

1. Modifications to the Contract Search Window

To more efficiently maintain Contracts, especially in light of increased usability with the implementation of the Placement Module, the following new search parameters have been added to the existing Contract search window: Vendor ID, Agency ID, Contract Period Status, and To and From Dates of the Contract Period. These new tools should assist contract managers in refining their searches, as they seek to keep foster care contracts current and monitor those coming due.

2. Modifications to the AFCARS Adoption Information Window—In Child Case Record (CCR) stages.

In accordance with new AFCARS federal reporting requirements, several updates have been incorporated into the AFCARS Adoptive Information window in CCR stages. Updates include:

- Two new values added to the "Marital Status of the Adoptive Parent(s) or Guardian(s)" dropdown

- Additional values added to the "Relationship of Adoptive Parent(s) to Child" dropdown, and the added ability to multiselect, where appropriate

- The addition of a new dropdown, "Inter/Intrajurisdictional Adoption or Guardianship"

- The existing "Year of Birth" dropdown has been updated to the standard "DOB" field, with a date-picker calendar

- New values have been added to both the "Race" and "Hispanic Origin" fields

- Two new dropdowns have been added: "Sex" and "Tribal Membership" - which are required fields for each adoptive parent or guardian.

- Minor changes to the language in many labels and field names — including some of those listed above

3. New Values Added to the Service Plan Review (SPR) Follow-up Services options

In the SPR Follow-Up Services window, thirteen new values have been added to the "Services" dropdown. Additionally, the numeric digits that prefaced the existing values in the dropdown have been removed.

4. "New Using" functionality has been added to the Family Assessment Response (FAR) stage Family Lead Assessment Guide (FLAG)

New Using functionality has been added to the FAR FLAG. Selecting New Using on an approved FLAG, when no other FLAG is in process, pulls forward the selected FLAG, with all previous responses saved, and allows the worker to make changes and save and submit, as needed.
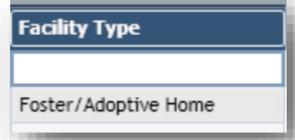

5. Obsolete Allegations Disabled in Investigation and Family Assessment Response (FAR) stages

The following obsolete allegations: Inappropriate Custodial Conduct (INCC) and Inappropriate Isolate/ Restraint (ISOL) can no longer be added to INV (Familial, Daycare, or Foster Care) or FAR Stages, via both New or New Using.

6. "Facility Type" has been added as a new column on the Workload

A new column, Facility Type, has been added to the Workload Grid. For FAD stages only, the column will populate with the Facility Type of the home. For all other stage types, the column will be blank.

7. FAD stages in Inquiry Status for more than one year will be automatically closed

Foster Home Development (FAD) stages that have remained in Inquiry status for more than one year will now be system auto-closed.

8. In the Case Search window, WMS Case ID, when entered in lowercase, will be converted to uppercase upon search

When completing a WMS Case ID search in CONNECTIONS, if any of the WMS Case characters are entered in lowercase, upon clicking "Search," they will convert to uppercase. Prior to this change, a WMS Case ID would not return when the search parameters remained in lowercase. Now, if a case exists, it should always return.

9. A new Progress Note Type: Criminal Clearances

To support a specific business process at New York City's Administration of Children Services (ACS), a new Progress Note Type, Criminal Clearances, has been created which is limited to LDSS workers with a role in a case, or LDSS workers who have the accompanying new View Criminal Clearance business function. Voluntary Agency staff can never see or write these new notes and cannot be assigned the new business function. The Criminal Clearance Progress Note rules also apply to Uploads, where a new subcategory, Criminal Clearance, has been created.

10. Decommissioning of Vacancy Control

Functionally, the Placement Module now replaces Vacancy Control, and the latter has been decommissioned. To users, this means that the Vacancy Control link has been removed from the Search/ Maintain dropdown and everywhere else it was previously navigable within stages.

The Connections Team is here to help!

Resources

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CONNECTIONS

STAY SAFE and WASH YOUR HANDS!