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SSIS Update

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NEXT REPOSITORY UPLOAD

FEB 27, 2015

General update for statewide research and reporting.

PILOT RELEASE UPDATE:

Pilot Agencies Use New Version 15.1 Features

Agency staff at Carver, Cass, Dakota, and Washington begin piloting SSIS version 15.1 next week. Some of the features that agency staff will help test include:

- Functionality to transition Relative Custody Assistance to Northstar Kinship Assistance: Commissioner Transition Verification, Commissioner Transition Log, Commissioner Transition Benefit Agreement, and Commissioner Transition related documents.
- Automated Northstar Adoption Assistance Eligibility Determination and Benefit agreements.
- MAPCY Assessment enhancements and a new "Assessment Due – MAPCY or DOC" general report.
- Fiscal changes – see the release schedule article for details.

V15.1 is scheduled for statewide release on March 9 – 10. Draft pilot documents will be emailed statewide this week and posted online on CountyLink.

NOTE: For details regarding new fiscal features in 15.1 and 15.1.5, please see [Release Schedule Changes](#) on page two.



REMINDER
February 18th
Worker Mentor
Meeting
[View Agenda](#)

Register now
on [TrainLink](#).

Release Schedule Changes

Due to the complexity of the changes to the Title IV-E claims and the implementation of the planned Northstar claims, the functionality for these claims is moved to an interim release scheduled after Release 15.1. Agencies can create a report and work on current IV-E proofing messages until receipt of 15.1.5. Do not finalize or submit the report until you receive 15.1.5.

The 15.1.5 interim release is scheduled for April 6, 2015. This release does not require a county outage. The new Child Foster Care Report includes the previous Title IV-E Abstract Report and the proposed Northstar report combined into a single report now due April 28 (one time delay for this report only).

See summary below for dates and a list of what is included in the 15.1 and 15.1.5 releases.

15.1

March 9 -10 — Statewide release

- Commissioner Transitions - starting with RCA to Northstar Kinship Assistance
- Adoption Assistance Eligibility and Benefit Agreement, Kinship Benefit Agreement changes, other changes
- MAPCY assessments and reassessments for permanency, other MAPCY reports
- Title IV-E Abstract Report will be retitled Child Foster Care Report (will only include Title IV-E until 15.1.5 when Northstar claims and proofing added)
- Child Foster Care Claim Search (Will only include IV-E until 15.1.5 when Northstar is added)
- IV-E Maintenance – Group Provider/Rule 4 Licensing/Rates – the rates that FOD currently maintains to create the bulletin - on SSIS/DHS state side

15.1.5

March 23 – Pilot starts

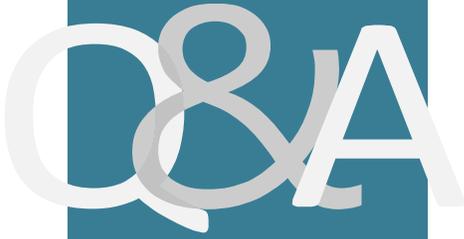
April 6 – Statewide release (*no county outage required*)

April 28 – Child Foster Care Report due (*not April 20*)

Note: LCTS, SSTS payments may be delayed a week due to the later date for this report

- Child Foster Care Report – includes what used to be the standalone Title IV-E Abstract Report and what was planned to be the new Northstar report – includes IV-E and Northstar claims and proofing
- Child Foster Care Claim Search (Will include IV-E and Northstar claims)
- SSIS assumes federal IV-E processing (the end of 2570 reports – most of the info will be on the screens; claims generate only if all edits pass)

NORTHSTAR



Have more questions about Northstar?

Northstar Policy or Program Questions

Send additional program/policy questions related to Northstar Implementation to: northstar.care@state.mn.us

Or call M-F, 9am-3pm

(651) 431-4485.

SSIS Entry Questions

For help with SSIS entry, have your Mentor Coordinator contact the SSIS Help Desk at 651-431-4801 or email at dhs.ssishelp@state.mn.us

I hear that the Northstar Kinship Assistance Benefit Agreement has a new section for “Successor Custodians.”

What’s that about and what do agencies need to do?

Successor Custodians in the Northstar Kinship Assistance Benefit Agreement

This revised section will appear in all Northstar Kinship Assistance Benefit Agreements with release v15.1. It is required by a recent federal law, the *Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act*, enacted late in 2014.

The revised section gives prospective relative custodians the option to name up to five successors, in the same way that parents might use a will to name successor guardians for their children. Agencies will need to point this out to prospective relative custodians and offer this option to them as things move toward permanency.

This is an option for relative custodians and is not required. Whether or not they exercise the option in the original Benefit Agreement, relative custodians may add or change named successors at a later date through an amendment to the Benefit Agreement. If successors are named, the successor must not be the child’s legal parent, biological parent, step-parent, or another adult living in the home of the legal parent, biological parent, or step parent.

If the relative custodian dies or becomes incapacitated, there are additional steps to confirm the named successor as the child’s new relative custodian. These additional steps include a background study, renegotiation of the agreement, and court action. The Northstar Kinship Assistance benefit could then follow the child to the successor relative custodian and, if applicable, Title IV-E eligibility could also follow.

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Release v15.1 will add the ability for agencies and DHS together to do commissioner transitions.

What are commissioner transitions?

Commissioner Transitions Coming with Release v15.1

A child who has already achieved permanency through adoption or transfer of permanent custody can move into Northstar Care **only** through a commissioner transition. A limited number of young people each month will receive commissioner transitions.

Working with counties and tribes, DHS established priorities and procedures. DHS will start by transitioning children from RCA (Relative Custody Assistance) to Northstar Kinship Assistance. To better focus our efforts, youth who are 16 or older will not receive commissioner transitions. The commissioner transition is a lengthy process, and we want to focus on those who will be able to benefit from Northstar Care for at least two years.

DHS always initiates a commissioner transition, and DHS has to finish it. But in between, the agency has five tasks:

1. Complete verifications in SSIS.
 - ▶ Child's RCA status
 - ▶ Relative custodian(s) identity
 - ▶ Relative custodian(s) address
 - ▶ Local agency contact for this transition
2. Send county notification to relative custodian(s). *(This will be available in SSIS.)*
3. Receive and file DHS notices to the relative custodians.
4. Stop RCA and MFIP, per the transition date, but continue MA.
5. Complete, with the relative custodian(s), the new Benefit Agreement and the W-9 form. Send them to the state.

There will be a new Security Administration function for tasks in SSIS: Access Commissioner Transitions. This must be added to the roles of staff working on commissioner transitions, including viewing the commissioner transition log, performing verifications, and printing the new Benefit Agreement.

More information will be available soon.