#### City of New York Administration for Children's Services

Guidance 2009/01

#### **ACS POLICY**

**SUBJECT: Preventive Services Case Closings** 

APPROVED: John B. Mattingly

DATE:

**April 24, 2009** 

PAGE: 1 of 2 (2 Attachments)

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY: Children's Services Centralized Systems Specialists and Preventive Provider Agencies

**PURPOSE:** 

As part of the Improved Outcomes for Children initiative (IOC), Children's Services is delegating greater authority for case decisions to preventive agencies. These changes are intended to improve decision-making by ensuring that those who are most familiar with families are making key decisions. In addition, these changes are expected to reduce delays in the implementation of case decisions.

**SCOPE:** 

This guidance applies to all preventive service provider agencies and Children's Services Centralized Systems Specialists. This guidance is effective immediately for all Improved Outcomes for Children (IOC) programs and will be effective for Phase II providers on the date of case management delegation. This guidance replaces the <u>Delegated and Streamlined Case Closing Procedure</u>, signed on August 10, 2007.

**POLICY:** 

Children's Services has delegated the authority to approve the closing of a preventive case to preventive service provider agencies. In addition, Children's Services has streamlined the case closing procedure for all preventive service cases.

These changes in the case closing process for preventive cases include the following:

- Children's Services will now allow providers to submit, via CONNECTIONS, a Family Services Stage (FSS) to Children's Services for case closings.
- For all preventive cases, provider agencies must use the Children's Services "Safety and Risk Desk Aid for Preventive Service Providers" when assessing the decision to close a preventive case. (Attachment 1)

• A request for a fair hearing or conference will not stop a case from closing, unless "aid to continue" is ordered when a fair hearing has been scheduled.

The process described in the "Preventive Services Case Closing Guide" (Attachment 2) should be used when:

- There will be no ongoing/simultaneous services with a Children's Services provider.
- The client/family and agency representatives are in agreement to close a case.

This policy **does not apply** when preventive services are ending with one Preventive Service program but:

- 1. The case remains open within Children's Services OR
- 2. Case planning is transferred to another Preventive Service program (this includes both inter and intra agency transfers) or to a Foster Care agency.

In these instances, please refer to the policy titled "Transfer of Preventive Services Cases" for guidance.

For any questions pertaining to this guidance, please contact Deborah C. Harte, Director, Policies and Procedures Unit at 212-341-2936.

# Improved Outcomes for Children Safety and Risk Desk Aid For Preventive Service Providers

This tool is designed as a guide for supervisors and case planners as they assess child safety and risk. In preventive services cases initiated as a result of an open, indicted SCR report of abuse or maltreatment, Improved Outcomes for Children providers have assumed primary responsibility for monitoring safety and risk, consistent with state regulations [18 NYCRR 432.2 (b)(5)].

Best practice calls for careful attention to safety and risk for all preventive cases.

## **Monitoring Safety & Risk**

#### Intake

- √ Review the investigation that led to the service referral
- √ Discuss current case and prior history with the Child Protective Specialist
- √ Incorporate the results of the investigation into your ongoing assessment of safety and risk and the ongoing service plan for the family
- √ Review all available prior investigations in CONNECTIONS

## **Ongoing monitoring**

- Maintain adequate casework contacts with the family as required by Children Services policy and OCFS regulations, and as needed by the family
- √ Use each casework contact to assess for safety and risk issues
- Use contacts with other service providers involved with the family to gather further information relevant to safety and risk

#### Conferencing

- √ Use family team conferences for meaningful discussions of safety and risk
- √ Insist on decisions that address child safety and risk
- √ Critical decision making conferences:
- √ Service Planning conferences every six months
- √ Elevated Risk conferences
- √ Service Termination conferences (as needed)

## **Subsequent Reports**

- √ Review any subsequent under investigation or indicated SCR reports through CONNECTIONS
- √ Review and incorporate the results of the subsequent reports, including any changes in the assessment of safety and of future risk of abuse or maltreatment into the family's service plan

## **Supervision is Critical**

- Case Planners should discuss safety and risk concerns with their supervisor throughout the life of the case and especially when making critical decisions
  - Supervisors should use supervision, case record reviews and performance data to identify and address safety and risk concerns

# Improved Outcomes for Children Safety and Risk Desk Aid For Preventive Service Providers

## **FASP Approval**

In reviewing each Family Assessment and Service Plan, you must consider the following questions:

- √ Has a safety plan been initiated or maintained when necessary?
- √ Does the plan protect the child from immediate or impending danger of serious harm?
- Are the services planned/provided likely to reduce the identified risk(s) to the child(ren)?
- $\sqrt{}$  Is the family engaged and participating?
- √ Are service plans modified when progress has been insufficient?
- √ Are the needs of all the children in the household taken into consideration?
- √ Do the best interests of the child require Family Court or Criminal Court Action?\*
- √ When a major change in the service plan is considered i.e. removal of the protective program choice, or service termination you must carefully review the case to determine if the planned action is consistent with the assessment of safety and risk (18NYCRR 432.2c)

## **Before Closing a Case**

- √ Conduct a thorough review of the case record
- √ Review all available assessments of the family with a focus on the overall risk rating/profile included in the RAP
- √ Review the family's progress toward identified service plan goals, particularly those goals that relate to reducing risk to children

#### Before Closing a Case (continued)

- √ Discuss with the family or other providers the family's response to the termination of services
- √ Prepare the family for termination of services
- √ Refer to other services as needed
- √ Notify others who have been actively involved in the case, i.e. school personnel, other service providers, of the planned termination of services, and the importance of their ongoing support of the child/family

#### **Consider the following questions**

- √ Are all the children assessed to be safe?
- √ Has the risk of future abuse or maltreatment decreased sufficiently?
- √ Can progress be sustained without agency involvement?
- √ Is there a need to pursue Family Court intervention? Is this in the best interests of the child?\*

#### **Document**

- √ Clear analysis of above considerations
- √ Current living conditions
- √ Current family functioning
- √ Most recent contact with family, including date each child seen
- √ Reasons for case closure or decision to end protective program choice (to be documented in a FASP, either the comprehensive/reassessment or plan amendment)
  - \* If yes, bring the case to the attention of Children's Services for further assessment and/or action.

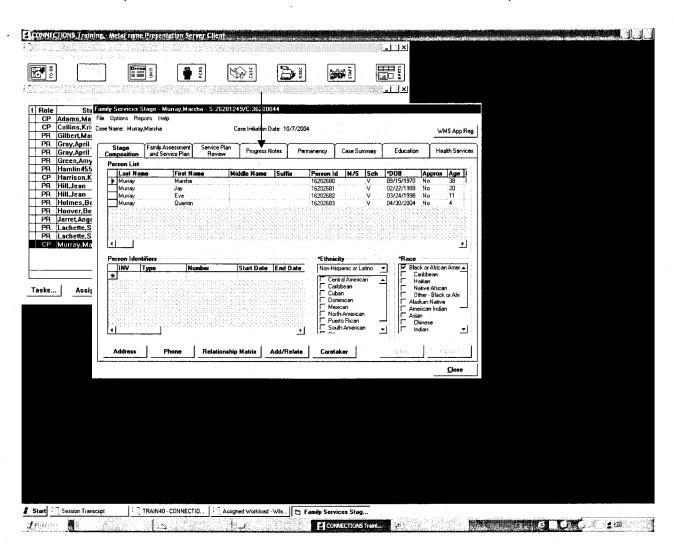
# Preventive Services Case Closing Guide

## **CLOSING PREVENTIVE CASES IN CONNECTIONS**

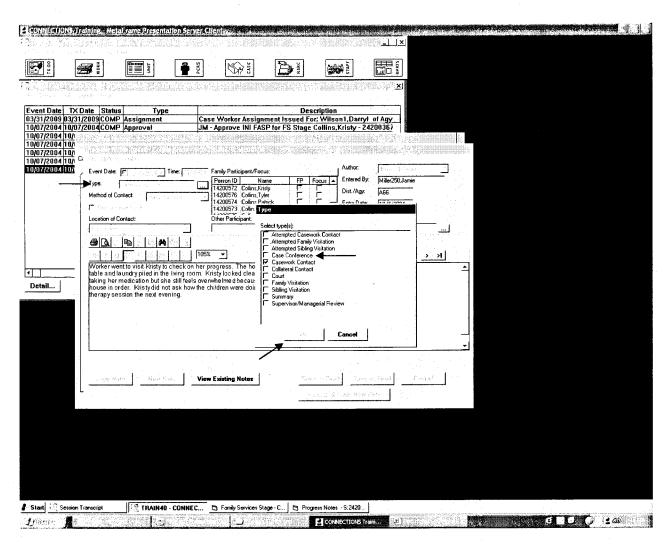
When you are ready to close a case in Connections, the Agency documents the following in a Progress Note:

- •Clear analyses of safety and risk to children
- Current living conditions
- Current family functioning
- •Most recent contact with family including dated each child seen
- •Reasons for case closure or decision to end protective program choice (to be documented a FASP, either the comprehensive/reassessment or plan amendment

Click on the Progress Note Tab (ADVPO CASES WILL DOCUMENT ON TEMPLATES)



# In the Progress Note Window, Click on Type – Case Conference Click on OK

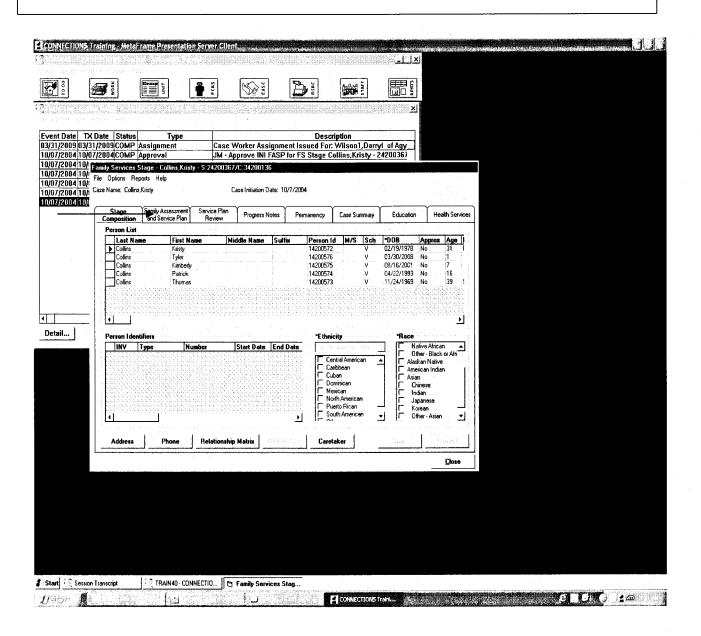


# **Central Team (CT) Clearance**

- When an agency notifies ACS of their intent to close a case, a clearance will be conducted by the Central Team (CT) to ensure there are no open investigations.
- The CT will also conduct a WMS clearance and only when there are pending activities alert the provider agency of when to proceed with system closure of the FSS.

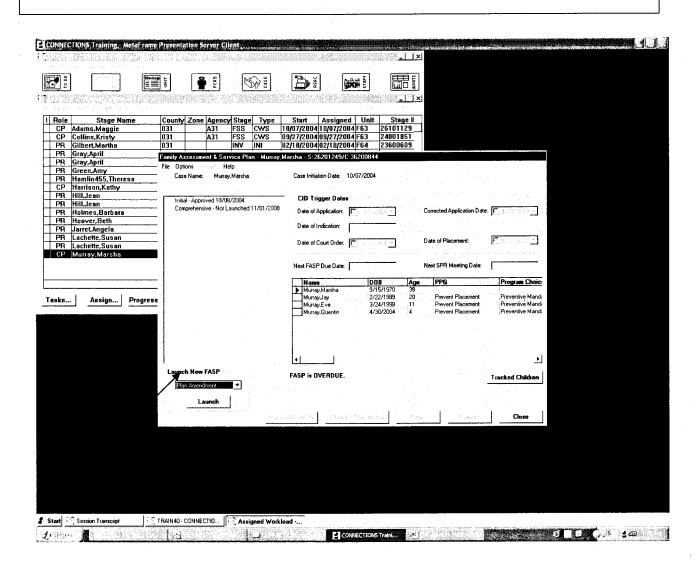
#### **CWS Preventive Case**

- The agency will complete a Plan Amendment in Connections and submit for system approval.
- Connections generates ToDo for CT staff assigned to CWS stage to system approve Plan Amendment



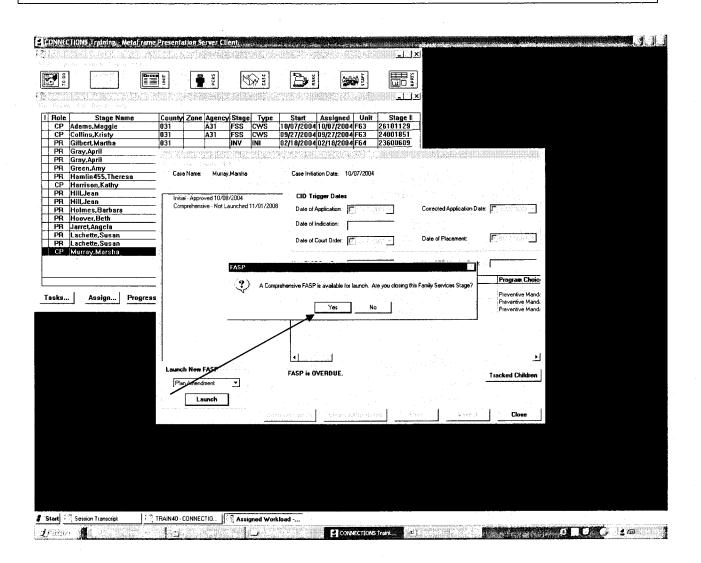
# **CWS Preventive Case Closing**

- From the FASP window, click on the "Launch" button for the Plan Amendment.
- This is the only way you can launch a plan amendment during the FASP launch period.



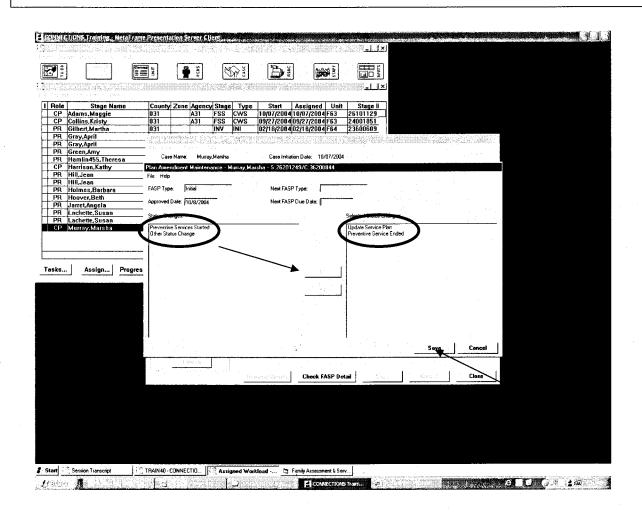
# **CWS Preventive Case Closing**

 In the Message box, click on Yes to the question – "Are You Closing the Family Services Stage?"



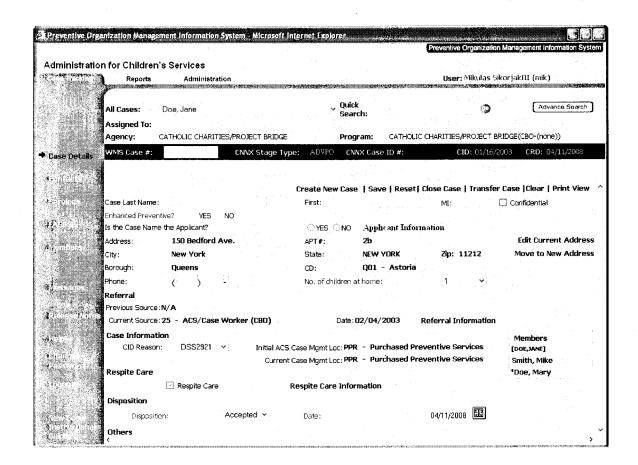
# **CWS Preventive Case Closing**

• In the Plan Amendment Maintenance Window, Click on Preventive Services ended > the right arrow > click on Save

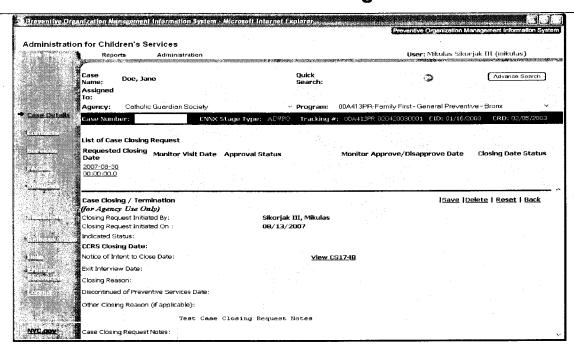


When you are ready to close a case in PROMIS, perform the following steps:

1. Activate the case on the **Case Details** screen.



2. When the case appears on the detail screen, click on the Close Case link. That will bring you to the **Closing Request** screen.



- 3. Once in the closing request screen, click the Create New Closing Request link.
- 4. Closing Request Initiated By and Closing Request Initiated On are pre-filled fields based on the current user-id and current date
- 5. Indicated Status is derived from the Creating a Referral screen in PROMIS.
- 6. Enter the **Notice of Intent to Close Date**. This date notifies ACS of the intent to close the case and will put the case in Active-Pending Closing status. **Please** be aware, you <u>CANNOT</u> backdate this information, it must be the day's date or a future one.
- 7. Enter the **Exit Interview Date**. (This date verifies that a session with the family member(s) occurred, which included the discussion of your intent to close the case).
- 8. Select the **Closing Reason** from the drop-down. Enter **Other Closing Reason**, if applicable in the text box provided.
- 9. **Discontinue of Preventive Services Date** is a system generated date calculated 15 calendar days from the **Notice of Intent to Close Date**. (This field is the actual closing date unless the closing is suspended-see page 7 for further information suspended).
- 10. Enter Case Closing Request Notes, if necessary.
- 11. Upon entering all required information in order to complete a close, select the 10 Save link to save all changes.

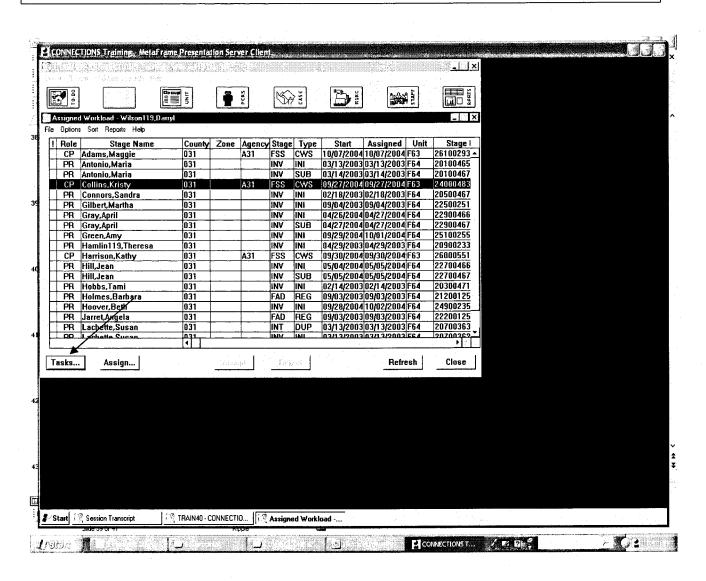
12. After saving, select the hyperlink to view the CS174B. Click on the print link to print out the form CS174B form.

# Screen displays the CS 174B

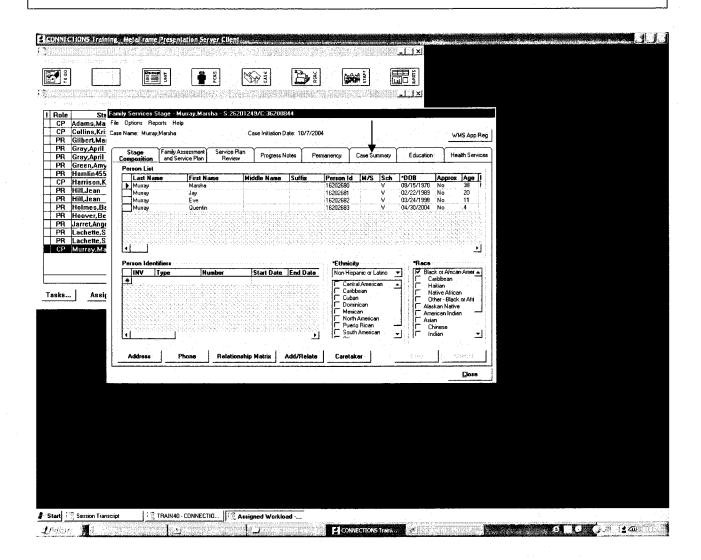
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		RIGHT TO A CONFERENCE You may have a conference one as soon as possible. At the conference, if the Administr made a wrong decision or if, because of information that yo	ration for Children's Services (Children's Service	es) discovers that we have	

 Go to your work load, highlight a case you want to Close and click on Tasks.

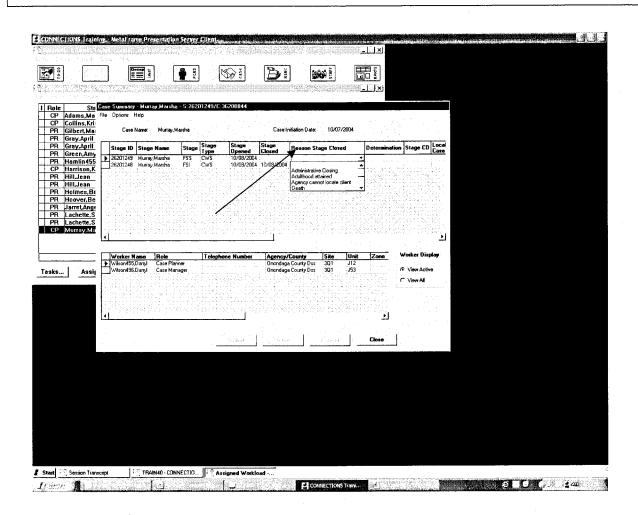
(ADVPO or CWS Cases)



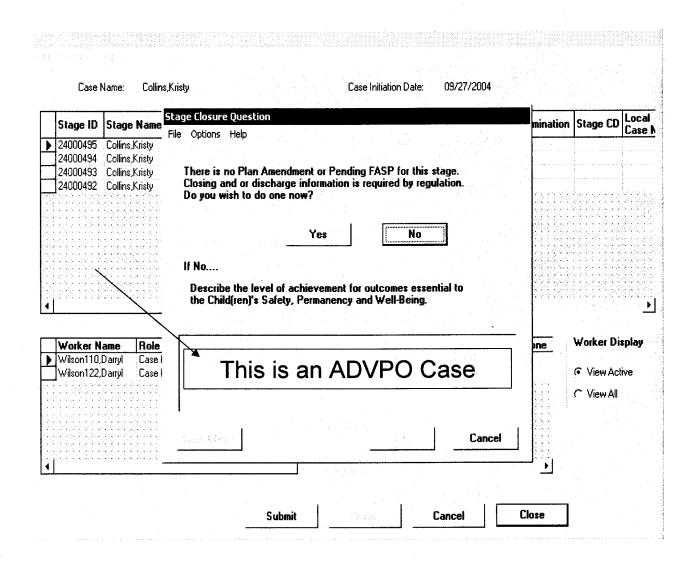
 Click on Case Summary (ADVPO or CWS Cases)



 Select the reason from the drop down Reason Stage Closed (ADVPO or CWS Cases)



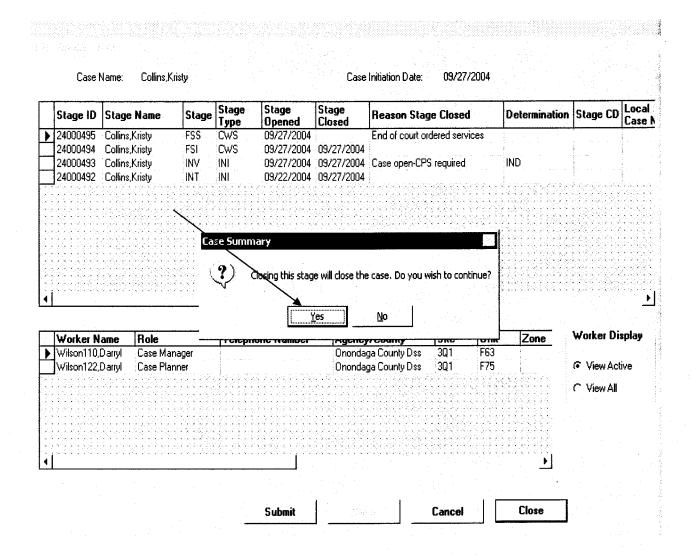
 Submitting a FSS for Closure: ADVPO - Answer Closure Question and click OK (Suggestion: in ADVPO cases indicate that this is an ADVPO case)



In CWS Preventive Cases you may enter appropriate information in yellow box

Case Name: Collins	Kristy Case Initiation Date: 09/27/2004			
Stage ID Stage Name  24000495 Collins Kristy 24000494 Collins Kristy 24000493 Collins Kristy 24000492 Collins Kristy  Collins Kristy	Stage Closure Question  File Options Help  There is no Plan Amendment or Pending FASP for this stage. Closing and or discharge information is required by regulation. Do you wish to do one now?  Yes  No	mination	Stage CD	Local Case
Worker Name Role  ▶ Wilson110,Darryl Case I  Wilson122,Darryl Case I	Describe the level of achievement for outcomes essential to the Child(ren)'s Safety, Permanency and Well-Being.  Level of Achievement  Documentation		Worker Dis	
	Agree 2 and Cancel		Y IOWAII	

 Make sure that you want to close because you wont be able to reopen the case Must start from the beginning



Click on the SAVE BUTTON

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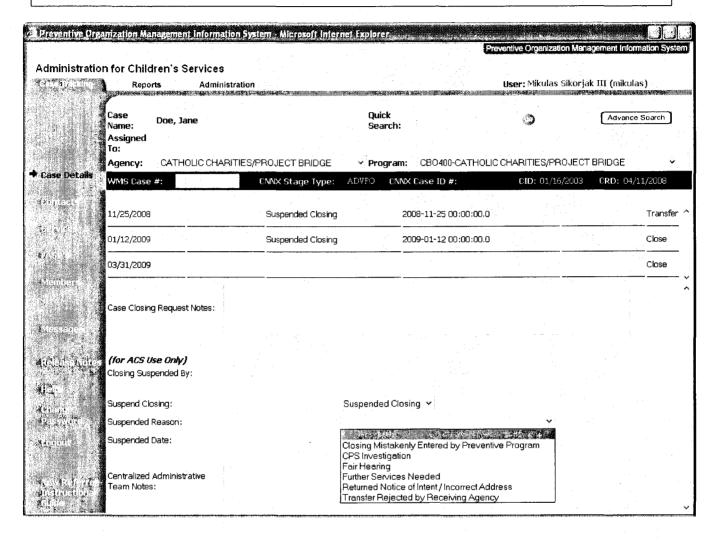
Make sure that you read the message box and answer appropriately

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<u></u>	d To: Wilson110,Darryl	
Short Desc: DW - Approv	NS	×
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i 33 Staye 24000433 Has Dt	Do you wish to due another approver.	
	Yes <u>N</u> o	
Case Stage		
Stage: Collins,Kristy	Staff: Wilson122	,Darryl
Task: Approve FSS Stage Closure	Task Due: ///	
Created By		
Name: System	Date: 12/23/2005	
Persons		<u>Save</u> <u>Cancel</u>

# **CWS Preventive Case Closing**

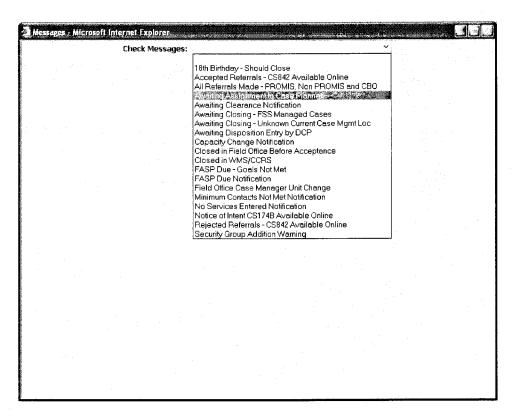
- The agency submits Family Service Stage to CT for system closure.
- If agency has complied with all requirements and no fair hearing notice for aid to continue has been received, CT system closes the Family Service Stage

# Suspending a Case Closing in PROMIS



- 1. If a case activity has occurred within the 15 days, and "aid to continue" is ordered, ACS Staff must suspend the closing from the **Suspend Closing** dropdown.
- 2. ACS staff must enter a Suspended Reason.
- 3. ACS must enter the Suspended Date.
- 4. ACS will select **Save** to save changes.

5. Upon doing so, the case will then return to active status on the agency/program case load. The case will appear on the agency message board under "Awaiting Assignment to Case Planner". Re-engagement will then be required until further notice.



Certain fields will be enabled or disabled and certain fields will be required, depending on the criteria you have chosen.

Here is a list of criteria for closing request:

- Notice of Intent to Close Date:
- Exit Interview Date:
- Closing Reason:
- Discontinue of Preventive Services Date:
- Other Closing Reason (if applicable):
- Case Closing Request Notes:

# **Summary of Closing Process**

